

Discouraged though one may feel sometimes at the small attendance and apparent lack of interest on the part of some, we know these meetings to be a source of help and strength to those who attend, and we cannot feel that our effort has been given in vain however few the numbers. On the other hand, our school work, though decried by some as "a waste of time and mission money in a country so well supplied with schools as Japan," furnished us daily with opportunity for teaching the bible which certainly it would be hard to overestimate; and sometimes I have thought as I sat and looked into the faces of my two dozen or more "embryo women"—girls ranging from sixteen to twenty-two years of age, and two or three of them already wives—that for the privilege of teaching such a class in connection with any of our outside work a half hour daily for four, five or six years, one would be willing to sacrifice almost anything in the way of time or means for the sake of the thorough grounding in Bible knowledge and heart truths thus afforded. So it seems to me that even though all the machinery of our schools has to be organized simply to secure this daily Bible lesson with our eighty pupils, that we could still count the outlay and the hours given to *English teaching* as well spent. Outside of this, however, the new and purer world of literature opened up to our girls by the study of English, as well as the training in womanliness and helpfulness along so many lines that tend to character building, count for much in influencing the makers of the future homes of this land. Then, too, it has been proved that the most successful evangelistic workers among their own people are, in very many cases, those who have had their training and gone out from our girls' schools in former years, and the majority of the evangelistic workers among women here would find themselves greatly hampered in their work did they not have the schools to look to for helpers.

But would not "Bible schools" meet this need? is sometimes asked. So far as the actual supply of Bible-women is concerned it would, provided that we could find enough Christian women, old or young, to enter such schools for the course of training, which would be very doubtful, as even now with the number furnished from the ranks of those who have come out from heathendom in our regular girls' schools, the supply is not at all equal to the demand. Then, too, we have found that the all-round training given in these schools is just the preparation needed to fit the woman to be a successful worker in the homes of her sisters here, as well as to prepare her for the duties of wife and mother which come all too soon to all girls in this land. Therefore, it seems plain that for a number of years yet our Mission schools will be still needed in Japan;