

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Shidzuoka, Jan. 25th, 1900.

My Dear Girl,—In my last letter I told you how we spent Sunday in our schools, and in this I will tell you about our Saturday.

The rising bell rings at six o'clock, which is pretty early these cold, dark mornings. The girls jump up, spread out their bed clothes to air, and go down to the bath-room to get their morning wash. By half-past six the most of them have begun the o soyi, or great cleaning. We will go and see them at their work. We have a work time-table, which is changed every month, so there is no confusion. Each girl knows her work, and does it. In the four school-rooms you will find girls dusting—the rooms having been swept the night before by the school janitor. Two girls are in the hall, wiping the finger-marks off all the doors, one or two are cleaning the banisters of the stairs, one little girl is busy in the reception-room, another in the library, etc., etc.

At seven the breakfast bell rings. At twenty minutes past seven the girls go back to their work—the large glass windows of the upper verandah are lifted out, and all the bedding is hung out to air. Then the dormitories are thoroughly cleaned. The girls' bedrooms are very different from yours. The floor is covered with soft matting, and the furniture consists of a low, small table, and a tiny book-case for each girl. The girls sit on the floor, so that they need no chairs. They have no bedsteads, and during the day their bedding is folded up, and put away in a closet in the corner of the room. In this closet are also baskets and boxes containing their clothes.

At 8 a. m. the bell rings for morning prayers. In about fifteen minutes the girls go back to their work. On Saturday morning everything is taken out of the dormitories, and the floors thoroughly swept. The closets also are cleaned and put in order, and if any of the paper on the stoji, or paper doors, is torn, it is neatly mended. As "many hands make light work," by nine every room is clean. At that time the Sunday-school teachers assemble in one of the school-rooms, where the lesson for the children's meeting, for the next day is taught. The girls take turns in teaching the lesson. When the leader for the day finishes, the others give helpful hints or new thoughts, and a little conversation sometimes follows as to the best way of interesting the children.

It is a rule of the school that each pupil must do her own washing, even though her parents are rich enough to pay to have it done. Each girl, also, learns to cook, and to make her own clothes, for we wish our girls to become good house-keepers, as well as good students. So, with their household duties, English studies, and sometimes organ lessons, you may be sure there are not many idle moments spent in our school. At eleven the dormitories, and, indeed, the whole building is inspected, and a girl who has done her work carelessly, receives a mark for carelessness. Such marks, however, are not often given, for the older girls

oversee the little ones, and insist upon the work being properly done.

By noon the washing is over, and after dinner an hour is spent in silk embroidery. When that is finished, the girls have two hours free. This time they spend in sewing, knitting, reading, studying, writing letters, or playing on the organ. Can you, in imagination, take a walk with me through the school at this time? In one room you will see seven or eight girls sitting in a circle on the floor, busy at work, and talking and laughing merrily. When they see us they will at once drop their work, and bow very politely. Their mode of bowing is very different from ours. You see they are sitting on their feet, and they place their hands flat on the floor in front of them, and bend forward till their heads touch the ground. They then press us to come in, but we must refuse, as we want to visit all the rooms.

J. C.

(To be continued.)

SOMETHING TO THINK OF THIS NEW YEAR.

(Concluded).

We cannot but wonder how the Jews, when they saw prophecy so plainly fulfilled, could help believing in Jesus. But they so firmly expected that their coming Saviour was to appear with all the pomp and splendour of an earthly potentate, that they refused to accept this humble, lowly young Nazarine as their long looked for Messiah. And still the veil is on their hearts, and how many, both Jews and Gentiles, still cling to worldly pomp and amusements, preferring them to subjection to our meek and lowly Jesus, who only recognizes as His subjects those of truly penitent, contrite hearts. Christ is King only of a spiritual kingdom, and we are told that those who have not the spirit of Christ are none of His.

To go on considering Christ, during His wonderful life, His tragic death and God-like resurrection might occupy us not only throughout all time, but no doubt will be our theme through all eternity. So we will close with a few words upon His glorious ascension. His last words to His mourning disciples are full of interest. We always prize and try to observe the last wishes of our dear ones. Let us then strive to obey the last instructions of our blessed Master for all of His disciples. He led them out as far as Bethany, three miles from Jerusalem, and while they were anxious to know many things, that He said God alone could tell them, He commanded them to go to all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Then lifting up His hands towards them in blessing, He rose into the heavens, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Our plain duty then is to do our utmost to obey this last command; to either go or send this blessed gospel to all who otherwise may never hear it. How can they hear without a preacher, St. Paul says, and how can they go unless they are sent? If we have not done our utmost, what will we answer in the great day of account?

C. Ross.