

when 45,000 Christian books and Scripture portions were distributed among 17,500 literary candidates. The fact that these books were generally, and in some cases gladly, received by these educated men, who knew that they were Christian books, is an impressive illustration of the progress which Christian missions are making in China, even among the literary class, which has always been most fiercely opposed to foreigners and to the religion of Christ.

Great differences of opinion prevail among missionaries in China as to the ultimate effect of her reverses upon the life of her people. Many anticipate that through the shaking up they have had there will come a new and great impulse towards better things. Dr. Sheffield writes that "the sleepy conservatism of China has received a great shock, and men are quite sure to be more inclined to listen to new thoughts than they have been in the past." On the other hand there are missionaries living not so near the capital as Dr. Sheffield who think that the shaking up has not been sufficiently severe to get the natives out of the old ruts. Of the hundreds of millions of Chinese only a small percentage have sufficient knowledge of what has occurred to be much concerned about it. In the vast interior of the empire the people are profoundly ignorant of the war and its outcome, and if they know anything about it believe that the Japanese, though victorious at first, were finally compelled to give up the contest because of the valor of the Chinese. There certainly seems some reason to fear that the conservatism of China is too deep-seated to be greatly modified by her recent experiences.—*Missionary Herald*.

Chinese Women, Heathen and Christian.

If it is true that people estimate us according as we estimate ourselves, Chinese women stand a poor chance. I remember an incident told by Dr. Sheffield, who had been distributing famine relief in the country districts in Chihli Province. At one house he asked the old grandmother how many children there were. Hoping to conceal the real number, so that she might get more food, she replied, "I am a woman—how could I know enough to answer the question?" From childhood up, they are told that they are stupid and there is no use of their trying to learn, so they settle into the belief that they are "only women" and not worth bothering with. Their utter lack of ambition is a great obstacle to progress. The relative position of boys and girls is shown by the common question when a child is born, "Is it a pupil or a slave?" Another striking fact, showing the general opinion of women, is that an immense number of the written characters having a