

Story of Nerbuddhi.

FROM MISS WHITE.

Indore, Central India, January 30, 1896.

I am glad to say we are all very well and enjoying the lovely cool weather. The Boarding School girls are longing for the hot-days to come again. I believe we have had an unusually cold season this time, so am inclined to echo the children's wish. The cold weather seems very trying to the natives and our girls have had the usual coughs and colds, but it is no hardship to take the nice sweet cough mixture from the Hospital; indeed I sometimes think some of the coughs are got up for the sake of the mithai dowa (sweet medicine). Little Pyarie had two or three absences in her throat but thanks to Dr. McKellar's treatment she soon got better, and is now a very happy and contented little child, very dear to us all. She is in danger of being spoiled by her thirty-three companions, but we are on our guard and so far there is no sign of it.

Our latest addition to the school is a little girl named Nerbuddhi, but I fear I will not be allowed to keep her. Early last year Mr. Russell sent the child to me. Her father was a Brahmin and was baptized in Mhow a year ago last October, so the little girl came to us. She soon became a favorite, being very quiet and kind. Her father and mother came one day in the rainy season and took her away to visit some friends and I heard no more about Nerbuddhi till two days ago. She came to our school in the company of a native Christian woman, who was once one of our teachers. The child's appearance was very pitiful and the story told was very sad: the father had died a few days ago very suddenly with cholera, I suppose, while visiting his heathen relatives. The mother and child came on to Indore to visit this native Christian woman and the latter brought the little girl to our school. The mother is not a Christian and seems a very weak woman intellectually; now she has changed her mind and wants to take Nerbuddhi away from all Christian influence. She came to the school gate to-day and my time was spent coaxing her and talking to her. She cried a great deal, owned she was not a Christian and would like Nerbuddhi to be one, but not just now. The little girl cried too, but said she did not wish to go away again, if we would give her mother food and clothes too. I sent her to Mrs. Johory, who has charge of the Industrial Home for girls and the Widows' Home. To-night Mr. Johory came to tell me that she was settled in one of the little homes recently built for widows and was going to get some work to do, so the poor creature will be safe and will daily get religious instruction from Mrs. Johory. We will pray that the teaching will be blessed to the mother and thus little Nerbuddhi will be left in safety with us.

You would hear about the Council meeting and College opening. It was a very happy time to us all; the meetings were very helpful to me. Mr. Wilkie had an attack of influenza, Christmas time. He and Mrs. Wilkie are at present in Ceylon, and from accounts from Miss Grier, who accompanied them, the change is doing much good. We will be glad to see them back soon, but not till Mr. Wilkie is really and truly strong again. I am thinking of going to the Hills for the holidays, I have not been away yet for a hot season and am advised not to risk a third hot season on the plains. It is a long time till April yet, and I will try to do what is best.