

most loved "Sister of the people." Although, in the few months she has been in Japan she has made remarkable progress in the use of the language, she would still have been handicapped if a suitable lady helper had not been forthcoming. Providentially a lady, not only well educated in a mission school, but who had the rare training of having been abroad among English-speaking people long enough to break the slavishness of narrow Japanese custom, was secured for this work in the person of Mrs. Fukushima. Her support is given partly by the Woman's Missionary Society, and partly by Miss Cushing, for help as a teacher. Their work began about the first of March, and has been going on with increasing benediction ever since. Every Friday afternoon they hold an evangelistic woman's meeting, and, although the hour is inconvenient, it is always attended by between thirty and forty women. Sundays they teach in the Sunday-school, hold a society class after the morning service, and a prayer-meeting before the afternoon preaching. Monday evening they instruct those who have applied for baptism; Wednesdays they hold a Bible-class with those who have been baptized, and have other regular times for consultation, besides taking part in all the ordinary and special services of the Tabernacle.

The most remarkable part of their work, however, is the house-to-house visitation, the hand-to-hand dealing with individuals. Miss Cushing, mindful of the one thing for which she came to Japan, laid down as a rule that they would not only go where they were invited, but also seek admission into strange houses, a thing most repugnant to any Japanese lady's ideas of politeness. But Mrs. Fukushima bravely followed her lead; and, although they have together made 308 visits in seventy-eight different houses, they have never met with the slightest rudeness, excepting in the case of a hospital nurse, and that was speedily corrected. On the other hand, they have been welcomed everywhere, the ladies listening gladly to the story of the cross, often making objections, of course, such as, "Our gods hear our prayers for us," etc., but always in the most friendly manner, discussing what was said, and welcoming the visitors again and again. Another rule is to talk Christ, and Christ only, at these visits, and also to speak of Him to every Japanese lady with whom they have an opportunity to converse. Another element of success is the Flower Mission. The ladies provide two charming vases of flowers for the platform every Sunday; on Monday these are made up into small bouquets, and distributed among the sick and the poor. These three things are working together, and bringing forth remarkable results. Beginning with the poor, the work is extending to the better classes, and to such an extent that another lady must be provided.

Several of the nurses in the hospital connected with the Imperial University were among the first applicants for admission. They asked Miss Cushing to visit a poor sick patient; she went, carrying a little floral gift; this had such an effect on the poor woman that, although she forgot everything else, she never forgot the flowers, and insisted on daily care for them. When she left the hospital she sent for the ladies, and came under regular instruction. She wanted to know

if the Gospel was for a seven-year-old child, and when told "of such is the kingdom of Heaven," she said she wanted such a child of hers to be taught, and now sends it regularly to the Sunday-school and the children's meeting. On another bed in the hospital lay another patient, within hearing, as the story of the cross was told; it touched her heart, and she asked the nurse to bring the visitors to her next time. So they went, with the result that she became a happy, enthusiastic believer; returning to her home in Omori, a few miles outside of the city, on the side opposite to Hongo, she led her husband to decide for Christ. They are of a good family, and evidently in a good position, and declare themselves willing to come all this distance—ten or twelve miles—to connect themselves with the Tabernacle. Through these hospital visits alone ten persons have decided to become Christians.

An exceedingly intelligent and well-educated young lady who resides in the country was on a visit to Tokyo at the house of a greatly beloved younger brother, they came from a considerable distance to attend one of the illustrated sermon services in the Tabernacle; the lady was so impressed that she at once introduced herself to Miss Cushing, and asked for more light. Next morning early she made the journey once more to see the ladies for further instruction. As she was told the story of the cross she wept, for it was so new and strange to her, so sweet to her troubled mind, although she had been baptized some years before into the Greek Church. Every Thursday morning at eight o'clock she comes for instruction, never misses, though living three miles away, and often comes long before the appointed time. The brother is equally interested, and comes regularly to me, as his office duties permit, with all sorts of difficulties that must be cleared away before he can accept Christ. But they are both honest seekers, and there is no doubt as to the result. As stated elsewhere, a number of lady students of the Academy of Music, in Ueno, just near us, have been attending our services. One of these passing by one day, dropped into the woman's meeting, and heard the story of the love of Jesus for sinners. She did not think much of it at the time, but a week or so later she was taken ill, and the whole message became clear to her as well as a sense of her sins. So great became her distress that her friends sent for Miss Cushing one fearfully wet Sunday. She went, and was able to point her to the Saviour, and she became not only a happy Christian but also a most earnest worker, spending her leisure time in leading others to the same source of blessing. She has already conquered the prejudices of one of her fellow-students who was bitterly opposed to Christ, by bringing her to the meetings. This young lady was also deeply impressed, wrote a letter to Miss Cushing next day, stating how that she had never known God before, but now she knew and rejoiced in Him; she had told her family, and they were all anxious to come also; she had been greatly affected by the hymn beginning, "Weeping will not save me." One of these students had been so impressed with the character of the Saviour, particularly with His "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do," that she wishes to consecrate her life to work for Christ as a Bible-woman. Another lady came from a distance,