

anxious to learn to read herself, and had asked Miss Rodger to teach her. Though done as quietly as possible, her step-son got knowledge of it, and influenced his father to forbid it; so the lessons had to be given up. It is very hard for these people to break loose from old customs and habits; and while I have no doubt that the lady would be quite able to hold her own in her own sphere, and that a larger one than we sometimes imagine it to be, she is helpless before her son when it comes to a question of learning to read. As a rule, they say, it is the women themselves who resist any reform in this direction—any attempt to bring education to them; and the fact that zenana visiting by our missionary ladies creates a desire for knowledge on their part, is one of the best proofs we have of its influence and value.

The next house we went to was that of a doctor in Government employ, a Rajput by "caste." The surroundings of the place were much the same as of the other, only the court-yard seemed to be common to a number of families. The doctor, whom we disturbed in his afternoon "siesta," was loafing on a couch in the house, and for some time contented himself with watching us and listening from this post of observation, while we sat in a sort of porchway. I wish you could have seen him brought to his feet by his wife tossing her keys over her shoulder at him and ordering him, without even deigning to look round to him, to get up and bring her fancy work for the inspection of the visitors. Few Western husbands, I will venture to say, would have behaved so well in the circumstances, and have done what was ordered so meekly. It was evidently not the first time he had *obeyed*. He produced the fancy work (a pair of socks, and some canvas and wool work), apparently very proud of his wife's accomplishments; and considering that she had begun for the first time to use her needle just nine months before, the work was very good. At the time we called she was busy knitting a pair of slippers that Miss Rodger had been teaching her to make. The doctor, who was the finest-looking Indian I have seen, tall and well-built, features regular and expression pleasing, spoke English pretty well; but he was so occupied in admiring his wife, that he gave only scraps of attention to us. Miss Rodger was engaged all the time we could spare here in making some corrections in the slipper work, so she did not read, as in the last house.