

Young People's Department.

S. S. RALLY IN COCANADA.

Rally Day at home is a "Kve" day, but much more so here. Oct. 17th was the Rally Day for all India. Then all the outside Sunday Schools gather into the central school for the Feast of Flags, as they call it, because each school has its own banner.

Every Sunday afternoon a dozen or more groups, composed of two young men, or three of the older girls from the school, the latter protected by an elderly woman, go out to different parts of the city, and gather together as many children as possible, then teach them to sing and tell them of Jesus. It is very discouraging work very often, but for this Sunday that is all forgotten.

About eight a.m. the girls assembled on our verandah, and as soon as each group had a protector, they started for their children. We went to the church early to watch the assembling. Except a line of benches around the wall, for the teachers, all seats had been removed. The schools came in, one or two at a time, and it kept those in charge busy to get them duly arranged. Some were quite respectably dressed. Some had uncombed hair and dirty clothes. Still others were in "full" dress, that is to say, a meagre waist cloth, and perhaps a necklace. Two small lads were very gay in fancy muslin blouses, some English woman's cast-offs. Among the last to arrive were the caste girls, who came in ox bundies or carts. They were well dressed. Oh the jewels some of them wore! One little Brahmin girl outshone all the others, with two gold belts and then a gold waist ring, literally full of gold coins as large as sovereigns. There was a similar ring around her neck, besides other neck ornaments to say nothing of those in her ears, on her head and hands.

The church was now a moving mass of gay clothes, brown faces, wondering eyes, and above all, gay banners. Each school had been given a pavala, or eight cents, with which to buy paper, etc., for a banner. Each group of teachers designed and made its own banner. Heavy pasteboard mounted on a pole, made the foundation. The pasteboard was covered with a bright paper, ornamented in various ways, and then on each was placed a short text or

motto in large Telugu letters. In most cases the resulting effect was very pleasing. Order was established and the school girls sang the opening hymn, after which the Telugu pastor prayed. The General Secretary of these schools then called the roll. As each school was called, the children stood, sang a verse or two of some hymn, repeated the motto on their banner, and told how many there were in that school. In some cases the singing was much more hearty than musical, but what of that!

The calling of the roll had consumed much time, and it took considerable effort to establish a semblance of order, so that Mr. Craig could give his illustrated talk. Even then the audience was such that a speaker would do his best and get through as quickly as possible. Some were really listening and hearing what was said.

The collection was an interesting proceeding. One laddie took a whole handful out of his pocket and put it in the bag. Do not think it was silver, or even copper. No, it was the money used by the poorest, namely cowrie shells, of which it takes 80 to amount to half a cent. The total amount of money given was over five rupees, or about \$2, and this was voted to the India Sunday School Union.

They were dismissed by schools. The Telugu pastor stood in the door to prevent crowding and pushing, for as each one passed out we put in each outstretched brown hand two plantains. Then they passed by Mrs. Craig, who gave each one a colored lesson card such as our little folks at home get every Sunday.

At last they were all gone, and Rally Day was over once more. What they really learned that day was not much, but they felt more interested in the little weekly school, as it was a part of a big one. The fruit and the card also helped along their meal and made it more easy for the teachers to gather, week by week, a crowd of children who will listen.

The total attendance that day was something over four hundred.

In Mr. Smith's church in South Cocanada, over two hundred gathered. Their programme was more elaborate than ours as they have more musical