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Field Matron's Work

Two new field matrons have recently been appointed in northern California at Requa and Weitchpec. One, Miss Marie Johnson, formerly a resident of San Jose, California, has been at her post at Requa several weeks. Requa is in the far northern portion of the state, near the coast and between Hoopa and Crescent City. In a letter dated August 20th she says: "I have visited all the homes on the river as far as Turip, a distance of ten miles.

"I found several blind old people who seemed to live on charity, so I thought I would get the women to help me make over old clothing for them. Others have asked for help, but I think it wiser to ask for some work in exchange (except from the poor old people); as it teaches independence, so I told them they can bring a basket or the like in exchange for a dress. I find sewing machines in many of the homes and have secured the good will of the owners by staying a day to help them. Really, I think they are very progressive and eager to learn.

Their ideas of housekeeping are rather crude, but their utensils are so very few.

I hope to do more effective work in that line when I begin housekeeping in a week or two and have my own kitchen.

"I think I can get an organ from a family going away and will make use of

that for some of the little girls. I am planning to have a Sunday School class. I also hope to have a society for the women and think they will be interested to come.

"Mr. Kyselka (the Superintendent of Hoopa Valley Agency) was here two weeks ago and will recommend the purchase of a horse and buggy for me, and will send me a supply of medicines. It seems almost ridiculous to me, but they have a notion that I am a doctor and bring their sick little ones to me.

"I am planning to visit Crescent City and vicinity in October. It is Mr. Kyselka's intention that I spend two or three months during the year up there.

"This district has no teacher yet, and I have been hoping for some energetic girl who would be interested in Sunday School work and we would organize one. As far as I have learned, the young people would come even if for no other reason than to have a place to wear their clothes; but if appealing to that bit of vanity will bring them, perhaps some good may result from it."

—Indians Friend.

[Miss Johnson was asst. matron at Chemawa and was promoted to the position of Field Matron for northern California. Her many friends at Chemawa will be glad to hear of her.—Editor.]