

One day they must fast as they are sending the gods to sleep, another they are feeding snakes with milk supposing that their dead relatives have returned in the form of serpents and they must be fed.

Soon follows "Racci Punam" when millions are tying strings, with a fancy bit of tinsel on it, on the arm of some friend, knowing that a present must be given in exchange.

The day before the god Krishna's birthday all must fast, he is supposed to have been born at midnight, then swinging and dancing begins.

Solah sarad comes round when the spirits of all the deceased male relatives are supposed to come to the bank of the river for a drink. For sixteen days men go to the river and throw water from a cloth to those relatives, on the 16th day it is believed they depart. For nine days the spirits of the deceased female relatives are imagined to come for a drink. The women go and stand daily in the water, take a lock of their hair in the left hand and then with their two hands throw water to the thirsty spirits. It is believed they go away on the 9th day not to return for 12 months.

The degrading "Holi" is just at hand, when every kind of sinful passion has a free license to be indulged in to the fullest extent either in public or in private. Satan is worshipped and for days men act as if they were possessed. It is not safe for women or girls to leave their homes, in fact, this feast and its dreadful proceedings are too awful for description and when it is over a catalogue of evil is written on the poor debased faces.

It would take too much space to tell of the many sinful festivals, and ceremonies that occupy the time and attention of the poor deluded Hindoo and that so often furnish an excuse for the promising pupil to be absent.

But in the midst of many disappointments and discouragements knowledge is being diffused and some of the children tell us that they know their ceremonies are of no avail and that Jesus Christ is the true Savior. Others hold tenaciously to the idea, that their religion is God given and true. We try to prove to these that God's religion is like Himself, just, pure and satisfying to the soul, and we are looking forward to seeing some, at least, of them believe in the Lamb of God who alone taketh away the sin of the world.

The observance of idol rites does not make the same inroads on the attendance in the village schools as it does in the bazaar school, but poverty, superstition, fear and indifference do their work and we find it a difficult task to lessen the number of little street arabs who spend their time playing, learning bad language and giving abuse to each other to a terrifying degree.

We have not been able to enter one half of the doors open for zenaana work. The prayer for open

doors has been answered and now the cry is for open hearts. Often when the women seem quite attentive a question is asked which shows that their minds are far away. Sometimes when the Angel of death has crossed the threshold and taken away a loved one they will listen as if there was some truth in Christianity.

Not long ago when I went to a house where they had many times heard the gospel I found a priest was present who was busy trying to propitiate the devil and persuade him to leave a young man in the family, who was very ill.

In such cases a small fire is made in the room and incense burnt. A light, in a small earthen saucer, fed with sweet oil is balanced on two threads, and held between both hands. The devil is supposed to be in this light and as it is swung backward and forward the question is asked. Who sent you? Did Kali (the goddess who desires human sacrifice) send you? Did Muree (the cholera goddess requiring a goat) send you? Did Seethla (small pox goddess, wanting a goat, rooster, cocoonut etc.) send you? When the thread swings unevenly, the answer is supposed to be no, if evenly yes and then the goddess must have her desire. If Kali is believed to have sent the devil, a cut is made in the wrist and the blood drops out to satisfy the thirsty goddess. If Muree is the guilty party a goat is brought in and tied to the foot of the low rude bedstead, or if that is a minus quantity, to a post in the ground. Here it stands for two days then the head is severed from the body with a sword, liquor is poured on the mouth and the question quickly asked. Did the goddess accept you? If the mouth opens and shuts three times the offering is supposed to have been accepted and there is great joy. If the sick one do not recover another evil spirit is believed to have entered and he has to be propitiated.

All the arts that were tried failed and Death claimed this young man, then the broken hearted mother listened as she had never done before. May she and many others soon be brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

WORK OF MISS FRASER, M. D., IN MHOW,  
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**D**URING the past year we have had much to encourage us, both in our schools, and in the medical work. The attendance at the dispensary has been large, and I have been invited to the homes of many of my patients. On Oct. 1st I rented the house adjoining the dispensary, and arranged it for hospital work, with comfortable beds, so that we are now able to keep five or six in patients.

This is a great advantage, how great, those who have homes, food, and loving care during sickness can hardly realize. In many of our Indian homes only neglect and unkindness are dealt out