

INDIAN GIRLS.

MRS. DORCHESTER is the wife of Rêv. Dr. Dorchester, the present Government Superintendent of Indian Schools in the United States, and is herself employed by the American Government as a special agent, with regard particularly to looking after the welfare of the Indian women and girls. Mrs. Dorchester recently submitted a very important and interesting report to the Indian Commissioner, which appeared in full in the columns of the Carlisle *Red Man*. In it she says :—

“After spending many months among the Indian tribes of the West, studying especially the condition and needs of the women and girls, I desire to send to the Department a special report, calling attention to some points which, while not new to the Indian Bureau, seem to me to demand of all people interested in this great work, frequent and earnest thought.

“In all these tribes, the abject condition of the women is especially noticeable, and both the women and girls seem duller than the men and boys ; but none of them are so dull as not to be touched by kindness and won by love.

“It is a truism, that in order to reach any heathen people, the mothers and homes must be interested first. It is also just as much a truism among western people, that the Indians as a whole are still pagans, and the women most conservatively pagan of all.

“Among all people, ridicule is a powerful weapon ; but its power is multiplied and intensified when used in Indian Society, and the squaws understand best when and how to use this weapon most successfully.

“It is the mothers who keep up the old superstitions, and laugh down modern ideas and customs. The Pueblo mothers hoot at the returned Carlisle boys as they pass the adobé homes. Apache mothers form most of the opposition to the San Carlos police who are sent out for pupils ; and Apache mothers cry “Man take children off,” thus stirring up the bucks to resistance. Therefore great efforts should be put forth to break down the prejudice against schools, among the women ; and this result can and will be reached, if from the same white race who wish to educate the children, there shall also come the means for bettering the physical condition of the homes, and for broadening the scope of intellectual ideas among the women.”

Mrs. Dorchester then gives it as her opinion that Christian women of good common sense and bodily vigor, who would consecrate their time to the elevation of their Indian sisters, should be appointed and sent out to the mission field. She also believes it would have a good effect if instead of bringing so many deputations of Indian chiefs to Washington to meet the “Great Father,” deputations should in future consist of Indian men in company with *their wives*. She thinks that double the amount of good would in this way result. Mrs. Dorchester admits that there are