

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Shizuoka Girls' School, Japan, May 5th, 1900.

Dear Miss Smith:—Miss Cunningham thought that an account of the temperance work in Shizuoka might be quite interesting to you, so she asked me to write about it.

One of the earnest temperance workers, Rev. Miyama, was invited, by Misses Cunningham and Alcorn, to Shizuoka, on his way to Kyushu down south. He came on the last Wednesday of January. That evening he was to attend the weekly prayer-meeting at the church. The teachers and several older girls went to the meeting. He told us a true story he happened to experience when he went to Hokkaido, up north. He encouraged us to sing over and over till we felt we were filled with the spirit.

On the first Friday of February, Mrs. Large, who was to go to the south with Mr. Miyama, came from Tokyo. In the evening a temperance meeting, which we were hopefully waiting for, was held at our church. Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama explained what dreadful harm liquor and tobacco do to the people, and how they are led to still sadder sins by using these poisonous materials. Indeed, the mothers and sisters suffer much through their father's and brothers' habit of drinking! Of course the speeches were touching to those who have dear sons and daughters. One of the girls brought her step-father to the meeting. He determined not to touch liquor any more. He was going to have the fiftieth celebration for his parents' death, and he had already prepared numbers of glass bottles and small wine cups to give to all the people who would come. But since he knew the terrible harm of the liquor, he decided not to give any wine to the people. And he sent ten yen to the school, which he was going to spend for wine. This money was exchanged for a tall graceful willow tree, which now stands in the front garden. We say a willow tree invites the people to come in with its long, slender hands, and in front of most hotels and tea-houses, they have this tree planted. So it is very nice to have one stand in the garden of the Christian school to call people to come and listen to God's words. In Japan a tree won't die, even if it is transplanted in winter.

On this night, after the meeting was over, a temperance Auxiliary was organized.

On Saturday, the 3rd, a woman's meeting on temperance was held. Though the teachers worked as hard as they could to gather as many women as they could, yet the meeting was not as large as it was expected. To be sure, one reason was, it was raining. Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama spoke of the origin and the motive of the W. C. T. U. Several of the school girls sang "Where is my wandering boy to-night." Quite a number asked to become members of the W. C. T. U. So it was announced that a meeting would be held in the school on Saturday, the 17th.

On Sunday, the 4th, Mr. Miyama preached at the morning service. In the afternoon Mrs. Large gave an easy talk about liquor and tobacco to all the Sunday-

school children in the city. They all seemed to be interested in the story. In the evening a revival meeting was held by Mr. Miyama. It was very successful. Many people received blessings and twelve girls asked to be baptized.

Mrs. Large and Mr. Miyama left Shizuoka on Monday morning. Their three days' stay was a great blessing to us all.

The first meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held on the 17th of February, at two o'clock, in the Shizuoka Girls' school; 32 were present. After the opening hymn Miss Noguchi read the Bible. Next, the voting of the committee took place, and the result was as following: President, Miss Kono Ito; Vice-president, Miss Tomie Kawada; Treasurer, Miss Kiku Iyima; Secretary, Mrs. Mitsue Fukushima.

The following matters were decided: 1.—That the meeting is to be held in the Shizuoka Girls' School on the first Saturday of every month at two o'clock. Any persons who are not yet members of the society, can attend the meeting. 2.—That a programme committee, consisting of two persons, should be chosen, and they will make the programme out for the next meeting. Misses Shima Noguchi and Kotake Niwa were appointed as the programme committee for the next meeting. 3.—That at every meeting a talk on hygiene and the effect of the alcohol and tobacco will be given.

After that Miss Cunningham told of the harm of liquor. Miss Alcorn and Miss Noguchi also gave instructive talks. At five the meeting was closed with the singing of the Song of Temperance, number 13.

Since then we have had two meetings. At the March meeting Miss Niwa read a profitable piece from "The Woman's Herald;" Miss Noguchi gave an illustration about woman's hidden power. The talk on hygiene came next. In April, as it was during the Easter holidays, the meeting was smaller than before. Mrs. Washimi, who was one of the programme committee for this meeting, told us about the life of Elizabeth Fry, and Miss Iyima, the other one on the committee, read a piece from a Methodist magazine.

On the 21st of April Mrs. Yajima, the national president of the Japan W. C. T. U., and Mrs. Ushioda, the president of the Tokyo W. C. T. U. Auxiliary, visited the school with Mrs. Large. On Sunday the 22nd a special meeting was held, of which Mrs. Yajima took charge. She and Mrs. Ushioda had profitable speeches for us. Almost forty were present. It was a very satisfactory meeting. We hope the society will grow, so as to be able to work against liquor and tobacco, and hope also that the people will realize the harm of drinking and smoking, and stop doing these things entirely.

Yours lovingly,

MARI KOSUGI.

[We thank our kind friend Mari San for her very interesting letter. Miss Cunningham was right in thinking that we would like to hear of the good temperance work being done in Japan. We wish those earnest workers, Mrs. Large and Rev. Mr. Miyama great success in this noble cause.]