

*Leader.*—I am sure you all like to know what buildings are on the Mission Compound at Akidu, and who are living in them. First, there is the Mission House. Who is living there now?

*Ans. 6.*—Mr. and Mrs. Chute. Mr. Chute has charge of the whole field in which there are ten churches with a membership of 1873, so that he has plenty to do. Mrs. Chute superintends the boarding schools, and as she is a doctor she treats a great many patients. She had no suitable place to receive patients until last year, when she built a brick hospital; it has three rooms and was paid for by money sent by friends. One of the rooms is used as a dispensary, and the other two are for the patients. There are no neat beds like our hospitals, each patient brings her own bed, and the friends of the sick persons cook the food for them.

*Leader.*—Near the Mission House, with a brick wall around it is the Girls' Boarding School. Mrs. Smith is the Matron, and last year there were 25 girls in it. The boys building is a poor one, and there are about 30 boarders. They all meet for their lessons at the Chapel, and six of the scholars were baptized last year. The church that meets in this Chapel has a membership of 285, and they come from a number of the villages near. This church has a mission work of its own. It supports a school in the Shepherd Street, which began with six little girls and now has an attendance of forty. The Christian spirit is to share what we have with others, and the more we try to be like Christ, the more we want to share all we have with others. Let us ask God to give us large generous hearts so that we will delight to give.

AMELIA MUIR.

Clarence, August, 1899.

## MISSION BAND LESSON.

### CEYLON.

*Where do we find this island?*

In the Indian Ocean about 40 miles southeast of India.

*How large is it?*

266 miles long and 140 broad, and in shape like a pear.

*How many people live in Ceylon?*

About three millions.

*By what other names is it called?*

The Key to India; the Gem of the Indian Ocean; the Pearl on India's brow.

*What did Bishop Heber write about it in his missionary hymn?*

"What though the spicy breezes  
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle,  
Though every prospect pleases,  
And only man is vile,  
In vain with lavish kindness  
The gifts of God are strewn,  
The heathen in his blindness  
Bows down to wood and stone."

*Is the scenery beautiful?*

The mountains and rivers are so grand that Ceylon has often been called another Switzerland.

*Tell something about the flowers and trees of Ceylon.*

Over 3,000 different flowers and ferns are found here. Large groves of cinnamon and coconut trees are very useful to the natives. The Talpot tree is so large that one of its leaves would carpet a good-sized room. The "Sacred Bo Tree" is said to have been planted 288 years before Christ was born.

*What of the precious jewels found here?*

Many thousand dollars' worth are taken from Ceylon every year.

*Who rules over this island?*

Since 1796 it has belonged to the British Empire, and is under our own Queen Victoria.

*Name the chief city.*

Colombo, where the English governor has his home.

*Are the people of Ceylon heathen?*

Many of them worship the idol Buddha. Large temples are built in his honor all over the island. In the city of Kandy one temple is more than 2,000 years old. It is called "The Shrine of the Sacred Tooth." Priests show a large tooth of Buddha in a golden box covered with jewels, and thousands of pilgrims come to worship it.

*Has Mahomet many followers in Ceylon?*

A great many still put their whole trust in him. A way back in the jungles the wild tribes worship the devil.

*Who first tried to convert this people?*

Roman Catholics in 1541.

*What Protestants were early in the field?*

In 1812 the English Baptists sent Rev. Mr. Chater, who labored in Ceylon until his death in 1827; the Methodists, through the earnest pleading of Dr. Coke, that "white-haired hero," sent their first missionaries to Ceylon in 1814; the American Board began work in 1816; and the Church Missionary Society two years later.

*What did these early workers hope to do?*

Convert the people of Ceylon and then send them across the strait into India to help evangelize her millions of heathen.

*Was this accomplished by them?*

Hundreds of Christian young men from Ceylon are now employed as helpers in connection with twelve missionary societies in India.

*Were the people willing to send their children to mission schools?*

Very glad to educate their boys, but said that horses and sheep could learn to read as easily as their girls.

*Give a short account of the Oodoville Girls' Boarding School.*

It was one of the first mission schools for girls ever started in any heathen land. It was begun in 1824 by Rev. Mr. Winthrow and his wife. Miss Eliza Agnew was Principal for 41 years. During this time more than 1,000 girls studied in the school. Miss Agnew was much beloved by all, and was called by the natives, "The mother of 1,000 daughters," for she had helped to train three generations of Ceylon girls, teaching the daughters and grand-daughters of her first pupils. When she gave up the work, it was found that out of more than 600 girls who had taken the full course of study every one had become a follower of Christ. Many of her scholars became earnest, consecrated missionaries and Bible-women.

*What was the secret of Miss Agnew's power?*

She never failed, during her long missionary life, to rise early in the morning, and spend the first hour of the day alone with God in prayer and in studying the Bible.

*Tell of Edith, a Bible-woman, now at work in Ceylon.*

She visits the high caste homes, teaching the women and children to read, sing and pray. These heathen mothers who used to sing their babies to sleep with songs about their cruel and impure gods now sing of Jesus and His love.