

Lydiama, one of my Biblewomen, is seated on the floor near me, writing out a hymn which a caste woman asked for the other day, and I have but one copy of it. We were so glad to be asked to that house and to have the women so interested. Not far from her sits a caste boy of about 12 or 13. We are helping him to learn his letters in odd times. He has to work, and has no chance to go to school. To-day he is helping the mason who is doing some repairs for me, and the tiles have run short. So he came along to see me, and I gave him a pencil and paper to write some letters on. When Lydiama finishes that hymn she will write out something which I am translating for our Women's Session in the Association in Narsapatnam."

This gives a glimpse of the difficulties under which many of our converts have to lead their lives: "A young man who was converted while in Natal, came home wanting to win his wife, so that they together might set up a Christian home. He is one of a family of seven brothers and several sisters. All are married but the youngest brother, who is still a small boy. They are all together, as you know the joint family system prevails. There are not enough rooms for each couple to have one to themselves, so Polayya and his wife have to share the common room with others of the family. In a chance for a quiet chat with his wife the other day, she said: 'If we only had a room to ourselves, then we could pray together and he could teach me more.' The failure of the rains in their season this year has created famine conditions, and so he cannot get the money to build even a small house costing about \$15. So many things enter into these people coming out openly. If his wife is baptized, none of the relations will touch her water pots or help her in the many little household matters in which they depend much on each other."

Two numbers of the "Virekavati," the Telugu Christian monthly magazine, have come to hand. It presents a most attractive appearance, and though somewhat like our own paper, is much larger. The reading matter had to be taken on faith, but from the annotations kindly inserted by the editor, appeared to be very interesting. Miss MacLaurin was the first editor, and since she has been

home another of our own missionaries, Miss Mabel E. Archibald, M.A., of Chicago, has been carrying on the work.

An effort is being made to establish a Christian Converts' Home in or near Pithapuram. Those who are to benefit by it are members of the higher castes, who would have to leave their own homes to become Christians. This home is intended to be a refuge for them until they can find their place amid the new conditions of their lives, and it will also be a training school for Christian doctrine. Two homes, one for men and one for women, would cost \$4,000. Pithapuram is chosen because of the presence there of our two missionary doctors, Dr. Allyn and Dr. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Chute, Mr. Stillwell and Miss Ryerse are on their homeward way, and will arrive here in May. With them, rather unexpectedly, is Dr. Allyn, who was granted a six months' leave of absence by the Board for a much-needed rest, and whose parents sent for her to spend the holiday with them in Edmonton, Alta., rather than in the hill resorts of India.

Miss Zimmerman writes from Avanagadda: "I am seeing Avanagadda for the first time, and am dreaming dreams about its future. It is an ideal place for a new station. The work has already begun in the hearts of the people. These are busy days, and full of new experiences. It is not easy for those who have never been in India to imagine the various experiences we meet and the various scenes witnessed by the touring missionary. We meet all sorts of people. We enter the homes of well-to-do people as well as the houses of the very poor. Some are indifferent, some eager to learn. During the past week I have seen the humorous side, and have laughed heartily. But there have been painful and heart-breaking scenes, and now and then scenes which have gladdened our hearts."

The Home Missionary Conference, which convened in Toronto, April 9, 10 and 11, was one of the notable events in our denominational history in Ontario and Quebec. 110 out of 120 Home Missionaries gathered for this three days' conference, and from