

PALM ✨ BRANCH.

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OCTOBER, 1898.

OUR work in Japan is steadily progressing. Miss Munro of Tokyo says: "Almost all our students who are old enough to publicly confess Christ are baptised; but while a girl's nearest relatives are all non-Christian, and she may at any time return to surroundings where she will have no help in reading the Bible truths she has learned, we must be careful, and not too hastily enter her name on the church roll. All we can do is so to train her that the truths of Christianity may become part of her mental and spiritual fibre. Last September a little girl, eight years old, entered our school as a boarder. A few days ago her father said to me, "When Ko entered your school she prayed to the sun every morning, and always to the household gods; but now when she is at home, she will not pray to these, but to the true God."

Miss Hart says:—"The policemen's class is not as large as it was, which is due to extra work, removals, etc. Those who come appear to be as much interested as ever in the Bible lessons, and occasionally a new one comes in. One or two young men, who do not belong to the police, have asked to join the class."

Miss Cunningham, in speaking of Shizuoka school, the Tokyo Orphanage, says: "That is the outside routine life of our little orphan family, but the real life underlies it all, and these children are learning to repress selfishness, to be faithful in their work, to be kind and helpful—in a word, to love God and honor Him in their daily living."

Miss Cunningham, in speaking of Shizuoka school, says: "The new term began April 10th, since which seven new pupils have entered. The greatest desire of our hearts is that no girl who enters our school-home may leave it until she knows Christ as her personal Saviour."

Miss Alcorn, talking of interest in Evangelistic work there, adds: "Our Sunday schools are not well attended. The public school teachers are not in favor of Christianity, and use their influence against us. The feeling is so strong, it seems impossible to stem the current; but we work in hope."

Miss Robertson speaks of a growing interest among the older girls in the Kofu school: "Already we have promise of a large increase next term. When we realize that each girl coming to us may be a centre of Christian influence, we earnestly hope that the work done may be such that we can pray, 'The work of our hands, establish Thou it.'"

For a Field Study for October we beg to refer our readers to the programme published in August-September: Leaflet.

Subject for prayer and study for this month: "Japan, Corea and the Isles of the Sea."

Wanted immediately—A nurse for China. Who will say, "Lord, here am I, send me?"

Persevere, dare to become the reformers, yea, the renewers of this generation and work on.

JOSEPH NEESIMA.

THE DEAD SEA. ARE WE LIKE IT?

Why is it that the Dead Sea is dead? Why, because it is always getting, never giving. So with us. We are dead unless we give what we get. If one take care of two talents, God will give more. If you have but a little, give it away. The Lord will give you more.—Dwight L. Moody.

QUEER THINGS ABOUT CHINA.

The spoken language of China is not written, and the written language is not spoken.

The Chinese surname comes first instead of last.

The Chinese compass points to the south instead of the north..

In China men carry on dressmaking, and women carry burdens.

In China the men wear their hair long, and the women wear theirs short.

In China books are read backward. What we call footnotes are printed at the top of the page.

The Chinese dress in white at funerals, and in black at weddings. Old women always serve as bridesmaids.