

adjustment of the personalities! The daughters are taught from late childhood the household tasks to be theirs in their husband's home. The Hindu women do the cooking, grind the rice, assist in blowing the chaff, and other household tasks that one would expect to fall to their lot.

However, the men, women, and children from around the ages of eight or nine work in the paddy fields during the planting season in late June, and the harvesting season of November to January. The men plow the fields, doing it early in the morning after the monsoons start when the baked earth has been softened by the drenching rains. They use crude hand-fashioned wooden plows, although one occasionally sees a plow with a home-made metal edge from some scavenged metal! They close the dikes around the paddy fields and allow them to become inundated from the rains. The men also thresh the rice in their own courtyards by the aid of the cattle they possess. This is apparently the only practical use to which their cattle are put! They are not used for hauling in this part of the country, and the cows have such small udders that they necessarily wean their calves at an early age! My husband ^{once} saw a coolie milking a cow. He could only apply two fingers to the ^{small} teat, and was using a small brass bowl about the size of a drinking glass to catch the milk!

Another of the men's duties, and one which they teach their sons at an early age, is the catching of fish for the family. If there are several grown men in the family, they dam off their section of the stream, and drain it, then picking the fish out by hand! When fishing alone they have various ingenious homemade bambootrap traps they set in the water. The males of the family take the produce to town to sell it in the bazaar. It is sold on a direct grower-consumer basis. Usually the women stay at home. However, on Sundays the women are frequently seen in the bazaars in their best sarees as it is more or less a holiday for everyone. On some festivals the men and women appear together to celebrate the occasion, however, there are a number of festivals and ceremonial days that are celebrated publicly by the men alone. In public the woman always remains in the background, allowing the man to shine in full glory.

Perhaps one of the most amazing abilities of the coolies is their developed ability to carry tremendous weights on their shoulders or on their heads. Both the men and women carry in tremendous loads of rice from the fields on their shoulders. Two large bundles of unthreshed rice are tied to each end of a specially fashioned pole. The individual then places his shoulder under the pole and lifts the load shifting the pole from shoulder to shoulder as he or she carries it home. Mr. Bee estimated the weight between seventy-five and one hundred pounds, and this for the malnourished coolie of decidedly smaller stature than the average American.

The general ^{health} of the Assamese coolie is rather poor. The above-mentioned occupation has produced unusually developed legs, but commonly has produced an extreme condition of huge varicosities along with it! Huge goiters are frequent among adult women, and all the children show varying degrees of malnutrition. Severe rickettsia is not uncommon among the children. Congenital malformations of the newborn, and blindness are also frequent. It is probably a blessing that the infant mortality rate is so high. It is highest up to the age of five years. These conditions go uncorrected largely because of the superstitious of fear of modern medical treatment. There are a few Indian Army hospitals in the area, and some dispensaries set up by missions, and British concerns for their workers, but the lack of necessary social education has caused complete ignorance, and even fear in the minds of the average coolie.