

Christian women. She had invited Mrs. Miki to attend church, but Mr. Miki thought it would be time enough for his wife to go when she was forty years old, and was well up "in the things of this world," such as housewifely and social duties.

Then Mrs. Eudo suggested that Matsuye San, their little girl, go to Sunday-school. She was taken to the church Sunday-school, but in the meantime she had found her way to the little school held in the servants' quarters in our school compound. Three Sundays she attended our Sunday-school, once going to the church Sunday-school as well.

She was very much interested, telling her mother when she went home how she bowed her head on her hands (in prayer), and how she had been praised for such good conduct in so small a child.

On the evening of the third Sunday she took ill and died in the evening of the next day. During her illness, when semi-conscious, she exclaimed "Watakushi wa Ten no Kami san wo ogamse," "Bo wa, ikugo." "Sayonara." "I worship the Heavenly God." "I am going," "Good-bye."

Some of these expressions she repeated more than once. Her mother thinks, too, that she tried to sing one of the hymns she had heard at Sunday-school. Then when the night shadows had closed over the day, little Matsuye San passed away, unconscious.

Her parents were distracted with grief. Their faithful friend, Mrs. Eudo, stayed with them through the night. Towards the dawn of a new day, Mrs. Miki having at last lain down to rest, Mrs. Eudo and the heart-broken mother sat down at the "Kotatsee," Mrs. Eudo trying to comfort her. The "kotatsee" is a substitute for a stove. A square hole, prepared to hold fire, is made in the floor, and over it is placed a raised wooden frame. Over this frame is thrown a heavy quilt, and the Japanese warm themselves by putting their feet under it.

While sitting here Mrs. Miki asked, "Mother, what do you mean by God?" Then followed the glad news of comfort for the sorrowing, words which came as balm to the grief-burdened heart of the mother. She was very much comforted to know that her child would be happy forever, and, going to her husband, she told him to be at peace, that their child was not dead, but had gone to be with God.

For fourteen days after Matsuye San died the mother made a daily visit to her grave, taking with her offerings of incense and food. After that she gave it up, though some continue the custom for forty-nine days.

Shortly after the funeral I saw pasted on the wall a slip of paper, on which was written the child's name, age and death, and on a stand beneath it offerings of rice, tea, carrots and some other vegetable I did not know.

But from the time her little child died Mrs. Miki has been most faithful in attending church services and women's meetings. She is naturally a very diffident woman, and has felt timid when she went to a public place like the theatre, but she does not feel the sa

about going to church. She is very earnest in her desire to study and know the truth. She can read only a very little, but is trying to learn. She has already come to see the uselessness of offerings of food to the dead, and she believes in her old gods no longer. She feels that God took her child from her to lead her to Himself. She is trying to learn of Him, and simply as a little child, she is entering the kingdom of heaven. She is anxious for her husband, too, to be a Christian.

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise," and through one of these little ones of whom Christ said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven," another soul is being led into the sheltering fold of the Good Shepherd; while we are very grateful for the inspiration it gives us in our work among the little ones.

Japan.

E. A. PRESTON.

### TEMPERANCE DIALOGUE FOR THE GIRLS.

- (Fanny) "Girls, don't you think these Temperance folks  
Are making a great fuss?  
What in the world do they expect  
From little folks like us?"
- "We can't make speeches, we've no wealth,  
We're neither wise nor strong,"
- (Edna) "No, but for all that, Teacher says,  
We help the cause along.  
Because we pledge our influence,  
And if we're good and true  
We cannot tell the useful work  
A little child may do."
- (Violet) "Yes, and remember, very soon  
These years that fly so fast,  
With all their chances will be gone,  
Our childhood will be past."  
And we shall then be women grown.
- (Fanny) "Yes, and what fun t'will be  
When we have houses of our own  
To ask our friends to tea."
- Hesitating) But then, for parties we'll want wine—
- (Edna and Violet together, turning to each other)  
"Why no, we wont, will you?"
- (Edna) "A pretty way indeed to show  
The good that we can do!"
- (Fanny) "I always thought it looked so grand  
To see decanters shine  
And sparkle on the sideboard so,  
(Hesitating) But then—there must be wine!"
- (Edna) "Why, that's the meaning of our pledge  
To let the wine alone,  
And I shall keep it while a child  
And when a woman grown."
- (Violet) "And what is more it means to help  
Others to keep it, too,  
So let us pledge ourselves again  
To all that we can do."
- (Edna) "And if to aid this Temperance cause  
The children all begin,  
Who knows, the world may not be long  
In putting down this sin."
- (Violet) "And what a lovely, lovely place  
This earth of ours would be,  
If from this soul-destroying vice  
It could once more be free,