

From Miss Brackbill.

CHENTU, April 20th, 1896.

Just a card to say we arrived here last Friday, after a four days' overland journey in chairs. An escort of soldiers came out fifteen miles to meet us and, as far as we know, everything seems comparatively quiet in the city. Mr. Hartwell's house is nearly completed. At present we are staying at the place furnished Dr. Hart by the officials on his arrival here.

REPORT OF THE JAPAN WORK OF THE W.M.S.

From January 1st to March 31st, 1896.

TOKYO BRANCH—*Continued from June Monthly Letter.*

Two women have asked for baptism.

The Charity School at Ushigome, taught by one of the Bible Women and supported by a graduate of this school, is progressing satisfactorily. A Sunday School is held in connection with it.

Much of our work lies among those who have accepted Christianity, as many stand in great need of instruction and some have grown cold or indifferent. The distribution of tracts, leaflets and Bibles, and of clothing and food to those who are suffering for lack of them, is a constant and important part of our work. The funds used for the two latter items are received from some of the Japanese Christians connected with the Girls' School.

SHIZUOKA BRANCH.

School.—No new pupils entered after the Christmas vacation; one withdrew at the beginning of the term, leaving an enrollment of twenty. Though our number is small, we are thankful to see an increase in interest in their work and an earnest striving after better things among the girls who are with us. One of the leading educationalists of the city was discussing the three Girls' Schools we have here, and he said "that he thought the girls of Shizuoka Jo Gakko (our school) were best in their womanly character, their culture and deportment, compared with the girls of the other two schools. Something of dignity and grace is noticeable about them." This gentleman said other educationalists of the Province have the same opinion. We have revised our course of study to bring it up to the needs of the times, and have sent out new calendars, hoping to awaken an interest in the minds of the people. We have heard of a half dozen or more pupils who may come in with the new term. Our new building may be an inducement to some. It is slowly nearing completion, and we expect it to be ready for occupation in two or three months.

We graduated a class of five girls in Japanese at the close of the term, but have delayed the public exercises till after moving. One of the five withdrew; the other four continue their English. One, who received a Japanese diploma a few years ago, has now finished her English course. She remains in the school as assistant teacher in Japanese.