

Our Work Abroad

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

Miss Hatch, writing of some of her Bible-women in Ramachandrapuram, tells the following little story:

"P. Mary is rejoicing in the baptism of two converts, one an elderly man who is so fond of portions of Scripture he has learned that, when he begins to recite, he holds one with his glittering eye and one cannot choose but hear. His recitation is like the sonorous chant of the Brahmin, wherein the vowels are all rounded out, and the r's have their proper twirl; but better than all is the spirit of devotion showing in his face, and the pathos of the words 'God be merciful to me, a sinner' which he uses as a refrain to all the other passages."

And again she writes:—"Now I may report another opening in a priest-ridden town by our medical work. In this large market-town of Draksharam, a foot-hold had often been sought. I remember some years ago having to tramp through several suburbs of this town called "Sunday, Monday and Tuesday" to try to secure a suitable place where a Bible woman could live and work, but though I travelled all those 'days' I found nothing. Now the Christian Deputy Collector has given a very favorable site for a Medical Hall, and the foundation stone has been laid. There is enough space for a school also, and behind the lot, sufficient for a large garden. It is a grand opening where the Gospel may be preached without hindrance."

A sentence or two concerning another subject will also be of interest to Link Readers. In connection with the Lace industry, Miss Hatch writes:—"There has been a manifest falling off in orders for lace this year. We are glad to have half of our workers take lace to Mrs. Massey Clement. The others come to me and, so far, we have been able to dispose of what has come in. I have, however, to refuse the requests of many workers for orders. We have very helpful monthly meetings with the workers where each one recites

the portions of Scripture assigned and reports as to how many she has taught and a register of such is kept."

The Timpany Memorial School in Cocanada has a sphere for usefulness which cannot be over estimated, when one remembers the large numbers of Anglo Indians in India and that such a great proportion of them are Roman Catholics. We should bear this work very especially upon our hearts for it is one which carries great burdens and peculiar difficulties for those who are entrusted with it. It will be remembered how Miss Folsom had care of the school and at the present time it is in Miss McGill's hands. Her report of the year's activities is very interesting.

The past year, which has been one of varied experiences, may be compared to a picture in black and white with some high lights and many deep shadows. Most of the shadows were caused by certain members of the staff. As it will do no good to recall tragedies and other distressing scenes, let us pass them by and look at the high lights in the picture,—the children. Some have come and gone, but more have come, therefore we have now an enrolment of 45 which is ten more than reported last year. From July to December 1922, we had a house full of boarders; since then the majority enrolled have been day scholars. Some Protestant families with children came to Cocanada to take the places of others who were either R. Catholic or had no children of school age. One Protestant family, becoming dissatisfied with the Convent school, removed their five children from there and sent them to us. They may have been attracted partly by our closing concert held in December when the children all represented flowers in a forest dell to which had come a disheartened recluse. The gentle voices and cheerful philosophy of the happy singers put heart into the recluse and sent him back to his duty in the world contented.

The Christian Endeavor services have