

the last two years, and I considered the work was too much for her alone, I have given her an assistant in the person of her own daughter, Naomi, a bright, good girl who was educated in the Girls' School in Akidu, and also was a few months in Cocanada. She is too young and inexperienced to do evangelistic work yet, but she is very useful among the children and Christian women of her own village; the children she has in a school, where as many as fifteen to sixteen are in attendance, and she teaches Scripture portions and hymns to the women under her mother's direction, so leaving Jane more time for the out villages and work there. The work is being well carried on, as I plainly saw when I went there last March. The Christian women in Jane's village know more of the Bible, and can sing more hymns and recite more Scripture portions than any native women I've ever met. They are also well trained in the grace of punctual and regular attendance at meetings, and I really believe are in many ways a 'joy and a crown.' They certainly are Jane's crown.

"The caste women also, in her village, are well-informed, and some of them say they have ceased worshipping idols and believe only in Christ.

"Mariamma and Catherine have lived during the year in Vuyyuru, working with me in the town and near villages, and coming with me on tours.

"The work among caste women in Vuyyuru itself has received a distinct blessing this last year. Whereas heretofore—ever since I came to Vuyyuru—the women did not seem to be interested enough to even listen for any length of time to the Gospel, now they beg us to come to their homes, and some are learning Scripture verses, stories, hymns and such portions as the Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. This is a great thing, we feel it to be a decided step forward for the women, who before were so indifferent, to be now eager to learn definitely the truths of Christianity. If we could spare one Bible-woman for this part of the work alone, who would never need to be taken away to go touring, the women would learn more rapidly and their numbers would increase. Oh! we do need more Bible-women so much!

"Three women in three different homes told me they believed on Jesus and prayed to Him. One is a dear old gray-headed woman who takes such very evident comfort in hearing about Jesus that it is a joy to visit her home. She has learned a long hymn and told me once, when she was sick that in the night when she was lying on her bed suffering, she had tried to sing the hymn over to herself, but her mind refused to recall one verse, and she thought she *must* send for Catherine, even if it was the middle of the night, to come and sing it to her! Another quiet, gentle young woman, who seems to have a sweet disposition, has enjoyed our visits, but has always been too shy to *learn* anything until she

was inspired to do so by the visit of a near relative who had learned hymns from the missionaries in the town she hailed from, and who encouraged her to learn. So here and there hearts are turning, tremblingly and quietly, from the dense darkness to the Light of the world, reminding us of the flowers whose faces turn to the sun which gives them light and beauty. We visit, one Brahmin house regularly, where we are welcome, and where, besides the inmates we usually have quite an audience of neighbors too.

"Touring was carried on with the usual causes for rejoicing and encouragement. In one large village we had never been able to touch the caste women before, on account of one very prejudiced man of violent temper, who followed us from house to house, intimidating the women so that they dare not come near us. But this year while we were there that man was away, so we had peace and quietness and had splendid hearings in *six* caste homes. And because we were able to relieve a caste man of great distress during a paroxysm of asthma, I am sure we will be welcomed in *his* home at least, in future.

"We visited a number of new villages and were well received every where. In one place the women, having never seen a white face before, were very much frightened and listened behind the door while we preached to the men on the verandah, but when we left the women came out and said, 'Come again, we won't be afraid next time.'

"The work of the Helpmeet Societies among the Christian women has been carried on more regularly and with more success in some places than in others. In order that this part of the work may be a success, we seek to inspire the wives of the workers with a desire to engage in the service of Christ, and they need also much training as to how to work. But though they make many mistakes, they are *learning* and we must not be impatient and look for perfection too soon. It is a great thing that they should be led to undertake responsibility of any kind in Christian work, and we pray that they may soon learn how best to do the Lord's will in the discharging of that responsibility.

"We need more than ever now, your prayers both for the workers and the work, that we may be faithful in what the Lord has committed to us, and that His Spirit may work in the hearts of our hearers, that the seed sown there may spring up in an abundant harvest of living faith and changed lives.

"Pray without ceasing."

K. S. McLAURIN.

*Vuyyuru Girls' Boarding School.*—You will recollect that, in accordance with the wish of the Conference of India last year, we now support a Girls' Boarding School in Vuyyuru. This has only been open for about five months and a half at the time of report. Mrs. H. E. Stillwell, who has it in charge,