

polysyllabic, the words often being of great length; yet in the latter they are exceedingly musical, whereas in the former, they are harsh, guttural and far more difficult to learn. The written differs so widely from the spoken language that one, who has acquired considerable proficiency in speech, may be unable to peruse the daily papers, and *vice versa*. The number of written characters in common use is enormous, and forms a serious obstacle to the acquirement of an education. At the lowest estimate a school boy is required to learn 1000, while 12,000 or 13,000 must be committed to memory before a young Japanese can begin the pursuit of science. This requires at least 10 years of persistent effort. If he wishes to become a man of great learning the number must be increased to tens of thousands.

Any account of education in Japan would be very incomplete without mention of Tokio University, which represents the culmination of the educational institutions established by the Government. Although founded in 1856 by Imperial ordinance, its origin dates back as early as the commencement of the 18th century, when a certain learned man was sent abroad to investigate the condition of Holland and Rome. As a result of this and subsequent enquiries, observatories were erected. The study of Astronomy was followed by the introduction of Mathematics, Botany and Chemistry. The first foreign instructor was employed in 1866. Owing to the trading monopoly which Holland then enjoyed with Japan, the Dutch language was introduced. Afterwards the English, French, German and Russian languages were taught, but at present instruction is given mainly in English. Tokio University, as now constituted, embraces five departments, viz.—Literature, Science, Medicine, Law and Engineering. Each course extends over 3 years, except Medicine, which has an additional year. In nearly every department there are elective courses, in Science as many as six. The college curriculum is modelled after those of Western countries, the intention being to make the course equivalent to those prescribed by our own universities. Everywhere English Law, History, and Philosophy, especially the former two, occupy the foremost position. To show the nature of the work done in the University, permit me to quote the course laid down for the senior year in philosophy. The first three works are text books, the others are used as references:—

Descartes' Discourse on Method and Meditation.
Spinoza's Works.
Kant's Critique of Pure Reason.
Caird's Philosophy of Kant.
Mahaffy on the Critique.
Hume's Treatise on Human Nature.
Reid on the Human Mind.
Wallace's Logic of Hegel.
Lewes's History of Philosophy.
Ueberweg's History of Philosophy.
Mill's Examination of Sir Wm. Hamilton's Philosophy.

Under such a training it is not surprising that foreign teachers are rapidly giving place to native, whose mental acumen is of the highest order. The system of training seems to be much the same as that given in our own colleges. The standing of each student is determined, not by sessional examinations

alone, but his daily recitations are taken into consideration. If a student fails in a single examination he loses his year, if he fails the second time he is peremptorily dismissed from the University.

As yet, Tokio has not had time to graduate many students. The number upon the College roll is, however, very promising, something over 1,700, including those at the preparatory school. One very noticeable feature in the report of the institution and one which could be worthily imitated by some of our own Universities, is the careful attention paid to the welfare and comfort of the students. Leaving out of consideration the large number of exhibitions and scholarships, we notice a system by which students, proficient in scholastic attainments and of good moral character, unable to meet their College expenses out of their own private means, may receive a loan scholarship of 85 yen per annum, to be paid back, after their graduation, in instalments, extending through the same length of time as that in which the debt was contracted, interest at 6 per cent. Again, dormitories are provided for undergraduates, also a boat-house, teacher in swimming, recreation grounds with all gymnastic requisites, rooms for indoor sports, rooms for scientific, literary, and musical meetings, reading-room, etc. Connected with the University there are a library of 180,000 volumes, laboratories, museum, apparatus rooms, meteorological and astronomical observatories, and botanical gardens. The University of Tokio is directly supported by the Government, which, within a very few years, has expended over twenty-one million dollars on education alone.

Not only are there these Colleges for professional students, but the training of the farming class is also made a specialty. Sapporo boasts an Agricultural College with eleven professors, giving instruction in Agriculture, Botany, Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, Agricultural Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Entomology, and Chinese. The number of graduates averages about 20 yearly.

There is a strong call for teachers in nearly all the Governmental schools. They are not able to give large salaries, but a moderate living is obtainable. Here is a splendid opportunity for Christian workers to do good service for Christ.

Although thus far no particular reference has been made to the education of woman, it must not be inferred that she is neglected. Among no other Asiatic people is she allowed more freedom, or held in greater respect. Their chief mythological deity is a woman, as also have been nine of their sovereigns. In the records of history, poetry, and philosophy, in the examples of fortitude, affliction, and martyrdom, members of the gentler sex rank amongst the most illustrious. The daughters of the higher classes receive their elementary training from private governesses, and about two centuries ago private schools, for the poorer girls, were established throughout the country. After this elementary training comes the study of certain books, constituting the Bunko, or library, specially adapted for the use of Japanese women. Among the various subjects on which it treats are—household lore, rules and examples to