

been given by the Bishop of Ottawa, was by consent withdrawn.

#### MISSIONARY PRAYERS AND HYMNS.

A letter was read from Miss L. H. Montizambert, Provincial Secretary of the W.A., suggesting some alterations and additions in the manual provided by the Board.

On motion of Rev. Rural Dean Pollard, seconded by the Bishop of Quebec, it was resolved, That a Committee consisting of Archdeacon Roe, Rural Dean Cooper, and Rural Dean Pollard, be appointed to consider the suggestions of Miss Montizambert regarding the Prayers and Hymns for Missions, and report at the next meeting of the Board such alterations and additions as they may deem necessary.

#### PRINTED MINUTES.

The General Secretary, having asked for instructions as to what should be included in the printed Minutes, was directed to use his own discretion in the matter.

#### NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD.

On motion of the Archdeacon of Kingston, seconded by the Rev. Rural Dean Pollard, it was resolved, That the Board of D. and F. Missions meet in Montreal on the second Wednesday in October at 10.30 a.m.

At this point the Bishop of Ottawa was obliged to leave to catch the train, and the chair was taken by the Bishop of Quebec.

The minutes of the present session were then read, and the meeting closed with the Benediction.

#### MATSUMOTO, SHINANO, JAPAN.

**R**EPORT of work done in Matsumoto, Shinano, Japan, from January 1st, 1896, to December 31st, 1896, by the Revs. Masazo Katuzen and F. W. Kennedy.

At the beginning of the year the work here seemed to be at a standstill. Our little band of Christians, nine in all, instead of increasing, grew smaller. My teacher, whom I had baptized the previous December, returned to his home near Kobe and one of our young men went into Mr. Waller's district to secure work on the railroad. Mr. Kakuzen and I did our best to bring the people together at public preachings, but on every occasion the gatherings were small. At last a large theatre was built opposite the preaching station and the neighborhood became so noisy that we were forced to move, and I have been grateful to the man who built it ever since, for, although the work is not *flourishing* yet, we can date the onward move from that time. We began again in the north part of the town among the Samurai (retainers of the old Daimys): these

people although poor are better educated and appreciated our efforts far more than the business class, amongst whom we worked at first. My teacher coming back to me at this time and bringing with him his wife and child, filled us with fresh hope. He is a most earnest Christian and useful to me in a great many ways, and I am looking forward to the time when he will receive from the Bishop his catechist's license. During the year two special preachings were held and Mr. Waller and his workers came across the mountains to help us. The first was better attended than former ones, but the second showed that we had at last awakened the people, the buildings becoming so crowded that many had to stand outside. During the second visit of the Nagano workers, I cleared all the furniture out of the front rooms of my own house and taking the sliding partitions away, threw all into one room. This involved a great deal of labor, but our efforts were more than repaid, for the place proved to be not half large enough to accommodate those who came to hear our message. The special preachings held at the outstations, Nakagawate, Shiojiri and Niegawa were just as well attended.

I am not able to report many baptisms for the year; only four, two women and two children. We cannot expect many yet for the people have first to be awakened; they must be made to realize their need of salvation, and when they do this, they will place themselves in our hands for instruction; but this is bound to be slow work. If Matsumoto was not so shut off from other places, I think the work would advance more quickly. The old people who have been Shintoists and Buddhists so long will not change, and their influence over those younger people who have a desire for better things is so strong that they are afraid to become Christians. But this difficulty will soon be overcome; in two years' time the new railway between Shinonoi, the next station to Negano and this place, will be finished, and strangers, free from family influence, will move in, who will more readily come forward and join us. It is our intention during this time of waiting to work on faithfully and determinedly and gain as many of the natives of the place as possible, who will form a solid foundation on which to build when the influx of outsiders begins to take place.

The Sunday School work is in a much improved condition. There are two now, one at Mr. Kakuzen's house and one in mine. The number of scholars on the roll is 157, and we have an average attendance of forty. Our Christmas entertainment was quite a success, a number of the children taking part in the programme. Miss Paterson's teacher trained fifteen girls to recite the twenty-fourth Psalm