

THE GADABAS

Miss Bessie Churchill.

The Gadabas are a small aboriginal tribe found in parts of the Vizagapatam District. There are only a few villages of them, and these villages are usually near the base or in among the foothills of the Western Ghats.

In appearance, in dress, in customs, in language, and in religion, they are quite distinct from the Telugus, near whom they live. Their religion, however, has been affected by their contact with Hinduism, so that they have adopted some of their Hindu neighbors' rites, and the Brahmins have gained a marked

ply tied around the waist, the knot coming on the left hip. The upper cloth is also a yard long and a half a yard wide, and is worn on the left shoulder, tied under the right arm. These two cloths are woven by themselves, the women going into the woods to gather the necessary bark, which, after pounding, separating the pulp, and drying, they weave into their cloths, with broad alternate stripes of navy blue and crimson.

Tied over the lower cloth, at the back, they wear a "bustle," composed of many strands of cord, also made from bark, and weighing as much as three or four pounds. Their ornaments are heavy and coarse. On their wrists and



Gadabas—Hill Tribe People on the Bobbili Field.

influence over them, causing them to leave their more simple religion. They are looked on as a distinct caste by the Hindus.

They have a language of their own, which sounds more like that used by hill tribes than like the Telugu; but this language has never been reduced to writing.

The men are not distinguishable from the Telugus in dress, wearing the loin cloth and upper cloth as do the common people of the humble castes; but the women wear a very peculiar costume. Their lower cloth is a yard long and three-fourths of a yard wide, and is sim-

ply tied around the waist, the knot coming on the left hip. The upper cloth is also a yard long and a half a yard wide, and is worn on the left shoulder, tied under the right arm. These two cloths are woven by themselves, the women going into the woods to gather the necessary bark, which, after pounding, separating the pulp, and drying, they weave into their cloths, with broad alternate stripes of navy blue and crimson. Tied over the lower cloth, at the back, they wear a "bustle," composed of many strands of cord, also made from bark, and weighing as much as three or four pounds. Their ornaments are heavy and coarse. On their wrists and