

do. They are taught the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the 23rd Psalm, other Bible verses and hymns.

There are about 400 of these village schools in this narrow strip of country. That sounds a lot does it not? But remember,—There are 7000 villages in this strip of country. That means 6600 without any school, and therefore not much chance of learning about Jesus and getting their minds' eyes opened.

How are they going to get light? These schools are the very beginning of a great work in our Mission, for there the children are taught, and they begin to think and the best ones are picked out for the Boarding Schools, of which there are ten, and of which we will learn next day.

Now let us think and pray about these teachers and scholars that the teachers may teach the scholars the right things and that the boys and girls will be allowed to attend school, and study well and make real progress.

CORRECTION.

In the February Link in the Mission Band study period, page 204, second column, third line from the top, "42 schools" should read 421 schools.

FROM MISS HELLYER

Bimlipatam, Vizag. Dist., Dec. 15, 1924.

Dear Boys and Girls:—It has been so long since I have written to the Link, some of you will even have forgotten my name. The first half of it isn't very nice so I don't blame you very much if you have. Now supposing that you don't know my name I want you to remember the station Bimlipatam. It formerly was a fine sea port and the early missionaries to Bimli came by boat. During my two years in studying the language here it was a great joy to tramp up and down the sea shore for exercise, and not only that, but many a good swim have I had in the brine of the sea of Bengal.

Now I have been in the work a year and although I feel so insufficient for the task, I am glad to say that work is 100 per cent. better than studying. Time flies when one is busy.

It has been fine to have Dr. Cook here, even if it is only until January conference, and we will hope that it will be longer. She is great company and I enjoy her fresh news from home.

I think that you boys and girls would like to know about my call on an Indian queen. One day while I was on tour in Padmanaham I visited a village about five miles away with the car. The village was small and we had finished our work there about ten o'clock. Just around the corner some Rajahs lived. Knowing that the women were usually busy in the morning I hesitated in asking permission to see them, but one of my bible women volunteered to inquire. She came back with the good news that we could go in.

My eyes first fell upon a fat woman—the mother queen. I think that she could successfully compete for a prize among heavy weights. She at first paid but little attention to us and entering a corner room, marched around it several times singing. I feared her mind was not quite steady, however, the real fact was she was doing her morning devotions. To whom you say? Rama, perhaps, any way not the real God. She had had no meal, fasting every day until noon.

Soon we struck up conversation with the younger women. They brought me a chair and a mat for the bible woman. These younger women sat quite near us. Then the fat queen came out of the corner room and entered an end room, facing the inner court veranda, on which we sat. She took up her position in front of the door where she would hear all that went on. When we were ready to begin our first hymn, she was mumbling away some sort of song. However the younger women told us to go on. Often in the middle of a song, she would stop her devotion, and calling from a distance, ask what a certain word was. Then she busied herself again mixing up red or black powders on a tiny flat stool. This was a very mysterious thing to me. Just what relation these paints had with religion I couldn't tell. I thought at first it was a paste for putting on the caste mark, but I am not sure even yet.

We took along with us some pictures on the life of Christ. Unless she was shown