

to get on board a steamer at Calcutta and go through to New York without change. Miss Craig is taking hold nicely with the school. It is nice for her to live so near home that she can see her folks every day. Miss Pratt was wonderfully sustained during the time she was alone with so many extra responsibilities. She was pretty tired when I arrived, and for a few days at first, soon after my arrival, she was not very well, but soon recovered. She has had such a good health record during her second term. I do hope she may have a restful, happy furlough, but she goes to a saddened home this time; her first furlough was without a shadow.

In my visiting among the women I have found many sorrowing ones. I cannot, of course, get round to see all the houses before May, but am going to see the more interested women. In nearly all the homes I have visited someone is missing. Two fine women have lost their husbands; three in fact of those who were rather special friends of mine; others have lost children. Just the other day an ex-pupil of our school was taken. She was always so glad to see us and welcomed us so warmly.

Some new little youngsters have come too; children born after I left for Canada are able to run about.

Did I tell you in my last letter that dear old Mirian had been called home? She must have been pretty old,—she was far from being a young woman when I came to India thirty years ago. She had lived to see a great-grandchild born. I feel that the Bible women were faithful during my absence; most of them are earnest women, interested in their work. One of them, Karre Rachel left town and so is lost to us. I believe she is working as a Bible woman with the C.M.S. in Masulipatam.

There seems nothing but sickness and sorrow and trouble in the world. My sister and niece wrote of the second outbreak of "flu" in Canada. The number of deaths from "flu" in India was 6,000,000,—more died in this country than were killed in the four years of war, in all the countries engaged—it spread away out into the jungles. They say whole villages were wiped out. How strange and mysterious.

AGNES E. BASKERVILLE.

#### ADVANCEMENT AT VUYURU.

Vuyyura, April 6th, 1919.

Dear Miss Rogers.—They say "all things come to those who wait," and perhaps it is true; only when the waiting is deferred the heart faints. Anyway, after all these years of waiting we have now the assurance of both a proper hospital and a choultry. Perhaps I am premature in regard to the hospital, as at present only the land is ours, no funds as yet for building. The choultry, however, is to materialize. The man who has been promising this for several years actually came with his wife about three weeks ago, bought the land and had it been possible to get materials now, would have commenced the building. As soon as the canals open the work will be commenced. I hope to have the satisfaction of getting things into such a shape that my successor will not have the difficulties to face that we have had. Just now we are putting up a house for our compounder and assistant. The money we have saved out of the money given for medicine fees, etc., isn't much—about \$500,—but we will be glad of a decent house. Our nurses have rooms in the Bible Women's new house, but our compounder has had only a wretched mud affair. This house is to be large enough to accommodate two families. The conference voted me the help of a Miss Phillips, an Indian girl graduate assistant surgeon. She unfortunately has failed in her exam, and can only be with us less than two months. We are expecting her on Tuesday. She has to return in June and will not be through until September. However, this will give Mary, our head nurse, a chance for a holiday. She hasn't had a day off since 1914. Yesu Das, our compounder, has hardly had more than one month's holiday during all that time. This new house we expect to give to him and to Miss Phillips.

Building is some problem now, with materials scarce and high in price. I am rather glad the new hospital is not on yet, and hope by fall that materials will be easier to get and cheaper. So much for the medical work. Am trying to do some field work, especially among the Christian women. I made out a course of lessons from the study set for our workers' Bible exam. questions and answers, called in