

## Our Work Abroad

### THE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR MISTRESSES

July 1926 will go down into history as the date of opening the Training School for Mistresses in connection with the Girls' Boarding School in Cocanada.

Until now we have had to send our girls to other Missions to take training,—to the American Baptist in Nellore, or Church Mission in Bunder, or Lutheran Mission in Guntur. Even these could not accommodate all we wished to send. So we were forced to consider a school of our own. Over a year ago, we applied for permission to open it, but were refused. In August 1925, Miss Blackadar and I were asked by Conference to go to Madras to interview the Director of Public Instruction, and to show him the urgent need of a Training School for our Mission. After hearing our case, he practically promised it to us, and asked that a formal application be sent in. In this, most minute details were required as to site, building, furnishings, play ground, staff, and everything,—a most formidable array of documents.

Our dismay may easily be imagined when, early in June, we received word that sanction would not be granted! And over 30 girls were waiting for the class to open! A message flew back to the Director with a request for re-consideration and asking for another interview, (which he regretted he could not arrange as he was absent from Madras). However, the bombardment had a good effect,—and on June 30, word came that we might establish one Training class,—this just six days before the opening of school! These were busy days. Word was sent to all the fields of the Mission and applications soon came in. Orders were given for desks and seats; the large, leaf shed to hold overflow classes began to grow; and on July 7th our first Training class was welcomed.

We have often prayed that every step of our new venture might be guided,—a prayer that was definitely answered—especially in regard to the Staff. We are required to have a trained B.A. as Head-mistress, but where to look for one was the question. One evening, through a "chance" meeting with the

District Educational officer (Inspector), I heard of just the one, and by the middle of July she was engaged to come. Miss Venkataratnam, B.A., L.T., is a beautiful, refined Christian young woman, (her parents were Brahmin converts), a student of the Women's Christian College, Madras, from which she brought highest recommendations. We have Mr. N. Daniel, B.A., L.T., of the McLaurin High School for an hour a day to teach Mathematics. He is a specialist in that line and very enthusiastic over his work. Best of all, he is one of the most earnest of our Christian young men.

Another evidence of guidance was the "writer" we secured,—Mr. Kanstabham, who was clerk in the college here for years, now superannuated but quite able to work. He gives us half-day service. A Writer is an absolute necessity as there are so many records to keep, and one with such long experience is invaluable to us.

There are 32 students from 10 fields of the Mission, and all seem very earnest in their work. It is a two years' course and is really quite heavy. The whole school has had to be re-organized, and now Standards 1 to 5 form the "Model School attached to the Training School" and Standards 6 to 8 are the "Higher Elementary School".

There are 210 girls in the Boarding School.

Lida Pratt.

Cocanada, Sept. 30, 1926.

### RESCUED FROM SHAME

By

Miss K. S. McLaurin

A few girls of the Dancing Girls' caste attend our school—their homes are adjacent to our building—and a very encouraging thing happened (?) in connection with them during the hot season. Two of them, the two most promising ones, were only allowed to attend half the day because the other half had to be devoted to the learning of singing and dancing and all the other arts of the professional prostitute. I felt very keenly the disgrace of this preparation and outlook for them. To think that two dear girls who amongst their