

Our Work Abroad.

LETTER FROM MISS HATCH

Ramachandrapuram
Godavari, Dt.

Dear Link:

AFTER having many discouraging reports about our Cockshutt Girls' School here I am sure you will be glad to have more cheering news again. Last year was full of vicissitudes and we had many reverses and I felt at times very discouraged, but the last look seems now very bright.

Besides the Cockshutt Girls' School, a Kapoor in the Savaram, a suburb of Ramachandrapuram, has given permission for us to have a school in his verandah. When I was on furlough, Mrs. Davis conducted a school here for a short time, having as teacher, a former Cocanada school girl, who was wife of her cook, but when they left the cook left, so the school dropped out for a while.

The Kapoor there have been asking me to open the school again, so last December, I had the opportunity of doing so. There are now 10 pupils, and one girl cannot go back and forth alone very well, so two girls are teaching one session only, while they visit the house in the afternoon as Bible women. Manikam and Subhanna. They are both Cocanada girls, that is, have been taught in Cocanada, though they belong to our field, and the former has had normal training in Nellore. The Kapoor, on whose verandah the school meets, has promised to put up a temporary building for us. He is also wealthy, but very close with his money, and will only be convinced upon seeing that it will be a profitable return on his promise.

For our Cockshutt Girls' School we have secured P. Veeranna, a trained and experienced teacher, who is very kind and intelligent, and a girl. Our girl, like her own, though they stand in awe of her. Her discipline is good.

I have T. Anna to assist her at present, but she is to be married soon, and will be leaving us. When the Inspector was here, the other day, we brought the two schools together, and numbered them all.

All pupils that we presented passed. We have now in the two schools two 4th class, five in second class, five in the first class, six in infant A and the rest in infant B.

Even the infant classes are learning the Bible

stories, Navy Kindergarten and Object Lessons, and are learning more hymns.

Then we have other good news. Our last roof was burnt away last year and all our furniture and doors and windows, the mud walls only were left standing. We put on another last roof and had some more furniture made, and wanted a grant for a pukka building, but as the Board are anxious to get the tribes bungalow built, they felt they could not ask the people for this extra. However, one kind lady has sent me \$100 and she is a Presbyterian, another has sent £1 sterling for my work which I am taking for the school, and perhaps some one else will give us a little more. We are going to begin to build, trusting that the rest will come. We can't afford time, so will make the walls of burnt brick and mud, which are fairly serviceable, and we will put on a tiled roof, and only have one long room at present with a broad verandah at the back for infant classes. This will keep us from all danger of fires which are so frequent when there are only that roofs, and as the money comes in we will plaster our walls, put in a cement floor instead of mud, and add another room. New straight walls, whitewashed, with a tiled roof and porch and pillars in front will be a great attraction to the school, and as in Mrs. Smith's new quarters in Cocanada, the school will most possibly double at once.

The mother of two of our school girls, who is just learning to read, has been teaching the four Bible women, but is not so good as very teaching them one by one, so we are to the Sunday school I will give some time, and am teaching some.

As before, April 1st, we had a meeting at P. Veeranna's house, and the Board of Missions was there, and the school was closed for a day, and the children of the bungalow school and others were present. A good many were there when I held them, two of them, I think, would like to go to the mission, then we have Mahadevi, Veeranna, Raman, Rajamma and Chittamma.

We prayed for the officers of the Board by name for the many kinds of work they have undertaken in this far land, for different individuals, and especially for our girls' schools.

Trusting that your prayers, united with ours, may bring down a blessing, I am, yours sincerely,

S. L. HATCH