

persons, and the number of services 136, so that the average attendance had been a little over twenty-six. There was an increase of 1,216 hearers over the last year.

The monthly collection of the people for support of the Gospel has been somewhat increased too. It amounted to the sum of 17.78 yen, while that of the last year had been 5.14 yen, so that there was an increase of 12.54 yen over the last year. They also gave the aggregate sum of 16.52 yen for the poor, for the Sabbath-school, etc., during the year, besides missionary contributions, which are not counted here.

The Sabbath-school retrograded somewhat, on account of the loss of five good teachers at once by removal to other places. The present number of scholars who regularly attend the school is twenty-five. To make it prosper new teachers must be procured.

A zealous and influential local preacher was raised in the person of Mr. S. Ebara. He had been very ill in the last spring from an affection of his lungs, and the illness became so serious at last that the doctors almost gave up the hope of his recovery, when he was almost miraculously cured, and became an object of wonder among those who knew him. It was surely in answer to the prayers of brethren and sisters who had prayed for his recovery, and for the Lord's granting him the honor of working for Him and glorifying His holy name after his recovery, whenever they met together. Soon after his complete recovery, and when he was able to walk out, he was appointed local preacher by the superintendent of the circuit at the first quarterly official meeting, which was held on the 9th July. He had held once the local preaching some years ago, and this was a reappointment. Since then he has been working for the Church and Lord very faithfully. He preaches once on every Sabbath regularly. As he is a very influential man in the whole "ken," the benefit of his devoted life in the new sphere is not confined to Numadzu alone.

We held enzetsu, or public discourses on the teachings of Christianity, at one of the story-teller's halls in the town, on the tenth and eleventh evenings of February. The speakers were Mr. Hiraiwa, the superintendent of the circuit, Mr. Ebara, and myself; and also a preacher of the Presbyterian Church in the neighborhood came and helped us on one evening. These two evenings' meetings were a grand success, and the audience was altogether more than six hundred people. The occasion is never to be forgotten. All those who were present reported well after they went; and the effects of the discourses were felt widely. The people of the town in general began to recognize that Christianity is the best religion, and they speak well of it now. The attendance at the chapel has been, since then, much increased. Some day the harvest will come.

Two members died during the year, both in peace and triumph, especially so with one, whose name is Tsukumu Tamura, a lad of seventeen years of age. He lived in a neighboring village, and he expressed his wish to hear of the Gospel on his sick bed, and he for the first time heard it talked on the 8th of last October. As he could not bear to hear one talk even for an hour continually, from his weakness,

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