

Missionary.

From the Seat of the War.

Some Epworth Leaguers will think that I am writing from Chemulpo, Port Arthur, or some Korean or Manchurian port, and going to give you graphic details of some engagement between Japanese and Russian forces. But no, I am here in the city of Nagano, engaged in the war spoken of in Revelations, chap. 17, 14, and we are working for and sometimes seeing the victory there referred to. Perhaps since the name of Nagano we have seen, and been too much depressed at times by seeing, the surrender of mind and strength to the enemy (v. 13), but, thank God, we also have seen something of the victory which the Lamb is slowly but surely winning over the beast and beastly natures.

Last November, while I was absent in the adjoining district with Rev. Y. Hiraiwa, so well known to most of you, the young men of the church here got together and resolved upon the organization of an Epworth League. How I rejoiced upon receiving the good news, for I had been hoping and praying and working that the young men might be stirred up and united for work. We held our consecration meeting the first Sunday evening of each month, and it is well attended. We have fourteen active members and four associate members, and we all are expecting an increase. The 1st Vice-President is a promising young man who looks forward to the ministry. As there is not the same mingling of the sexes here in societies and schools, we have as yet no ladies in our society.

In Bro. Hiraiwa's District (the Yamanaishi District) there is a small scattered village called Akita, where there are seven young men who are Christians. Though there is no Epworth League there, yet I think they must all be active members, for they resolved to build a church, and not be subjected to the inconvenience of renting a house, and frequently being without a place of worship. They began to talk it up. The village fathers took it up, saying, "Christianity seems to be a good thing for our young men," and soon the village council gave voluntarily a twenty-year lease, free, of a fine site. Then the young men canvassed the village, and there were few families who did not contribute. Some of slender means worked at night making sandals and straw rope, for which there is a constant market in Japan, and so made a little for the church. When I visited the place the building was up and the roof being put on. It is a good-sized country church—will accommodate 200, and has rooms for social meetings, etc., and at that time the money was all provided for but some 180.00 yen (\$300), which they hoped to raise by Christmas, and if possible open the church free of debt. The neighborhood is not a wealthy one, and only a handful of members, yet they asked no aid from any missionary society. Couldn't some other church learn from those Akita Christians in the Yamanaishi District?

While there, the pastor, Rev. S. Kato, Rev. Y. Hiraiwa, President of the Conference, held a service in a farmer's house. It was a great privilege for me to witness and address such a gathering of attentive and interested people when I had heard of their efforts. Some 180 or more were at the meeting. May their new little church be the house of God and the gate of heaven to many souls in that village. If permitted to visit that province again, I will endeavor to secure a photo of the church, and send to The Era.

I spent two busy weeks with Bro. Hiraiwa on his district, and preached in nearly every church throughout the dis-

trict. There were no big, curious crowds, but nearly everywhere good orderly congregations, churches comfortably filled, and signs of progress. The poorest meeting was in a town noted for its lewdness and immorality. There the pastor has a hard, discouraging field, but there I found some earnest souls who are praying and working for better days. The name of the town is Nirazaki. Pray for them.

You probably know as much about the war between Japan and Russia as we do here. We believe that Japan has justice on her side, and that if ever a nation went to war for selfish and unjustifiable reasons, that nation is Russia. Even the Czar's declaration of war contains falsehoods and is hypocritical. Her record in Finland, Poland, and with the Donkoshors, gives us no reason to hope for good from her success. On the other hand, Japan's administration of Formosa has been such as to lead us to believe that Japan's success will mean liberty, and progress for China. We believe that God is using Japan for the opening of the Orient, and we pray that she may come, even though it may be through suffering, to know and serve God who rules over all.

D. Norman.

A Doctor's Outfit.

A missionary in China obtained the medicine chest of a native physician, and a very queer collection he found inside of it. There was a monkey's skull, bird's claws, deer horns, etc. The missionary says, in East and West:

There are drug-stores where one can buy Chinese medicines, but the owner of this outfit goes from place to place, and takes his stand on the street, as you see from the shop shutters behind.

He says these bones are for making sticking plaster. I do not know how it is made, but I do know that Chinese plasters stick fast. Very often they are put on sores which ought to burst and let out the pus, but the plaster seals them up tight, and the pus has to eat its way through the flesh to find an escape.

The day I first saw this doctor's collection, Dr. Leslie and I were coming out of the city, when we saw a doctor's stand in the gateway with a water snake's skin hanging on the wall. We stopped to examine the outfit, and some men stopped to look at us. One man said to the doctor:

"If the muscle of a man's arm gets sore when he works, can you cure it?"

"Certainly. Come around here," he replied.

The man stepped around to the other side, the doctor sat on a low stool, the patient squatted on his haunches in front and bared his arm. The doctor felt his pulse, pinched his thumb nail with one hand, while he put another finger on the man's temple, then asked:

"Are you afraid of the needle?"

"No," was the reply.

The doctor reached over and took from a small cushion a needle about an inch and a quarter long, with a blunt to it. Pinching the patient's thumb nail, before one could wink he had run that needle up to the hilt straight into the muscle, and left it sticking there, the patient never wincing.

"Hold on a moment," said the patient, "what are you going to charge for this?"

"Fifty cash." (About three cents.)

"But that is too much. I haven't it to spare. I come from a distance, and have brought very little road money."

"It is the same price whether you have come five miles or five hundred miles. I could not ask more than is right from a stranger."

Dinner was waiting at home, so we had not time to wait to see how much he really gave for the treatment, and we never heard whether or not the man's muscle ached again after working.

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for carrying on the work of the Epworth League, and Sunday school can be obtained at the Methodist Book Room, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.