PREFACE

The present work, Education in Mizoram, 1894-1947: A Historical Study with special reference to the Role of Christian Missions, intends to provide a comprehensive history of the progress of education in the erstwhile Lushai Hills in the context of the British rule in India.

Although the British rule started in Mizoram in the last decade of the nineteenth century and the Mizos were one of the last hill tribes to come under the British, the western education introduced among them made a significant progress within the next half a century. The rapidity was so much so that in this respect they surpassed not only other hill tribes but also many other people in India. How did this happen is the problem that is examined in the following pages.

It is divided into eight chapters. Chapter I (Introduction) opens with the geographical, ethnological and historical background and also with the scope and area of the study. The early contacts with the British, their punitive expeditions, occupation and the coming of the Christian missionaries have been discussed in Chapter II. Chapter II

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1. For instance in 1951 the percentage of educated people was 17 among the Khasis, 7 among the Garos, 18 Assam, 11 Naga Hills, 11 Manipur, 12 Bihar, 15 Punjab, 10 U.P., 23 West Bengal, 40 Kerala as against 31 in Mizoram.
deals with the introduction of formal education in Mizoram by the missionaries and its progress between 1894 to 1903. Modification of alphabets, Government policy towards education of the Mizos, the introduction of Middle English School and Primary Scholarship Examination and the general progress of education between 1904 and 1925 with the response of the Mizo people find elaboration in Chapter IV. Chapter V deals with the progress of education in Mizoram between 1926 and 1947 including the difference of opinions between the Government and the Missions on the indigenous practices and Chapter VI has been concentrated on the study of missionaries' contribution to Mizo female education. Chapter VII describes the progress of Technical, Vocational and other forms of Education. Chapter VIII is the conclusion that summarised the finding and the impact of education on the Mizo Society.

The study is mainly based on the official documents preserved in the India Office Library, London; Baptist Missionary Society Archives, London; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; National Archives, New Delhi; Assam Secretariat Record and Archives, Dispur; Aizawl Record Office, Aizawl; Gauhati University Library, Gauhati; North Eastern Hill University Library, Shillong; Aizawl Theological College Library, Aizawl, and State Library, Aizawl. Besides official reports, minutes and gazetteers, contemporary and semi-
contemporary works by non-Mizos in English and by Mizos in Mizo language have been consulted and utilised. Information has been supplemented by personal contacts and correspon-
dences with the former missionaries now living abroad. Besides, personal interviews have been made with people of older generation who have their early experiences with the English.

In connection with this work, I acknowledge with deep gratitude the guidance I received from my Supervisor, Dr. J.N.Phukan, Reader, Department of History, Gauhati University, for his untiring help and inspiration right from the beginning to the end under whose supervision I have com-
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I express my deep sense of gratefulness to our former missionaries who are still alive in United Kingdom for the co-operation and assistance in collecting materials and also to the Keepers of National Archives, New Delhi; Assam Secre-
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