

WORK AMONG THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

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It is hard to write reports when one has no stirring experiences to tell, and as I look back, the past year for me has been free from wonderful happenings. There have been very few idle days, but the work done has been, like the daily watering of one's garden before the time of fruitage. Perhaps the blossoms have looked a little fresher and fairer for the toil; perhaps the dry old earth has put forth tiny shoots of life, but that is all, and my heart is filled with longing to see, not the fruits of my labor, but of His, for in spite of discouragements, I know that He labors with me.

Station Work.—The work among the Christian women of Samalkota has been one of the green spots. Those who cannot read have been showing fresh zeal in memorizing the Word, and a few are learning to read. Among the latter is a young wife, who, with her husband, was baptized within the year. They have been severely tried lately, for the husband, who was a stalwart young man, is quite broken in health, and many of the people of this land wait for such opportunities to say that it is because they have become Christians that they are so afflicted. Pray for them.

We have carried on seven evangelistic classes during the year, and though these have not yet reached the standard of the classes we had in Peddapuram, some of them are very encouraging. Several times, while touring this year, we met with former pupils, and were greatly pleased with their remembrance of our teaching. Such encounters ensure us a hearty welcome and good hearing. Many caste women of Samalkota have heard the gospel once, twice, and some of them many times during the year. Amongst the latter, Atchamma, a young woman of the barber caste, seems nearest to the Kingdom. She can read the Word quite fluently now, and always gives us a glad welcome.

Touring.—Seventy-five days were spent on tour and eighty-five villages were seen. In many of these villages

the only work done was to visit the little band of Christians, teach them the call of Christ to the weary and heavy-laden, and when they had learned it, to try to persuade them to teach it to their Hindu friends and neighbors. After teaching this, having had prayer with them, we passed on to another village to repeat the same process there. Usually wherever my tent was pitched I spent the afternoons with the caste women there or in some adjacent village, and after travelled the whole village over, before leaving the place, so that all who wished to hear might do so. Many of the villages where I did no work amongst the caste women have been given over to the Lutherans, so the responsibility is theirs; but it is well that my time is fully occupied with the work which, according to our agreement, is mine, or knowing that they are doing nothing for those women, I should be driven to transgress our agreement, especially in the places where I so often carried the message of His love before it was decided to divide the field. The rains continued so late in November of 1916 that though I thought they were all over before I began touring, nevertheless my first tour was considerably dampened by an all-day and all-night rain. Again, in March, 1917, after two heavy showers had visited my tent, a third left it so uninhabitable that I felt a boundary had been set to my touring, and left for home, only to find that no rain had fallen in Samalkota.

Ten Biblewomen have been at work more or less regularly on various parts of our field during the year. Five of these are only half-day workers, but the others are supposed to give the whole of their time to the work. One of them was in the work twenty years ago, when I first came to the field, but for all of these years has had family cares to hinder; but now, being freed, has entered the work again with an enthusiasm that is an inspiration to me. Mr. Walker joined Mr. Gunn in holding evangelistic services in their village (this Biblewoman is a preachers' wife), and night after night the meetings were brightened by the singing of those whom my Biblewoman had