

## Our Work Abroad

Many have been interested in the purchase of a car for Miss Priest in Tuni. How welcome it will be when it arrives may be seen from a few sentences taken from a letter from her written in April. "I went in the jukka to a village four miles away, one day last week, and it took me three days to get over it,—every bone in my body ached so! You can imagine our interest in the news in the Link about a car for me. I do not want to be a shirker, and my spirit longs to do just as before, and the work is growing before my eyes. We will be able to get out to the villages to help in the teaching and strengthening of those new Christian women, when the car comes. I do thank our Father for putting it into the hearts of you dear ones over there to get one for me, so that the next three years may count more, if He spares me."

In another report, Miss Priest writes a few more details concerning these women:

"In a village seven miles from Tuni a number of men came out as Christians some years ago, but the women folk held back. Lately several more of the men came out and were so anxious for their wives to come also. Some of the Bible women made a special effort for them, and this, joined with the work of the young teacher there, was blessed of God, and one day in March we had the joy of seeing thirteen women baptized there. A number more gave their names but were not brave enough to take their stand that day. It will not be long before they come. Their coming out emphasizes the need of regular women's work there. Mr. Scott has not been able to place a married couple there so far, but wait until that car comes for me! Then we shall be able to help the women in the out-villages so much more than it is possible to do now."

Miss Baskerville's Report shall be passed on to the Link in its entirety. What she writes about the Caste Girls' School will be of especial interest, for we

have a photograph of that new building now to look at.

"Lately, I have wondered if there is any season in India really favorable for our village work. In the great heat, or in the pouring rain, we Missionaries cannot get about among the people. The cool season comes, and as far as we are concerned, everything seems propitious; we go out into the villages,—many of the women are working in the harvest fields, so that for a month or more these cannot be reached. Then comes the Conference, and as soon as we are ready to begin our work again, there begins a series of Hindu feasts, bathing festivals, and the like, until the remainder of the cool season is nearly over. Some afternoons we have gone out to find what seems literally a "deserted village"—scarce a woman to be seen,—the only ones remaining at home are those who are sick or too old and decrepit to go.

In the school work also our hindrances are many and varied. The girls usually gather in pretty well after the hot season vacation, and are fairly regular for a month. Really regular attendance, of course, is a thing practically unknown in any Caste Girls' school. My experience has been that the ones who are sent, or allowed, to come to school are for the most part the tiny tots who are no use at home; to the mother it is a convenience to have them out of the way. In the lowest standard, we are simply over-run; numbers grow less in each higher standard, until finally we have four or five or even less in the highest. The older girls are kept out of school on all sorts of pretexts:—Someone is sick, or there are visitors and there is extra work to be done; sometimes they accompany their mothers on visits to relatives at a distance, sometimes they go alone; a new baby comes into the family, or there is a marriage; they are often sick themselves. Add to all these the various festivals and religious observances, and it is not to be wondered at that not more than thirty or thirty-five out of all the girls on our register manage to at-