

gone bad?" Another day a woman said, "No one in this petta will listen, except the children, who have no sense!" Another said, in conversation about the war, "Where is your Christ, that He will permit such things?" I could not understand the cause of this until I found that the women were taken up with the worship of Thalupulamma, a new goddess, who has come into existence near Tanj. Many have made pilgrimages to her shrine, and claim that wonderful miracles are performed there. They claim that she gives children to the childless, and heals all their sickness, but the woman who told me this had a sick child in her arms, while a woman sitting near was wasted to skin and bone with dysentery. In other parts of the same district, however, women scornfully repudiated any reverence for or belief in Thalupulamma.

The master of one house on our regular visiting list had shown much interest in our Christian teaching, and had been reading the Bible for himself, so it was an unpleasant surprise to learn that he had gone on pilgrimage to Benares. The first time I saw him after his return I asked him if he had found peace and rest for his soul in that sacred city. He said: "I spent two hundred rupees, I found weariness and sickness for my body, and that is the benefit I received from my pilgrimage."

The passage selected for the week of special evangelism in October was Matt. 11: 28 to 30, and the hymn chosen for use at that time was entitled "Serve Jesus Christ." For several weeks previously the workers had been using them in their teaching; many of the women learned both the passage of Scripture and the hymn by heart. In connection with this special effort, a meeting for women only was held in the chapel. I had tried to make some definite arrangement about it beforehand, but did not succeed. About 8 o'clock on the Saturday morning I received a message that a meeting for women was to be arranged for that same evening. In spite of the difficulty of getting it announced, and in spite of the short notice, to my surprise and delight, hundreds of caste women came and gave earnest attention while the pictures were explained that were shown to illustrate the life of Christ,

and to the address afterward given by Mr. Walker. Some who could not be notified were much disappointed; some of those who came still talk of it in their homes, and I am sure a deep and lasting impression has been made.

#### Caste Girls' School.

There have been three deaths among the ex-pupils of our Caste Girls' School, all of whom were young wives who were little more than children. Of these two died of the malady known as devil-possession, or rather of the treatment prescribed for it, which consists of unmerciful beatings, brandings with red hot irons, and starvation. After the death of one of these girls I was told that she had been kept fasting for 32 days; this may mean either complete or partial fasting.

At the marriage festivities of an other ex-pupil a terrible tragedy occurred. Formerly, torches were used in the wedding processions, but of late years those who can afford it have been hiring for the occasion large acetylene gas lamps. As the lamps were being prepared at the house before the procession started, one of them exploded, injuring many of the guests, several of whom died from the effects. Thus the foolish customs of the Hindus bring in their train much sorrow and suffering.

The building in which our school has found refuge for the past three years was sold, and again we were asked to vacate on short notice. On the 1st December we moved into the upstairs of a two-storey building on a street not far from our old quarters. For more reasons than one this was soon found to be a most unsatisfactory arrangement, and we were at our wits' end to find a place. It seemed hard that such a troublesome complication should arise in the very last days before I left; but we are sometimes led through difficulties and hindrances to the fulfilment of our heart's desires, and this resulted in our finding in a most favorable location a property for sale which is well suited for our purpose. At first the price set upon it seemed almost prohibitive, but with the approval of the Building Committee, and on the advice of several experienced missionaries, steps were taken to make the purchase, subject to the sanction of the