

## COCANADA.

Zenana Work.—A prolonged epidemic of smallpox interfered a little with Miss Gibson's visits this year. So careless are these people of contagion that not the slightest precaution is taken to prevent the spread of this terrible disease. They attribute it to the visit of some particular goddess, and will take no medicine or preventive, but bow to the goddess and wait for her to take her departure. If the victim dies, however, they have no hesitation in heaping abuse upon her head. These people are so ignorant and, in some cases, so content with their own wretched lot, that it often is difficult to arouse them to what sin really is, and its results. But in spite of the difficulties and seeming hopelessness of the task, a clear testimony from one faithful convert will encourage the missionary to pursue her work and assure her that the harvest will come in due season.

Miss Beggs has 96 houses for regular visiting; four of these are among the Brahmans, into whose homes it is still difficult to enter. Many of the Brahmans are well educated and long to be able to read our language. They think we have such nice story books, and there are none in their language. "They are very fond of our hymns and always ask me to sing before I go. I generally read and explain the Scripture portion from which the hymn is taken, and their questions and remarks show that they understand a great many of the truths of Christianity."

Bulamma and Apalamma are very dear women who are not far from the Kingdom. There seems to be such a slight barrier between the old life and the new that we feel confident the step will be taken before long. Pray for them that they may be kept steadfast and loyal, despite the persecutions of their friends."

Akidu. Miss Robinson: "My work, you know, is of twofold character. First evangelistic work among the women and children—Zenana work as it is generally called—and, second, school work in its various phases, some secular, but more Bible teaching, also

oversight of the food and general household life of over sixty boarders.

It is the school work in which you are principally interested. As you know, none but the children of Christians are received into the boarding departments, though any are at liberty to send their children to the day school. As our Christians have mainly come from the outcasts, the caste people of the town scorn to send their boys and girls here. One Kapu man braver than the rest, knowing our school to be well taught, sent his son a few weeks, two years ago. Becoming bolder he sent him regularly all last year, and the second term saw three lads from other families as regular pupils also. We hope this is but the first fruits of what may yet be. Our teachers have been on the whole diligent and faithful, this being very important in the success of a school. Our head master, Ranam, is a growing man, and deserves commendation. A word too should be said about Lydia, our infant teacher and house-mother to the girls. She is an old pupil of the school, a bright little woman and kind in her manner to the girls.

The great and crying need on this field is more, better qualified and truly consecrated men and women to enter definite service for the Master. And herein lies the usefulness of our schools and educational work, especially where the religious teaching can be given directly by the missionary, for here we come into contact with the children, and can strive to mould them into right ways of thinking and doing while they are yet plastic, giving them not only the ordinary course of religious instruction, but supplementing this by a definite knowledge of Bible history, and Christian principles, and seeking to lead them early to the Lord, not only for salvation but for service.

It would not be right were I to close this report without reference to our fine house for the boarding girls given by your Society. No words can convey to you the difference this house makes in the comfort, safety and self-respect of our girls. Our numbers have gone up until last year we had 31 in actual residence and nearly a dozen other applications. Indeed, so popular is our school becoming that we thought it wise to ask you, through our Conference, for twenty-five dollars