

MISSION ITEMS.

Three hundred and sixty persons were baptized last year in the Church missionary Society's mission in Japan. The baptized members are now 1,351

Work among the Hakkas in Southern China is very encouraging. Says a missionary: "The Hakkas will be evangelized sooner than any other Chinese." They are devoted to letters, and are opposed to foot binding.

A few years ago the offerings at the temple at Monghyr, India, amounted to \$50,000, during the two days of the annual festival; now they are only \$20,000. The priests say to the missionaries, "You are the reason. Your preaching and your books have taken the fear of us and of our gods from the hearts of the people."

A CURIOUS NURSE.

In India where the elephant is treated almost as one of the family, the grateful animal makes a return for the kindness shown it by voluntarily taking care of the baby. It will patiently permit itself to be mauled by its little charge, and will show great solicitude when the child cries. Sometimes it will become so attached to its baby friend as to insist upon its constant presence. A case is known where an elephant went so far as to refuse to eat except in the presence of its little friend. Its attachment was so genuine that the child's parents would not hesitate to leave the baby in the elephant's care, knowing that it could have no more faithful nurse. And the kindly monster never belied the trust reposed in him.

UNCLE JIM'S ADVICE.

"I wish I were clerk of the weather!" Joe said crossly, "and I would have things to suit me."

The boys and girls were disappointed. They had planned a Saturday picnic, and now the rain kept them indoors.

"The rain spoils everything," Mary said in the same tone, and, one by one, the children added their opinion to the heap of discontent till it was so big that Uncle Jim couldn't help seeing it over his newspaper.

"Joe, did I understand you to say that you would like to be in God's place?"

The boy started and looked around quickly. None of the children had heard Uncle Jim come in, and they all looked now a little confused.

"No, of course, I didn't mean that," Joe said; "only this rain is such a nuisance, and spoils everything so."

"And you think you could manage the weather better. Well, this morning Peter told me if it hadn't been for the rain everything in the garden would have been spoiled. He says the farmers will be rejoicing all over the country. Suppose you had been 'clerk,' or Mary?"

Uncle Jim seldom spoke so seriously, and the children felt it in his



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