

The Young Women

FROM MISS HINMAN.

Akidu, Godavari West, India.

Sept. 22nd, 1925.

Dear Ones at Home and Abroad:—

The fact of my having attended a very unusual performance last night explains why my home letter did not get a start. I might better say—unusual for me. It was an engagement ceremony. This was the first Mrs. C. and I have been invited to attend. It was the niece of Miriam, who is a helper in the Hospital. She had had this girl living with her. As the Pastor was late in coming, they had the dinner first. They told us this was not according to custom for, if the groom did not pony up enough in the way of jewels, they might turn down his case, when he and the men he had brought with him to arrange the matter, would be sent off without being served a meal. When we had just finished the Pastor came and ate hurriedly. Then he, the Head Master, and our teacher Satianandam, sat down on a mat facing three men who had come from the groom's village. The Pastor asked why they had come, demanded to know the character of the prospective groom, what his educational qualifications, what his position, his salary, if he owned land, if he had debts, and if he could support the girl. Not only so, but what he would then plank down, as security that he meant business, and what jewels he would give at the time of the wedding. He had a silver belt to give now, and promised gold bracelets, and a gold necklace at the wedding time. He had his demands too. He wanted them to agree to give him gold bracelets at the wedding. He didn't succeed in getting that. Then they said "Show what you have brought." They opened up a bundle and brought out saffron, plantains, bettle leaf, which the people chew, the silver belt, and a very ordinary quaka and piece of goods for a jacket. The quaka was passed around and nearly everyone commented on the fact that it was of very poor quality. The groom said he didn't know, his Pastor bought it. As this is his second venture, though he is but 21, we thought he probably did know a little more than he pretended to do. All this while the girl was never in sight. The new

quaka was taken to her. She put it on and appeared, of course, desperately shy. To the question the Pastor had previously put as to whether the groom had seen the girl, he declared he had not. When she came she was asked if she had seen him before. She, too, cheerfully lied, saying she had not. This seemed to have been expected of them. The Pastor read from the Bible about Abraham seeking a wife for Isaac. Then with prayer the performance ended. It surely was strange to say the least. It seemed to be such a case of bargaining.

A STUDENT VOLUNTEER'S REASON FOR BECOMING A MEDICAL MISSIONARY TO CHINA

From an Address Given by a Medical Student Volunteer at the Foreign Mission Conference, Washington.

Nine years ago I went to an Older Boys' Conference of the Y.M.C.A. in Lincoln, Nebraska. I met there Jesus Christ. Since that day I have known that there could be but one single dominating motive in my life. That was, to do the best I could to mould men after the fashion of Jesus Christ.

I spent the next few months studying as hard as I could on two questions—what shall I do with my life, and where shall I spend it? The second question was answered first. Within a month after reading the life of David Livingstone and all the other church papers and literature I could get hold of, I decided it would have to be in the foreign mission field, unless God prevented it. About six months later, after studying myself and the need I thought I ought to go to medical work. Medicine to be my profession but not my life work: Christian missions to be my life work.

Here are the reasons that led me to this decision: The first was simply a sense of fairness, a square deal to the non-Christian peoples of the world. I had happened to be born out there in a little town in the state of Nebraska, given a public school education, a high school education, a university education and a medical education. Was I responsible