

with the same number as before Christmas—eleven boarders and two daily students. In February one daily student withdrew on account of sickness, and two new ones entered as boarders. The number was the same at the close of the term.

The time to which we have looked forward with hope all the year has at last come—the time of the promotion examinations in the Government schools, when we hoped to have a good number enter from the classes finishing the course of the lower common schools of the province. We have an increase, but not as great as some of the founders sanguinely expected. Five boarders and three daily students have entered, making in all twenty-two, eighteen of whom are boarders.

Kaneko San, the Normal School graduate whom we engaged at Christmas, is an earnest Christian worker, as well as a good teacher. Her coming has done the girls good. They respect her thoroughly, and may well look up to her, as they do, for she is more than an ordinary Japanese woman.

The Sunday services are the same as before Christmas; and, as time goes by, all seem to enjoy more and more the observance of the one day in seven as a day of rest and worship, and a special time for the study of God's Word. Their interest in the study of the Bible continues to increase, and the older students ask many questions that show they are thinking deeply. A while ago I saw that they were in danger of making the mistake of imagining that they must *fully understand* all the deep truths of the Gospel before accepting Christianity. I saw that they needed to be shown that it is not only not necessary, but impossible for us, with our finite minds, to fully comprehend all the great truths taught by Christ, and that though "great is the mystery of godliness," at the same time the Gospel is so simple that even "wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

As they understand the main facts of the Gospel pretty well now, it seemed to me that what is most needed is earnest prayer that the Spirit may convict of sin, convince of the truth, and lead to its acceptance.

The results of the examination showed that some who were at first indifferent, have become thoroughly interested. All the older girls have bought the whole Bible, bound in leather. It was somewhat of a surprise to me when they spoke of doing so, and I doubted at first whether their parents would furnish the money or not.