

that I have yet seen. The scenery was grand in the extreme. Kusatsu is a noted summer resort, on account of its sulphur and mineral baths. It does not look at all like a Japanese town, the hotels (and there is nothing else in the place) are nearly all three stories high, and stand with their gables to the street, while they are ornamented with heavy wood-work. The boiling-hot water rises in the centre of the street, and is carried by wooden aqueducts to the different baths, of which there are at least a dozen public ones and quite as many private belonging to the hotels. The in and out-flow of water to these is constant. Some of the baths are large enough to accommodate fifty at one time, and while we were there they were well filled all day long. There were over a thousand invalids in the village, three-fourths of whom were suffering the consequences of their immorality.

Thursday we rested; Friday we ascended Shiranesan, an extinct volcano with three craters, in one of which there is an immense lake of boiling sulphur. From its summit the view is very fine, the western Japan sea being visible on a clear day; unfortunately we were shut in by clouds, and the more prudent of our party thought it not wise for us even to walk around the crater in order to get a better view of the lake, so all we saw was through the clouds, or when they once or twice lifted for a moment or two. The climb was not so difficult as Asama, as we rode our horses to within about four hundred feet of the top. Friday afternoon was the time for the sun's total eclipse, and as Kusatsu was just within the line of totality, we hoped to have a good view of it. We provided ourselves with smoked glasses; we saw the first contact, and watched on until the sun was more than three-fourths covered, when an unfriendly cloud hid him from our view until the moon had almost passed over. During the darkness some of the people got out on the roofs of their houses, turning their faces to the sun, alternately prayed and rang bells, while I saw a great many standing in the streets with clasped hands and upturned faces. I suppose they must have been sun worshippers. The same evening we visited the "Sai no Kawara"—"The dry river of souls." Why so called I could not learn. We walked through the bed of a hot sulphur river, and got our *soles wet*. At the head of this river there is a stone of at least ten tons weight, so balanced in the river-bed as to be easily rocked by a small child. The immense rocks, of which there are many in the river, are piled full of smaller stones and rocks, put there by mothers to appease the old hag in the other world, who makes the little ones, who are called from earth away, pick stones for her. The mothers, to make their loved ones' labors easier, pile up those stones here. Truly the mother's heart is the same all the world over.

THE TORII ZAKA AIWA JO-GAKKO CLOSING EXERCISES.

THE annual midsummer entertainment of the Tōkyō Elwa Jōgakko took place at Torii Zaka, Azabu, on the 7th instant. The large hall of the Institution, tastefully decorated with bannerets, was filled with numerous friends and relatives of the pupils attending the school, amongst whom were Mr. Watanabe, Presi-

dent of the Imperial University, and several Japanese gentlemen connected with the Department of Education. The school, which has only been in existence for three years, has already attained a high popularity amongst the Japanese, and the excellence and thoroughness of the curriculum well attested by the skill and proficiency with which the details of the programme were carried out.

One of the most interesting items was a conversation in Japanese and English, of a very amusing kind, on the merits of "Foreign versus Japanese dress," in which the Misses Ito (daughters of H. E. Count Ito), Kawabe and Nakano, took part.

The marked interest with which the musical items, both vocal and instrumental, were received indicates an advance in the appreciation of Western music. The Misses Cochran are to be congratulated on the rendering of the various pieces by their pupils, the piano duet of the Misses Taneda and Yamao being especially worthy of praise.

Of the compositions which were delivered, that entitled "The past, present and future of the Womanhood of Japan," by a pupil of the second year in English, which is here subjoined, was a sufficient indication of the tone and scope of the work that is being carried on in the school.

It is to be hoped that the prosperity of the school will still continue to rise under the excellent management of Miss Spencer, the lady principal, and her colleagues.

The following composition by a pupil of the second year in English at our Japan school is well worth perusal, indicating at once the ability of the pupil and the character of the work done in the school:—

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE WOMANHOOD OF JAPAN.

Women in Japan were considered by the old education to be but housekeepers, whose duties were to stay at home; to be diligent in their domestic work, and to be meek and obedient to whatever their masters commanded: so that they were not allowed to question their masters, though their deeds or words might be disagreeable to them. Woman was always expected to be a peace-maker at home, and she was strongly forbidden to enter into society, or to concern herself with any outdoor business.

This led all the women in Japan to live without improving the natural abilities which God had bestowed upon them. But when we think of their imperfect education, the women of old had something for which to be praised, for they were as firm as a rock in the depth of their hearts, notwithstanding their delicacy and apparent weakness. They tried, first of all, to be true to the one object of their affection; and thus some of the women never married again, though their destiny may have been such as to survive their husbands from the early days of their womanhood. Some would cut off their beautiful locks in remembrance of their dear masters, and live lonely all the rest of their lives; others would go into a temple and spend their time as European nuns do. When we read of those virtuous women who once lived in Japan, we find them always obeying their