

Now Dita is 9 years old and goes to an American Mission school. The school question here is a rather complicated one. As you probably know, illiteracy is predominant and there are not at all enough schools and not enough teachers for the millions of India. In a town like Lucknow you will find Government schools-separately for boys and girls-which admit children of all castes and communities. They do not give any religious instruction. In addition to them there are Hindoo schools and Muslim schools which though admitting children of other communities, are predominantly one or the other and lay great stress on teaching children ~~in~~ their respective religion.

And then there are the many mission schools, the so called "European" schools, which cater mostly for Europeans and Anglo Indians though a certain percentage of middle-class Indian children also can be found in them. The curriculum in these "European" schools is more or less the same as in England or America. Since recently one Indian language has to be taught in them, but the language of instruction is English. In the Government and community schools it is the other way round: the language of instruction is Hindi or Urdu in our province, (In Bengal, it is Bengali, in Bombay Gujerati etc., there are 12 main languages in India and a great many more dialects.) and English is being taught as second language. In colleges and universities everything is taught in English, but also here it is only a question of time till the change-over to instruction in the language of the country or I should rather say: the language of the province will be made.

Dita goes to a mission school in <sup>or</sup> special sense of the word. It is an American co-educational school, meant primarily for children of missionaries. Only about 25 % of the children are non-missionaries children. Perhaps you are astonished why we chose just this one for Dita. The main reason is, that Dita is a very delicate child and could not stand the heat in the plains. Since she was two years old we have always spent the summer in the hills. It had to be Mussoorie, because my mother had her practice there <sup>every summer</sup> since my parents arrived in India in 1939- and naturally we wanted to be together. Among the many hill-schools in Mussoorie our choice fell on Woodstock School, because of its free and modern spirit, its healthy situation and its American attitude towards life-so different from the Convent and other English schools there. Moreover it is the only co-educational school here and I think this is a good and necessary thing for Dita who has got no brothers and is growing up in a country where the Purday system is still prevailing.

Dita is very happy in Woodstock, she has many friends and has "lots of fun" at school.