

Our Work Abroad

Writing from the Hill Station, Kodaikanal, Dr. Sarah Cook tells of the happy party which occupied "Hawthorne", the cottage purchased with the legacy bequeathed by Miss Martha Rogers for a rest home for the lady missionaries, and named thus as a memorial to her. In the party were Dr. Jessie Allyn, Misses Laura Allyn, Baskerville, Pratt, McLeish, Hellyer, and Dr. Cook herself. But even up there, in the beauty of the Hills, the work left behind on the Plains with all the problems connected therewith, could not be forgotten. Speaking about the hospital in Chicacole, Dr. Cook writes:—

"We (Miss Evelyn Eaton and herself) were so sorry to have to close the hospital for the hot season. It seemed a shame to have to do it just when the people have the most time to be sick and to come to the hospital, for that seems to be really the case. Still, we did not have the staff to leave this year, so there was nothing else to be done. I am hoping that by next year, we may have a woman L.M.P. (licensed medical practitioner) to leave in charge.

We did have a few good months, though, before we came to the Hills. It is splendid to have Miss Eaton. It does so lighten the work to have someone with whom to discuss the problems as they come up, and her two years' experience in the Pithapuram hospital is invaluable to me, besides the pleasure of her companionship.

I think on the whole, the out-patient work has been heavier than the in-patient during those few months, partly because we have had no permanent L.M.P. at the Station (the Railway Station where the Marjorie Cameron Memorial Dispensary was built). We had to spend two afternoons a week out there. We have had some interesting cases there and a few we were able to persuade to come into the hospital in Chicacole for treatment. There was one very pitiful case,—a child of probably eight years, who had had some eye trouble, and had been taken to a native doctor with the usual result. Both eyes were ruined, sight completely gone, and the child was suffering intense pain. She just cringed and crouched on the floor crying. The parents asked if her sight could be

saved, and because we could not give a hopeful diagnosis, they simply would not be bothered doing anything, not having anything done to relieve her distress. We begged them to let us do something to relieve the pain, but they said, "If it will not cure her sight, what is the use? Of what use is a blind child? It is her fate". A baby was brought that had been burned some months previously, with a resulting scar which, in contracting, was pulling its foot out of shape so that it was not developing. The mother was a widow who did coolie work to support three little tots. This was the youngest, so she did not want to have to bring the baby to the hospital. However, we hope she may come when we return,—there was not time to do anything before we came away to the Hills.

When I took over the Hospital, there was a man L.M.P. on the staff, and as I could not get a woman, we have kept him on. We also have a Compounder, and at first, we had only one partly trained nurse. Afterwards, we were able to get a trained nurse from the Ramachandrapuram field, and when we start again, we will have another from Pithapuram. That will help us considerably. We also expect to have a man at the Station Dispensary, so it will not be necessary for us to go out so often. It will be a great deal better for the work out there. Going as we did, in the afternoon, the time was so crowded with medical work, that we could not make it the evangelistic work that we wanted except indirectly. But a strong Christian doctor working out there will be so much better."

The poor, suffering little children, blinded so often because of the cruel practices of ignorant native "doctors"! Here is a pathetic picture from a letter received from Dr. Allyn:—"I have a wee kiddie on my bed here just now. She is a patient from the Hospital. She had a bad eye which had to be removed and we did not get it done any too soon, for she had no sight in the other eye. However, it is all right in appearance so we hope the sight may return. Meanwhile she gets a lot of joy out of lying on my bed and spending the noon hour at the