

some towns, at least, we would always have empty rooms. So I walk along the street, gather my crowd, enter the room; the crowd, after considerable coaxing, follows. We then teach singing, which is always an attraction, tell simple Bible stories, and send them off with a prayer that some of the words spoken may take root in their hearts. People at home hardly realize how hard it is to work on week after week, and see so little result. The women attending the regular meetings are nearly all Christians, and in three places at least, I think I can see signs of growth, and an increased earnestness in the study of the Word.

Our new church was opened in November. It is a prettier church than the one in Azabu, and is quite an ornament to the town.

We spent a very pleasant Christmas season this year. On Friday, Dec. 22nd, Miss Robertson and I took tea with the pupils in their dining-room. They enjoy very much having us take tea with them, and sometimes invite us to do so, especially when they think they have something in Japanese food that we like.

After tea we went to the school room, where the girls had a literary meeting, lasting nearly an hour. When that was over, Miss Robertson invited them to our parlor to spend the rest of the evening. We had had a Christmas tree put in one corner of the room, and had hung on it bags filled with Japanese cakes, oranges, and for the elder girls, "Little Pillows," by Miss Havergal, and for the younger, "Little Dots" and the "Infant's Magazine." The girls were very much surprised and delighted when they saw the tree. We played one game and then had a Christmas talk about Santa Claus, the German Christ-child, and the Christmas joy and peace, which seems to be in the very air at home. Perhaps there is nothing we miss so much at the Christmas season as that Christmas feeling.

Christmas means so little here. It is only another holiday kept by the little band of Christians. After the tree was stripped, we sang some Christmas hymns, and then closed a very pleasant and profitable evening with prayer.

Several of our girls teach in Sunday Schools, which have been started in different parts of Shidzuoka.