

RAMABAI.

Continued from August Number.

IN America Ramabai formed friends. She studied the Kindergarten, Public School and Industrial systems of teaching—indeed everything that would prove helpful to her people. Then she made personal appeals throughout the continent for assistance in her work for Indian widows. She asked that an unsectarian association be formed to take charge of the funds given her, and to which she could be responsible. This appeal was answered in a wonderful way and the Ramabai Association was formed, with some of the best names in America on board and executive. The night of the day on which this took place, Ramabai could not sleep. When found sobbing in her room, she said, "I am crying for joy, because the dream of years has become a reality."

Soon after she went back to India and in six weeks had opened a school with two pupils—one a little widow who had three times attempted to commit suicide; this little widow is now the wife of a professor in Poona College, and a happy mother. Ramabai's success has been wonderful, and the secret of it all is her marvellous faith in God. The story of her conversion, as told by herself, is touching and beautiful. Opposition was great, but her own faith and the help of friends have carried her through all. She did not teach Christianity in her first school. She had promised she would not, but she lived out her life before her pupils. She had prayers in her own room with her little daughter, and she did not shut the door. She placed the Bible and the Vedas in the school library—and many of them embraced Christianity. Fifteen of her little widows she took to a Christian melee or camp meeting, and while there the thought came to her to ask God to square the member. Then she feared that might be presumption, but she opened the Bible at the passage, "Is anything too hard for me?" and the request was continued. It was answered when she felt herself impelled, last year, to go to the relief of the famine sufferers, and brought back 300 little outcasts to her school. "These are my own girls," she joyfully says. "I am free to bring them up to fear God. Praise the Lord! Still no one of them is compelled to become a Christian." About 90 of these new girls have accepted Christianity.

This year Ramabai came back to the annual meeting of the association, held in Boston, in March. She then presented to it the home and school property accumulated through nine years in India, worth \$60,000 and entirely free from debt! It was immediately decided back to Ramabai as a proof of appreciation and confidence! Her school is called the Sharada Sadan (Home of Wisdom). Through it have passed 350 children and girls. Fourteen pupils have been trained as teachers and are now at work; eight trained as nurses and five employed; seven assistants to missionaries and five employed; seven are matrons, two housekeepers, while ten have happy homes of their own, and were not married before they were 21. So the good work goes on and probably will through Ramabai's life.

She has faith to believe it will through all time. Her idea is a beautiful and inspiring one that God, who "takes the weak things of the world to confound the mighty," will use the little outcast widows of India for its evangelization.

Ramabai's daughter "Mano" (Heart's delight) is attending a school in New York State.

To us, Ramabai's life reads like a Fairy tale, based on a solid Gospel foundation.

St. John.

S. E. S.

Compositions of Young Japanese Ladies kindly sent us by Miss Munro.

OUR SCHOOL.—No. 3.

Our school was opened by the kind hearted ladies of the Canadian Missionary Society. Their object was not only to educate the Japanese ladies, but to teach about the true God. Therefore the ladies were sent to build the school.

It is situated in Ahabu, which is a very quiet place. Behind it there are beautiful hills and the scenery is very beautiful. It is quite a large building, and there are many Japanese rooms for the Japanese, and also a few foreign rooms for the foreigners.

There are about fifteen teachers, and five of them are foreigners, who are earnest and kind hearted ladies. Lately the students became few but formerly there were over two hundred. As they are few in number, both teachers and students are very friendly to each other, so it is just like one happy family.

There are both English and Japanese lessons. At eight o'clock in the morning the lessons begin with prayers and they continue until three o'clock, save the noon hour. From three o'clock we have exercise and after we finish it some of the girls practise music.

Besides this there is a Literary Society, which is held once a month, and also a King's Daughter Society.

OUR SCHOOL.—No. 4.

About ten years ago, all the girls schools in Japan were prosperous. At that time our school was one of the most flourishing schools in Japan. Many rich and noble families sent their daughters to be educated in this school. They dressed beautifully, in the most expensive silks. All the dormitories in the second and third stories were filled with pupils, and there were so many that they did not know each other very well, although they were living in the same school; but now every school has only a few pupils, and so ours also has become small, and everything is changed from what it used to be.

We cannot say that the school which has many pupils is the best. I think, although we have not so many pupils as before, if we are truly good and help Japan, our school will be counted as a great school.

We take lessons from eight o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon. The first and third Fridays are the visiting days, and some of us go home and some stay at school, and have a very pleasant time. I am always thankful for being one of the pupils in Foyo Eiwa Jo Gakko, and having many kind teachers and friends around me to make life pleasant.