

ORDINATIONS AND GROWTH IN JAPAN.

BY THE REV. H. J. FONS, OF KOBE.

I THINK you will be glad to hear that on March 6th, two of our catechists were ordained as Deacons. One of these, Tsujii Tōru Paul, was baptized in St. Michael's Church, several years ago (in 1887), having been a student in our Mission school. He was trained in St. Andrew's Divinity College, and has been working, as catechist, first in Awaji, then in Kobe, and for the last year as lay pastor of St. Michael's, Kobe. He is literary in taste, and has printed several tracts, including a short life of St. Perpetua, besides having written many articles from time to time in Christian magazines.

Hirose Kensuke the elder was baptized in Tokyo by Bishop Williams in 1886, and came to us in 1887. He is a very straightforward, earnest man, with very simple tastes. He went first to Osaka Divinity School, and then to St. Andrew's in Tokyo. He has worked for us in Kobe, and for the last few years in Banshu. They are not able as yet in that Church to support or pay to a proper proportion for the support of a Deacon in charge, so with the Bishop's approval he has been ordained simply as a Mission worker in Holy Orders, and will still work in connection with that Church, where he is much valued. They both did very fairly in their examination, conducted by Messrs. Chapman and Koba (of the C.M.S. Mission in Osaka) and myself, as the Bishop's examining chaplains. On the Friday and Saturday in Ember week, Bishop Awdry gave addresses, interpreted by Mr. Ito, his native assistant, who has great gifts in such work. The catechists of our Mission also came in for these, and joined also in a Bible reading on the Temptation of our Blessed Lord, which proved very interesting. Rev. M. Koba preached the ordination sermon, and a large congregation attended. Tsujii will

work on at St. Michael's as Deacon in charge, for though of course the main responsibility rests with the Mission priest in residence, yet much of the dealing with the congregation must necessarily lie with the native clergymen. He is now very earnestly desirous of holding a series of mission services, such as have been so helpful in St. Andrew's, Shiba. I enclose the photographs of the two, the standing one is Tsujii and the sitting one is Hirose.

I have just returned from a short but interesting tour through Awaji and Banshu with the Bishop. At Nakagose in Banshu, the congregation are very earnest

in preparing to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the church, and they have already raised the pillars of a stone fence all round the church, and they will soon fit them with iron rails. The Bishop confirmed two in the little church, and on the following day, after celebrating the Holy Communion, we all went out to the new cemetery which the congregation has lately been able to purchase, and then the Bishop held a consecration service, the first of the kind, I am told, that has been held in Japan. On the two posts in the gateway of the cemetery are engraved, on the left, "Burial Ground of the Church of the Epiphany," and on



TSUJII TORU PAUL AND HIROSE KENSUKE.

the right, "We look for a Saviour," or more literally "Awaiting the Coming of the Saviour," words which would we trust connote to the instructed Christian all that follows in the passage in the Philippians, and would make non-Christians ask for the meaning to be explained to them. †

In Tenju six were confirmed. This village, though eight of nine miles away, is reckoned as a portion of the same Church, but part of the scheme for the tenth year, on which they have now entered, is to strive to raise the number of communicants to twenty in each portion of the district, so that Tenju may become a daughter Church.