

Young People's Department.

THE FASHIONS IN JAPAN.

In Japan no little girl lies in bed late mornings. Between five and six o'clock everyone in the house is awakened by the loud noise of the rain-shutters being pushed back by the servants, who seem never to sleep. Japanese houses are all open during the day and tightly closed at night so that robbers cannot enter and the rain cannot spoil the polished verandah or paper-sliding doors within.

Once awake, it does not take long for the girls to dress. In olden days the arrangement of the hair was so elaborate that it was done seldom. The girls slept on the narrow, high, hard pillow that protected the hair. Now the school girl wears her hair much as a foreign girl wears hers, sleeps on a lower, softer pillow, and has her hair combed every morning. The girls themselves, or the maid servants, fold up the futons, or quilts, on which the family have slept. These big, thick quilts are used instead of mattresses, and are laid right on the floor. In summer time the mosquito net is taken down, the big, dark green net with oright red border, which is so necessary in a country where the mosquitoes are very troublesome.

AT BREAKFAST.

You and all your family come together every morning in your dining room and sit around the big table to eat your oranges and oatmeal, boiled eggs or griddle cakes. But the Japanese eat in any room convenient, often in the same room in which they have slept, for by breakfast time the bed has been lifted from the floor and put away, or hung out on the balcony in the air. There is nothing in the room except the chest of drawers, the low mirror, and the table, not more than a foot high, and perhaps a small bookcase. The little school girls sit down on the floor with their feet under them—a very comfort-

able way to sit on a cold day, for it keeps the feet perfectly warm—and with their chop-sticks they eat rice and pickles and drink fish-soup and tea and do not spill a thing. Then they tie up their schoolbooks and little box of "beuto" or luncheon, in a bright-colored square of cotton. These "wrapping handkerchiefs" are of purple, blue or orange, and sometimes have interesting pictures on them. They are most convenient for school children and ladies out shopping, or men travelling.

ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL.

At the door the girls slip their feet into sandals, while the servants kneel at the step, and say, "You are going, but come back," and the girls bow and answer, "I go, but shall return." They look very neat as they start to school. As O Haru San is ten years old, her hair is brushed smoothly back and tied on top with the brightest pink or scarlet ribbon, while O Take San, who is seventeen, has her hair arranged high on her head with side combs like those worn in Europe or America, and with an artificial flower pinned at one side. Haru means "spring," and Take, "bamboo." The Japanese love the plum blossom for its purity and simplicity, so you find many girls named Ume or "plum." Many others have the names of virtues that the Japanese especially admire, like "quietness," "gentleness," and "modesty."

THE BOY WAS MISTAKEN.

When the great Laymen's Missionary Movement held its meetings in Dayton, Ohio, no hall was large enough to seat all the men who wished to attend the supper, so five hundred men gathered at the Young Men's Christian Association Building for supper, and afterward marched four abreast, headed by a brass band and singing missionary hymns, to Memorial Hall, where a thousand other men were waiting for them. One ten-year-old boy watched with amazement the big parade of fine-looking men. "I didn't know so many men went to church," he said. "I always thought boys stopped going to church when they got big, but I guess they don't, though."