

Mission Field.

[From the S.P.G. Mission Field for April.]

JAPAN.—[CONTINUED.]

One of the clergy in Tokio is the Rev. A. F. King, who is in charge of the Holy Cross Church, Kyobashi—a part of the city. He tells of the admission of twenty persons during the year to the catechumate in that church, as well as the baptism of eleven men and seven women with three children, besides the Confirmation of fifteen persons. The following detail is significant as well as interesting:

"The church is now open all day for any who wish to use it for private prayer. We hesitated for some time, as none of our Christians live where they can see the church, and we cannot afford to pay for the time of a caretaker. Nothing has happened as yet to make us repent of our rather bold decision to leave the little Christian temple open and ungarded from sunrise to sunset in the heart of a crowded city, where the Christians are in the proportion of only about one in a thousand."

Mr. King speaks of the catechist of this Mission, Mr. Yoshida, as one "whose zeal and irreproachable life constantly fill" him "with joy and gratitude."

The value of medical work in connection with Missions is well illustrated by what Mr. King says of a dispensary in Kyobashi, under the superintendence of Nurse Grace:

"It is quite remarkable how many of those who now are members of Kyobashi Church first came into connection with us through this dispensary. I cannot speak too highly of it as a true missionary agency. Miss Thornton, Miss Sakai, and Mrs. Oguchi have given valuable help in teaching the poor people who have come to the dispensary; they have also forwarded the work in many other ways, specially by their diligent visiting, according to their opportunities, of the women in the neighborhood."

Another Tokio station is that of Kibo-Kyo-Kwai, or the "Church of Good Hope." Its name has a special appropriateness, for it has opportunities of influencing the rising generation, specially the students of the higher ranks of society. The Rev. L. E. Ryde is in charge of it, who writes:

"The presence of Mr. Fukugawa's widely known Keiogijiku has always made the Shiba region an educational centre; and now this promise has been added to by the erection of the large Suizangakko (Marine Productions College), which has lately been transplanted here, well within sight of the Keiogijiku. The young men attending this newly planted college are mostly sons of well-to-do country merchants, and are imbued with liberal ideas on the subject of education. Their growing minds do not seem overweighted by ancient prejudice; on the contrary, they appear to give a hearing to any new message promising further enlighten-

ment. Thus it has been a real pleasure to see some of them becoming earnest inquirers, and a few proceeding recently to the catechumen stage, and then on to the privilege of baptism. So with the Keiogijiku on one side and the Suizangakko on the other, as well as the ordinary advantages of a fairly populous district, it cannot be doubted that Kibo-Kyo-Kwai is well placed.

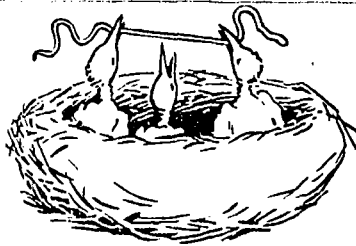
"Besides the regular visitation of the people, one of the greatest helps towards a better church attendance has been found in the classes, which are held regularly in the Mission-house, close by, called the Kibo-Sha, or 'Good Hope Lodge.' Here, on certain weekday afternoons, useful meetings are held for girls, and the Church owes a debt of gratitude to the ladies of the English Mission, who conduct them with so much spirit and faithfulness. On the weekday evenings, as well as on Sunday afternoons, some of our student members assemble here, and an hour's lecture is given, after which a few still remain on for further study and inquiry."

Mr. Ryde, among other matters, mentions that he himself teaches twice a week in the Keiogijiku.

"This brings me in touch with a larger number of students than would be otherwise possible, and I always look forward with pleasure to the hours I spend there."

Shinamicho is the name of another of the Tokio Mission stations. Of it the Rev. L. B. Cholmondeley has charge. It appears to be a poor district, and to have originated in a famine relief fund.

(To be continued.)



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