

to the Government High School in Shillong, which is supervised by a Welsh Presbyterian Missionary and, in connection with a Christian hostel, is open to the Christian students.

In connection with Cotton College, a government institution located at Gauhati, a hostel was made available for Christian students. This dormitory was under the direction of a missionary, Dr. W. E. Witter, who was the first to supervise it. Students were taught the Christian principles of life, not merely by word of mouth, but by the method of living prevailing in the hostel.

Female education has been of a more vigorous character; and the progress has been greater than that attained for boys. With the establishment of the various mission stations, schools for girls were also organized. The effort to lift womanhood to a higher social level among the people appealed to the Christian constituency in America, who supported the missionary enterprise. Single lady missionaries were appointed to establish and superintend the education of indigenous girls. Thus it happened when the Nowgong Orphanage was closed a school for girls was established. The history of this school is a long and noble chapter and deserves more space than can be afforded here. Its training school for women has produced teachers who have drawn nothing but the highest commendation from the government officials. Similar schools were established at Gauhati, Tura, Impur, and Golaghat. In each place two or more lady missionaries have been constantly in charge, with the exception of the last two or three years when the personnel has been reduced because of lack of funds. Not having been encumbered with other duties, such as supervising churches, these

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lady superintendents have been able to focus their attention upon their primary task of education.

Thus we have in Assam today four splendid schools for girls,⁶ each one well equipped with buildings and apparatus; and all of them accredited by the government. A high school for girls has been established in connection with the school at Golaghat. Its short existence of only three years makes it impossible to estimate what its leading qualities may be.

In 1932 a new project was suggested to the mission, namely, a hostel for girls, in connection with Cotton College. This project is still an experiment and only the future can reveal what its effect will be upon the educated womanhood of Assam.

Closely allied to the educational problem is the production of literature. The Assamese language has often been interpreted to be a dialect of the Bengali. Even Dr. Brown looked upon it as such. The native of Assam, however, repudiates such a claim and insists that the Assamese is a language all its own. Unfortunately the Bengali characters have been adapted to express the sounds of the Assamese, with the result that many of the letters have received new meaning. For this and other reasons mentioned in Chapter VI, it was thought advisable by Brown to romanize the Assamese language. The languages of the various hill tribes, which formerly used the Bengali letters, are now using the Roman characters.

The literary production of the Assam Baptist Mission may be thought small as compared with other fields; but the critic must not forget that the Assam province is a philological conglomeration; and that it has been impossible to produce adequate literature in all of these tribal languages during the comparatively

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