

'Sweep this room,' you find you have said, 'Carry out this room;' or, making your best effort to use intelligible Marathi, your hearer looks up with a helpless stare saying, '*Ingraji samajata nah.*' 'I do not understand English.'

A lady in one of the Shantung cities wrote to her St. Louis friends some years ago: "I have merely established myself and begun my attack on the language. It sounds rather spirited to say, 'I have begun my attack,' as if I were coping with a foeman worthy of my steel. The real state of the case is, there is no spirit left in me after one survey of the situation." Another says: "I forget almost as fast I learn, and the constant repetition is tiresome. If I did not feel sure the Master called me to this work and wants me here, I would be utterly discouraged." From Central China: "You are right in calling the characters 'terrible.' The best of the foreigners do not pretend to learn them all. Another hard thing is, they do not use the same words in talking as in books, so we have to acquire the two names. But the language is wonderfully simple which is what makes it so hard to learn, if you can understand that paradox. They do not bother about tenses, gender, and number, which is rather confusing to us."

Thirty-three different languages and dialects are learned by missionaries of the American Presbyterian Church. The American Board missionaries employ about twenty-five; the Methodist missions (North) about the same. Of these, some possess great advantages over others in musical sound or simplicity of structure. Dr. Riggs, the venerable linguist in the Turkish Empire, was wont to speak of Bulgarian as "a language to learn before breakfast." A young teacher in Brazil, after seven weeks' study of Portuguese, went to work successfully with a roomful of small children. Missionaries in Mexico expatiate upon the "beautiful" Spanish tongue, and one in Guatemala, three months after arrival, was reading her Spanish Bible as intelligently as English.—*Woman's Work for Woman.*

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

TRINIDAD.

Reopening of the Girls' School.

FROM MRS. MORTON.

We reopened the Girls' Home on the 1st of February, and have seven girls in training, I may say, for Bible Women, for though matrimony is almost sure to claim them all, they will be fitted so far as we can do it for religious teachers as well as for good wives, and we expect them not only