

when a native suffers from a pain in the back, arm, or leg, for some relative or teacher to bleed the patient by making an incision with a piece of glass. One poor man nearly lost his life by having an artery severed, and when I sent the bandages with directions, the patient was so weak that he could not speak. In a day or two, however, he recovered.

The births and deaths are nearly equal on this side of the island. The former amount to 20 and the latter to 24 during the last year.

#### MARRIAGES.

This subject requires a little space for itself. It may surprise some when they know that during the twelve months of my residence here, I have married 74 couples. Three parties were advised to wait a little longer, as the brides were too small in stature, if not also too young. The chief here had set his affections on a young person who had been serving with us, but even in his case we thought it better to wait a little for various reasons. In this as in many cases besides, the natives of this island act spasmodically as if in concert. They think it strange if they be refused any request, especially when they come a distance of some miles, and in the case of marriage it is still more difficult and delicate to refuse an application. Besides, marriages take place at a much earlier age on these islands and in warm countries generally. It is seldom that a single couple comes forward; they wait for a party of four or six. The danger of refusal might lead to the very thing that we wish to avoid, and indeed a teacher said to me on refusing a party from his land, that he feared that they would return to *nedo aupat*, that is, to dark customs, or heathen practices. In all cases, so far as we could ascertain, the parties married were well known to those who recommended them, and these were generally chiefs, or teachers, or elders who possess more knowledge and experience in these matters than a missionary just entering the field could be expected to have. In some islands visited by the *Day Spring* lately, there were 20 women for one man, but here there

are more males than females. Widows are not allowed to remain long in that state on this island.

#### SCHOOLS.

With the exception of a class which Mr. Copeland conducted, the schools were continued as when he left. Natives cannot understand changes as we do, and many of them require a long time to learn even a little. For example, arithmetic is with many here as in the time of Locke, "a science too difficult for the mind of man." There are some, however, who can add and multiply very well, considering their opportunities. Subtraction and Division seem to confound the most of them, though explained to them repeatedly. There are four schools at present not including the Sabbath School. The school for adults meets at 6½ a. m., daily, Saturday excepted. The exercises consist of singing, prayer, reading the scriptures, repeating the catechism and passages from scripture, and an exhortation from Narvia a tried and faithful teacher who is always at his post.

There is also a class at the same hour for children. The exercises consist of singing, prayer, reading, spelling, and examination on the portion of scripture read. The present teacher was lately driven from Tanna, and is a very wise steady man. He is much liked by the children.

Then at 9 o'clock on Tuesday and Thursday there is a class of girls who are taught sewing by Mrs. McCullagh—after which they assemble for school and I assist them also in teaching the boys who reside in the neighborhood, as well as all present, such exercises as singing, cyphering, writing, spelling, and manual exercises suited to their age. The Testament is the text book which all read daily, and repeat passages from, as well as spell any words occurring in the passage read that may require attention. We find two days at present sufficient on account of the heat, but in the course of two or three months we can teach on four days.

This school which Mrs. Copeland taught so efficiently was left in charge of a teacher who, though possessed of an uncommonly good temper and quiet disposition, yet was