

Other men, equally distinguished, are giving many hours a week to forwarding the Y program. The veteran President of the Tokyo Association, which possesses the finest plant in the Far East, is Mr. Hampei Nagao, a figure of national repute. He it was who handled in such a masterly way the reorganization of the Tokyo tramways system after the earthquake, and who was recently elected to the Japanese Diet by the largest majority in his district's history.

The President in Osaka, the largest city in Japan, is Mr. Hoshino, the former president of one of that city's biggest banks. He is a "key" man in its affairs, and has been prime mover in the establishment of a Rotary Club and half a dozen other organizations. Under his dynamic leadership Osaka recently completed the most successful membership drive of its career. In a campaign in which members were used extensively for the first time, the goal of 300 was passed by more than 800, and the membership doubled. One boy brought in 30 singlehanded. And their present membership of 2200 does not include the more than one thousand boys who attend day and night classes.

Students and their "dangerous thoughts" bulk large in the life - and the news-columns - of present-day Japan. Again I quote Dean Abe: "It is hard to exaggerate the importance of what we call our 'thought problem' in Japan. Many observers among us feel that the question is one of extreme urgency...It is therefore a matter of great significance as well as a cause for gratitude that our student leaders and student associations are giving to this problem their very best thought. At our student conference, at our secretaries' gatherings, in local groups and through publications our leaders are fearlessly facing with the students the question of their Christian responsibilities. The responsibility of the Christian Church is a serious one at a time when many describe the situation as a race between materialistic determinism and Christian idealism."

The publications referred to above seem to me to constitute one of the most strategic pieces of work being done by any Christian organization in Japan. Arthur Jorgenson has gathered around him an all-Japanese committee of educationists and writers who in less than three years have published a series of timely, authoritative books on religious and social questions, two-thirds of which are original work by Japanese, which have attracted the attention of students in a very effective way. Their latest book, a prize-winning study of the life of Christ, written by a country pastor, has gone into its third edition and is considered by our foreign secretaries a unique contribution in its field. They tell me it is highly original in its treatment, a distinctively Japanese approach to study of the Master.