

THE YOUNG WOMEN

A STUDY OF PALKONDA

By Mrs. Wm. C. Denniss.

The names of many Indian towns have a meaning, so with Palkonda. It is made up of two words, "Palu" meaning milk, share or portion, and "Konda," a hill or mountain, so it may mean "hill of milk" or "dividing hill." Through the hills about two or three miles from the town runs a line dividing the estate which at one time belonged to the petty king of Palkonda and the estate which belongs to the native prince of Parla Kimedi. So it seems that the name might mean "Dividing Hill."

Look at the missionary map for its location with regard to other fields of our Mission. Palkonda is sixty-one miles from Bimlipatam, fifty-two from Rayagadda, forty-five from Vizianagram, forty-two from Bobbili, thirty-five from Parla Kimedi and twenty-five from Chicacole. It is from twenty-five to thirty miles from the sea and eighteen from the nearest railway station.

One travelling from the station to the town always enjoys the range of picturesque hills which run along the north and east of the field. To the south and east are miles and miles of plains. These differ in beauty according to the rain fall. If there are regular rains it is difficult to find anything more beautiful than the fields of green rice waving over the country. But oh, when the rains fall and these same miles are dry, scorched land; it is hard for anyone living in Canada to imagine the contrast.

The Government of India has built fine hard roads throughout the country and Palkonda field enjoys her share of them. In the town there are Courts of Justice which were built and sustained by the Government. There is a hospital and staff maintained, where the sick are treated and receive medicine free of charge. Also primary schools for girls and boys and what is called a lower secondary school for boys which leads up to high

school. Although none of these institutions have reached their ideal, yet Palkonda does derive much benefit from them.

The History of the Palkonda missionaries goes back to the days of Dr. Mc Laurin when he and the pioneer missionaries of the Maritime Provinces "spied out" the land. It was first opened as an out-station of Chicacole in 1888, and in 1891 the site for the Mission House was purchased and temporary buildings erected by Rev. I. C. Archibald. The following year it was set apart as a field by itself with Rev. and Mrs. Barss in charge, but owing to Mrs. Barss' health they had to return to Canada. So for the next five years it was again under the charge of the Chicacole Missionaries. In the fall of 1899 Rev. and Mrs. Gullison were stationed there, but shortly after the Bimlipatam missionaries had to return home so the Palkonda field was again vacant, owing to Mr. and Mrs. Gullison being asked to go to Bimlipatam. In February of 1900 Rev. J. C. Hardy went to the field and remained to the spring of 1914, with the exception of a short furlough in 1906. While in Canada Mr. Hardy was married and Mrs. Hardy proved a most faithful missionary during the years in India. In January of 1907 the writer went there as the pioneer single lady missionary to the women and children of that vast field. When Rev. and Mrs. Hardy went on furlough Rev. and Mrs. Gunn took up the work and remained until the fall of 1915 when Rev. Mr. Tedford took charge; Mrs. Tedford joined him in 1916. Miss Winifred Eaton joined the staff in 1910 and with the exception of the months on furlough, has worked continuously for the salvation of the people.

Palkonda has a population of 212,000 made up of four classes, Telugus, Oriyas, Jatalu and Savaras, mostly living in villages covering an area of 490 square miles.

Ballu Goorannah was one of the early converts on the field, hearing the gospel

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