

that the cause of her illness was the introduction of railways!

—The old nobility of Japan is called the Samurai, of which there are about 200,000 members. The order is governed by 60 dukes, and each family has a coat-of-arms which belongs to it and which no one else can use. The leading principle of the Samurai is patriotism to the death.

—Japanese patriotism is marked. It is said that all news of victory over the Chinese sets the population wild with enthusiasm. The supply of volunteers for war service exceeds the demand. Japanese professional wrestlers, of whom there are many, have offered their services to be formed into an organization of "strong men," and a Japanese newspaper "estimates that Nishinomi, the champion, would be a match for nine and two thirds Chinamen."

—Patriotism ranks high among the virtues, but even patriotism may be in excess, or may degenerate into an insane and criminal passion. As witness the action of the Tokyo Presbytery in recently deposing from the ministry Rev. Mr. Tamura, a gifted, consecrated man, and only because he wrote "The Japanese Bride," published by the Harpers, which sets forth some of the ideas and customs of his countrymen that are by no means what they ought to be. The truth of what he said is not called in question, but it was unpardonable disloyalty to tell it to the world. What the Christian "world" thinks of this absurd ebullition of unrighteous wrath is seen in these phrases which are applied thereto: "Ecclesiastical proceeding;" an "ecclesiastical earthquake;" the "ecclesiastical guillotine," etc. Well might the missionaries protest.

—A recent debate at the Postal and Telegraph School shows very fairly the present status of woman in Japan. The subject of debate was the question as to the employment of women in the post-offices and telegraph offices. The result of the debate was a strong ma-

ajority in favor of the following resolutions: 1. It is a virtuous custom of Japanese women from olden times to remain at home and to apply themselves to their domestic duties. Should they be employed in the government service the consequence would be the neglect of domestic affairs, and a possible disturbance of family relationship. 2. Women are by nature passionate and difficult of control. 3. Women, being devoid of the power of judgment, are unsuited for postal affairs, which require knowledge of an abstract and inductive character. 4. While it is of primary importance in postal affairs to strictly observe secrecy, the want of caution in women entirely incapacitates them from undertaking this responsibility.—*John L. Darling, Yokohama.*

#### AFRICA.

—In Tunis, Sidi Ahmed, a recent convert from Mohammedanism, after enduring much persecution, was arrested on baseless charges of such insanity as made it unsafe for him to go at large, and was held for two days; but then the French authorities, finding he was of a sound mind and had done nothing in the least culpable, secured his release.

—Not long since Mr. T. E. Alvarez, of the Church Missionary Society, accompanied the Governor of Sierra Leone, by the latter's invitation, on a tour to Falaba, a town some 200 miles in the interior. Five hundred out of the 600 miles covered on this journey were made on foot.

—According to Belgian statistics, there were imported into Congo State last year 18 cannon, 7544 rifles, 1,119,898 cartridges, 3,553,470 caps, and 1,783,710 litres (about 445,927 gallons) of brandy. It is much to be feared that life-giving forces were not sent in either quantity or quality at all to match the deadly weapons and deadly drinks.

—The Bakalanga live in constant fear of witches. One day a poor cripple came to the missionaries and asked for work. But what could they give him