

On Saturday, the 23rd, with the exception of these, the girls all went home.

We had the wooden doors taken out between the two largest school rooms, had the centre of the room covered with soft matting, took our tree in, and trimmed it with bright Japanese toys.

On Sunday afternoons the girls gather the children in from the streets round the school and teach them. Generally about sixty or seventy come in, some of them with babies tied on their backs. A hundred tickets had been prepared, the Sunday School children had each received one, and on Saturday morning the girls went out on the streets and soon disposed of the remainder.

The children were invited to come to the school at 2 p.m., but two hours before they were at the door. When they came in and saw the tree, they were very much surprised. They had never before seen so wonderful a tree. Hymns were sung, and the girls told them bright little stories, after which they had a good Japanese meal.

It is the custom in Japan to provide the same amount for each guest, and what cannot be eaten is always carried home. Few of the little ones ate more than one-half of what was provided for them; the rest was rolled up and taken home so that their "mothers could have some."

It was a very pleasant afternoon, and the girls who had worked hard to prepare the feast felt well repaid for their trouble. One of the girls on being asked if she was tired, replied; "Yes, I am, but I feel perfectly happy."

It was, indeed, a joy to all the girls to know that they had helped to make one afternoon pleasant to one hundred little children, many of whom have very little brightness in their lives.

On Christmas day, Miss Robertson and I had a real home Christmas dinner—turkey, plum-pudding, vegetables and fruit. We invited the girls and the matron to take dinner with us. All seemed to enjoy the foreign food very much.

After dinner all the Sunday Schools met in our new church where we had another Christmas tree and an interesting programme, in which children from the various Sunday Schools took part.