

## Girls in Burmah.

The Burmese young woman is certainly one of the most picturesque women of the East, says Mr. Henry Charles Moore in the 'Young Woman.' Her dress, pleasantly con-

attitudes without experiencing the slightest inconvenience.

Superstition is terribly rife in Burmah, and it enters into the daily life of every young woman. There are lucky and unlucky days

And when a girl is old enough to undergo the ear-boring ceremony, her parents consult an astrologer, who selects, with considerable ostentation, a favorable day and hour for the rite. This event, which takes place when a girl is about twelve or thirteen years of age, is supposed to indicate her transition from girlhood to womanhood. The astrologer having decided upon a day which will bring every happiness to the young girl, her parents invite their friends to be present on the important occasion. It is a day of rejoicing, and a band is early in attendance. It plays energetically and unceasingly throughout the ceremony. There are two or three performers for every instrument, so that directly one tires another takes a turn at emitting the unmelodious sounds. The arrival of the professional ear-borer creates intense excitement and interest among the guests. Certain formalities are gone through, and then the young woman is held down by her female relations while the operator pierces the lobes of her ears with a gold needle. The fashionable earrings, consisting generally of pieces of jadestone, are unpleasantly large, and it is some time before the young woman succeeds in distending her ears to the required size. Women of the lower class, when travelling, carry spare cheroots in their ears.



A BURMESE YOUNG WOMAN.

spicuous for its modesty, consists of a tight-fitting, brilliantly-flowered silk skirt and a loose white jacket with tight sleeves. A gorgeous silk handkerchief is generally thrown over her shoulders. Her long jet-black hair is done up on the top of her head, and adorned with bright wild orchids. She is particularly proud of her hair, and frequently lets it down and does it up again in the public streets. Unfortunately, the Burmese young woman is an inveterate betel chewer, and her lips, gums, and teeth are consequently blood-red. She also smokes, and her favorite cheroot is a big green thing about a foot in length and two inches in circumference. Tiny little girls who can only just walk placidly smoke these huge things, comically distending their childish mouths in the performance. It is quite a common thing, too, to see a mother take the lighted cheroot from her own mouth and place it in that of the infant she is carrying, native fashion, astride on her hip.

Every Burmese boy is gratuitously educated at the Buddhist monasteries, but it is not considered at all necessary to educate a girl. So she spends her young days in the streets, flying strange-looking-kites, singing quaint little songs, or practising the queer contortions and swaying of the body which she calls dancing. At a very early age she is taught to bend herself in almost any position, and her muscles are so pliant that she can strike the most uncomfortable-looking

for nearly everything—even for washing the head, a duty which no young woman would dream of performing upon an unlucky day.

## That Provoking Brother!

(By Antonia J. Stemple.)

'Do go away, Charles, and don't bother me! Can't you see I'm busy?'

'You're always busy whenever I want anything of you,' grumbled Charles. 'You're the biggest cross-patch that ever lived, and I'm thankful everybody hasn't your angelic temper,' he concluded heatedly.

'Will you be quiet?' angrily asked his sister. 'Every time I'm busy you come along and want something. Here I've been trying to read, and this is the second time within five minutes that you have disturbed me.'

'What are you reading? Ah, I see; the Bible—mighty interesting! I've sometimes heard it called a good book, but as it seems to be your guide and instructor, I doubt whether it is!' and Charles banged the door and went out, whistling.

'Isn't he too provoking!' exclaimed Lot-



A BURMESE FAMILY—FATHER, MOTHER, AND FIVE DAUGHTERS.