

and everything was ready. A meeting-place for 300 people and not a nail, hammer or saw was used. Neither was there a pew nor a bench, but plenty of room on the nice clean straw. The delegates were supplied with earthen cooking pots and fuel, and they were at liberty to cook what they liked under a tree, beside the road or in the field. Many of the men slept in the meeting-house, or "pendal," as they call such places, while the women had the privilege of sleeping in a rich merchant's big rice godown and of cooking near it. The meetings were very good indeed and the sermons on Sunday helpful. Our Indian Christians are learning to do things in a businesslike way. Besides the church letters there were addresses on the following subjects,—“A Telugu Christian's responsibility for the Telugu,” “What should be the attitude of a Mission-supported church to Telugu Home Missions?” “Sunday School Work,” Temperance,” “Home Rule,” “Why Are Christians Boys Educated by Mission Learning, to Work for Government Employment?”

Then there was the women's meeting, where they reported that the women on these three fields had saved over Rs.200 raising chickens and selling eggs, doing crochet, etc.

The Avanigadda and Vuyyuru women last year supported a Bible woman and she reported that she had visited 220 villages, been in over 700 houses, spoken to over 5,000 women and children, that many had learned hymns and verses. The Akidu field women have been responsible for a number of years for part of the work in one of our churches. They give to the pastor's salary and help support the teachers in three villages.

We had a good association and trust that it will be a blessing to many.

The attendance was not as good as we could have wished, for many who lived near could neither afford the time or provide the food during the meeting. Each day's wage is eaten up as fast as it is earned. Of all my years in India I have never seen so much distress and poverty among the people as this year. The rains were short, the crops failed, there was no work and war prices prevail. How they are to live until the next harvest only the Lord knows.

Yours in His Service,

PEARL CHUTE.

#### THE INVESTITURE.

At the Banqueting Hall.—Miss Hatch and the Rajah of Pithapuram.

(“The Madras Mail,” March 25th, 1919.)

The Investiture at the Banqueting Hall last night was very largely attended, and proved a brilliant function. It was held for the purpose of investing H.H. the Rajah of Cochin with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire and to confer various decorations on a number of other ladies and gentlemen who had been awarded them. H. E. the Governor arrived in procession at the hall, from Government House, and after robing, walked up to the dais to the strains of the band, accompanied by the Maharajah of Bobbili, K.C.I.E., and the Honorable the Prince of Arcot, K.C.I.E. There were also in attendance on His Excellency the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, the Honorable Mr. C. G. Todhunter, I.C.S., and Mr. E. M. Gawn, I.C.S., Under Secretary in the Political Department, as also the members of His Excellency's personal staff, including Major F. F. Elwes, C.I.E., I.M.S., and Major H. F. Collingridge, Military Secretary. His Excellency having taken his seat on the