

graven images.' But with all our temporal prosperity the spiritual famine is as distressing as anywhere in India, and the plague of sin is abroad everywhere in all its virulence."

Miss Murray speaks very highly of two of the Bible women employed, whom we believe to be supported by two ladies of this Society, one of whom seems to be completely filled by the Holy Spirit in all she says or does; her whole time and thought being taken up by her desire to spread the Gospel among her country-women, while the other delights in the study of the Scriptures.

Miss Murray expresses her satisfaction with the tent, which helps her to do the necessary touring in greater comfort and indeed to reach certain villages that without it she would find unhealthy and disagreeable to visit.

As the report from the Akidu Girl's School is of great interest and importance it is inserted almost in its entirety:

"It is now over a month since school closed and you will want to hear what your girls have been doing for the last term.

"School opened early in September and in a few days all the girls had arrived and were soon at work. I believe the girls love the school, they always seem so glad to get back, I never hear a word about homesickness, unless it is some poor little girlie who is so far away from home that her parents can't visit her.

"During the school year there has been an average attendance of about thirty girls in the boarding department, and quite a number of little girls have come as day pupils. With few exceptions the girls have done good work in their classes and most of them are ready for promotion. Their conduct has been very good, at present I cannot recall one case where severe discipline was necessary. Perhaps they profited by the lesson our boys had to learn. There seems to be a kindlier feeling between the older and the younger girls, most of the big girls are Christians, is it not Jesus working in their hearts? Three have been baptized this year. Every Tuesday afternoon the girls come to the verandah for their special prayer meeting, they are learning to take charge of it themselves, a new leader being appointed at each meeting, besides this they have their evening prayer just before they go to sleep.

"There has been an unusual number of marriages among the school girls. First, Tamar, then Sundramma, Dharmarati and K. Sydia, besides two who had left the school some time. Sundramma married a former pupil, a Christian, but his parents are heathen and Sundramma will have to live in a heathen home. Pray that she may let her light shine.

"There are only two or three big girls left in the school and we will feel quite lost for those who have gone. There has been very little sickness this term.

"The roof of the girls' school building has just been repaired, so they will be able to keep nice and dry. Sometimes I get letters from Bands asking me what would be nice to send to the girls they are supporting, I believe about one of the nicest presents you could send would be a simple workbox, nothing fancy, but a neat little box with scissors, thimble, needles and thread. Our girls learn to sew, but in their homes they have nothing to sew with; it is rather pitiful to see them try to cut out a jacket with a cook knife. A yard of nice print will make a "ravaka" or jacket for a girl. They are very fond of bright colors. They like the scrap books that sometimes come, and I notice that they prefer the pictures of animals, birds, men, women and children to floral pictures.

"During the hot season Miss Stovel kindly took charge of the School in our absence. She gave the children some temperance lessons illustrated by some new charts we have just received, showing the effect of alcohol on the different organs of the body.

"In July we sent five of our girls to Oocanada to prepare for the Government examination, but two of them have already returned so desperately homesick that they wouldn't stay any longer. We are glad we have Miss Baskerville to send them to, but sorry they had to be sent. The Akidu school is not recognized by the Government, as our teachers are not properly qualified; therefore our pupils are shut out from government examinations. Why don't we employ qualified teachers? Not a worker on the Akidu field is fully qualified; a man from another mission would ask a higher salary than we are able to pay, and there are decided objections to employing a heathen. However, we hope to have a qualified man of our own, a year from Christmas, if he passes all his examinations in the meantime.

"Dear friends, it seems to some of us that we are making a mistake. While we are educating our girls, our boys are to quite an extent left behind. Listen, Akidu girls' school, \$400; Akidu boys, \$200. If there were to be a cut it would be on the boys. The girls will make Christian homes, but many of them will marry common coolies, because we have not educated as many boys as girls.

"Perhaps some of them as preachers wives may be used as teachers, but their home will require the most of their attention. What about the Bible women? Most of them are widows. Some of them married women who give half their time to the work.

"The customs of the country are such, that girls or unmarried women cannot safely be employed as workers. The majority of our workers must come from our boys as men. Our schools on this field are not recognized by Government because of untrained teachers. We have