

## SCHOOLS IN INDIA.

Rev. Dr. Mutchmore an American minister who recently visited India writes about a visit that he made with Mrs. Forman a missionary's wife to some Hindu schools.

When the school so called, was reached the teachers and scholars were found huddled over in a dark corner where scarcely a ray of light appeared. Mrs. Forman asked the native teacher why she did not leave her darkness for the light. The teacher said she sat there for luck, as the days she sat in those dark shadows she had most scholars. Mrs. Forman examined the scholars, who had made real progress, repeating the Catechism with promptness and accuracy. They also read the Scriptures well. The habits and conditions of the pupils will be surprising. All of them had

## RINGS IN THEIR NOSES,

some fully two inches in diameter, hindering any possible use of handkerchiefs, though they all needed them, for the natives in this climate are not often found without bad colds. The flies had settled in dark rings about their eyes and were vigorously plying their proboscises to the inflamed lids, but this did not disturb their equanimity sufficiently to cause them to drive them away. Their feet and legs were bare and their brown skins were apparent through the thin chuddas, and this was in the winter, which would correspond with our early October. Their

## EARS WERE PULLED OUT OF SHAPE

by the cheap ear-rings and trinkets hung from the top to the lobe of the ear, which is pierced in slits to accommodate them; but these conditions do not indicate poverty, for Mrs. Forman said all these girls were from families in comfortable circumstances.

One was disgustingly dirty, upon whose face there was no indication of the presence of water in the universe. This attracted the attention of the stranger, and to satisfy her curiosity she asked the cause of this superlative dirtiness. The answer

was that she had lost her mother and it was their custom not to wash the orphan faces for three days after the parents' death. Among the number was a little girl dressed in boy's clothes, and this was explained as a mark of the greatest paternal devotion, when they dress a daughter as a boy. This may not raise the reader's ideas of the progress of the work, but when these children were compared with the average of those out of the schools it would not take a moment to see that the progress had been wonderful.

From this school a trip was made through more narrow, crooked alleys, and skipping and leaping over things to be dreaded, another school was reached.

As the approach was observed the teacher ran out into the neighborhood to gather up her scholars, who come and go as the notion takes them or their parents, as they take no note of time. After they had been gathered they numbered about fourteen, ranging from five to fifty years of age, and one "yaller dog," all sitting together on the earth floor.

The lessons began, which brought out the abilities of the school. There were two old women, fifty or more years of age who had one pair of great goggle-eyed spectacles, about two inches in diameter, between them, which, when in use, were tied with a dirty white string to go over the head and keep them in place. The first one called to read squatted on the floor dressed in bright calico trousers and a dirty white chudda. In her nose she had a cluster of seven pearls and in her ears huge ear-rings, which had distorted them by their weight. There is said to be a profound reason for the wearing of dirty clothes by high caste women in India. We were told that it is a mark of virtue to wear dirty clothes, the dirtier the more spotless their virtue.

Over in one corner of this small and badly-lighted room was the woman who lived in this house and rented her premises for the zenana school. She had a tiny baby lying between her limbs almost out of sight. Near by was another playing, dressed in girls' clothes, but he was a boy