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DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH  
Hill-men of Sadiya



FIRST LESSONS IN CHRISTIANITY  
O. L. Swanson Preaching in Bazaar

#### AFTER ONE HUNDRED YEARS

has been keenly interested in the training of the Indian Christians because he realized that without an educated constituency and trained leadership there was no hope of building a permanent Christian community.

When Brown started in Sadiya, his first task was that of establishing a school. When Bronson began his work in the Naga hills the school was the opening wedge that gave him access to a fierce and unruly tribe. When Bronson and Barker opened Nowgong and Gauhati they, too, used the school as an evangelizing agency, and all stations that have been opened since then have been opened and continued through teaching of boys and girls in the principles of the Christian faith.

For a number of years, each missionary carried on his own individual educational program. For the first fifty years of the mission there was no unified effort, save in the Nowgong Orphanage. It was not because of inability on the part of the missionaries to work together that this condition prevailed; but it seemed impossible to have a central institution where the youth of the new churches could be trained, because of the great distances between the stations and because of the numerous languages from which the student body would have to be drawn. It was not until 1905 that the mission finally came to the conclusion that, if a lasting work was to be built, a definite educational program must be adhered to. Illiteracy in the province was appalling, not merely among the non-Christians, but also among the Christians, whose constituency were but children, not merely in faith, but in intellect also. They were unable to read or write and even the pastors were illiterate, and were therefore incapable of making any progress in the instruction of their flocks.

Mr. Dowd, in a paper entitled "*The Educational*" [129]