

in the very midst of these students and institutions, and a mass of intelligent common people, places upon us the solemn responsibility of being partakers in, perhaps, the most important evangelistic undertaking in the empire.

As to the second element, while recognizing the limits of my strength, and earnestly hoping and praying for additions to the staff of workers, I have nothing to complain of in the matter of freedom in the management of the work and facilities for variety of method. In this I wish to express my gratitude to my brethren; for in the inception of a work like this, partaking so much of the nature of an untried experiment, not to be able to act promptly and authoritatively at any particular point might prove fatal, while prompt meeting of emergencies is the life of progress and success.

The third element, an efficient group of workers, if so necessary for the great Central Mission in London, where the people won can so soon be made into reliable assistants, and lay help is at hand in abundance, it is doubly necessary in Japan, where the material on which we work is so completely raw, absolutely un-Christian and untouched of Christian training, and all Christian workers are more than fully occupied.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

In formulating the plans for the Central Mission, music has always occupied an important place. One of the first things to be secured was a suitable organ. Mr. L. C. Peake, of Toronto, came to our aid, and forwarded us a magnificent Vocalion, subscribing the whole of his commission. The instrument is in every way a complete success. At the same time, Providence sent us an unusually good musician in the person of Mr. Ed. Gauntlett, who earns his living by teaching in the Government Commercial College, and gives all his leisure time to the musical department of the Tabernacle. While the general taste is still in favor of Japanese music, the opportunity of hearing good organ playing is an education and an attraction, especially to students of the Academy of Music, several of whom have been brought to Christ. We are very desirous of procuring a piano, on which instrument Miss Cushing is a superior player, and which would be a great addition to our sacred concerts and social gatherings.

STEREOPTICON VIEWS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

The magic lantern has been used more or less in mission work, both at home and abroad, and is at present assuming an important position in connection with all great city missions. It has already done good work in Japan, and with careful management its usefulness may be largely developed. My idea in connection with the use of the stereopticon in the Tabernacle has never been to furnish amusement, or to do much in the way of exhibitions, but rather to make the illustrations subordinate to the direct teaching they were intended to aid. It was thought they would attract many to listen who otherwise would never enter a place of worship, and that the instruction thus given would be more impressive and more easily remembered, and thus more speedily bring forth fruit.

I am glad to say that these expectations have been most fully met, by the gratifying results that we know have already followed this kind of work. Some who had never heard the story of the cross came, and were immediately impressed, put themselves under direct instructions, and are now happy Christians. It is found, also, that the children obtain thereby in a remarkably short time an intelligent understanding of the "Old, old story."

Aside from the illustrated sermons, we have had several pleasant evenings for the children—a lecture on astronomy, by Prof. Dr. Knott, illustrated by slides kindly lent by the university; one on "The Vicar of Wakefield," by Prof. J. M. Dixon, illustrated by slides taken from famous drawings; one by Miss Mary Prince, on "Glimpses of Art in Venice and Rome;" one each on India and China, by missionaries, illustrated missionary addresses, in fact. Every one of these gave great pleasure and profit to large audiences, amongst whom were many who, thus attracted, came to the other services as well, from the feeling that if these Christians could do that sort of thing so well, perhaps their Christianity had something good in it too. Some of our friends were at first rather dubious about the magic lantern service on a Sunday night, but after coming and seeing for themselves, and finding everything so reverently and irreproachably conducted, and that a large and intelligent audience was thus brought within range of Christian teaching, every doubt vanished, and they have declared themselves perfectly satisfied and delighted.

APOLOGETICS.

Although the aim first and foremost of all true mission work is to bring Christ and the sinner together by the presentation of the Gospel message, in a land like Japan, apologetics must always play a most important part as handmaid to the direct preaching of the Word. The objection that argument against error raises more doubt than it lays, may be applicable to Christian people nurtured in Christian thought until faith is interwoven into the fibres of their being; but in Japan the almost universal attitude of mind is agnostic, antagonistic or indifferent, and all based on ignorance or the indoctrination of anti-Christian theories: the national mind is one mass of doubt. A suitable style of apologetics appeals to their habits of thought, and leads, in many cases, to awakening, for many are honest doubters. Nor is the taunt of a gospel of philosophy any more appropriate. No one wants to propagate a merely philosophical gospel, but, if we can, by starting from a common philosophical standpoint, lead men to see that true philosophy consists in the subjection of every thought unto the obedience of Christ, we shall be following in the footsteps of Paul and the great masters of centuries of successful Christian evangelism. Along these lines we have, however, thus far been able to do all too little. Prof. Dr. Howard, whose name is well known in Europe and America, and whose fame as a leader in certain branches of medical research had preceded him to Japan, delivered the first apologetic lecture in the Tabernacle, on "The Christ Judged by Scientific Methods," and was greeted by one of the finest