

## Report of School and Evangelistic Work Among the Chinese and Japanese Women in British Columbia.

By Miss Morgan.

OUR Home School during the past four months has been much as usual; but seven names have been registered, six Chinese, one being a day pupil, and one Japanese. The girls have made fair progress and are ready for promotion. We have been pleased to note their interest in the daily Bible lesson. The two who came to us a year ago read their English Bible every morning, and while they are timid in answering in our mother tongue, they are generally ready to show their knowledge of the previous lesson in Chinese. Not long ago one of these two went to Chinatown with me on Sunday afternoon, and I was delighted with her effort to explain the lesson to the women.

The outside work was not in any way disturbed by our recent rescue case, except that two houses are closed to me, but as my visits to these places were only occasional, it has not made much difference.

Since September, meetings have been held at six homes; twenty-nine women and six girls have been reached in this way. Owing to sickness in three families, Sunday services have been very much interrupted. Forty-three meetings have been held during the term. One woman left for China; one, who left for her native land with her husband and children last winter, died there in September. Two new houses have been found; the four previously reported as closed to me are still closed. One hundred and eighty visits were made during the past three months.

Two weeks ago, in company with Rev. Mr. Winchester and his interpreter, we spent three hours at the customs in a vain effort to rescue two young girls who were claimed as the wives of a Chinaman. Their false statements were a repetition of what has happened at least four times during the past four years. Our hearts sicken when we realize how helpless we are to act on such occasions. In this case we feel that the end is not yet. The two young girls are to enter a "house" in the near future, we are informed, and up to date are willing victims. When we returned from the customs without them, Eva comforted us by saying that after a while the girls would be glad to come to the "home" just as the last two were. We are constantly asking ourselves if there is anything else we can do, or if others could succeed where we so often are disappointed.

Mr. Winchester's withdrawal from the Chinese work is deeply regretted, not only by his fellow-workers, but by all who were privileged to know him. We cannot speak too highly of his kindness to us. He has been so closely associated with this work ever since I came—four and a half years ago—that I have felt as though he really belonged to us, and I rather dread the thought of facing a court trial or rescue case without his counsel and help.

Miss Sugizaki has been in Vancouver since the end of September. She reports having found thirty-four new women, and has held meetings among them as often as possible. Several women are interested in the Bible and a number have attended Sunday services.

There are about eight married Japanese women in Victoria whom I visit. Pray that with the dawn of the new century our hearts may be baptized afresh with courage and hope; and may we ever remember that "as thy days so shall thy strength be."

Miss Morgan writes subsequently, "The day after our reports were written little Susie died. She was the daughter of Choy Lin, a sister of Edith and Emira. Her full name was Susannah Wesley Chu. She has been in the hospital most of the time since May. Thinking a Chinese doctor could help her, they brought her to her father's home three weeks before she died. The poor, weary, diseased little body found rest on Saturday, December 29th. She said she had no fear of death as she loved Jesus, and we could not grieve over her, for we felt it was a happy release. The Reaper has been busy among our girls since I came. This is the fourth death among our Christians."

January 5th.—"We appreciate very much the kind words of greeting from the Board, and deeply desire to be worthy of your trust. It has been a source of great comfort that some of our ladies from the East were able to visit our field of labor last summer; their loving words of encouragement have been a stimulus to us."

### CHINESE GIRLS' HOME, VICTORIA, B.C.

From Mrs. Snyder.

I have been much comforted by the sentiment expressed by one of our sisters in Japan as to the foundation work being necessary, though it seemed lost, for we have been depressed so often by the thought that we were making no advance.

The family still consists of the five Chinese girls: Bessie, Eva, Bell, Jean and Dorothy. The last of November, O Chio, a Japanese woman who had been with us in the summer, returned and stayed with us one week, waiting for a boat going south. Her husband made his home at the Japanese Mission while here and, of course, paid for her board. They both were very thankful for our care of her.

There have been days when we felt that our girls were making as good progress as English girls could, and they certainly *work* well when I am with them; but there are times when we doubt everything, even our own fitness for the work, for they do not seem to have grasped the first thought of forbearance or self-control.

One occasion of trouble has been that men have been asking for wives and, of course, the girls wish to be married, but the proposals have not come from Christian men, and as we make careful inquiries, the girls feel that we are holding them too closely.

The Mission Band held an open meeting, to which all the Chinese women were specially invited. Only five outside women and three children came. One can never depend on these people accepting an invitation; however, as the ladies of the Advisory Committee were present, we spent a very pleasant time.

Last month I asked Mr. Chan to give the girls some help in Chinese, and he consented to come or send some one once a week to give an hour's lesson, but they have been very irregular in their visits; however, we try to gain all we can of the language.

We were very much disappointed the day we were at the customs, and we realize what a very slippery, elastic affair the law is. Oh, how we wish for wisdom and a better knowledge of Chinese; but we are hoping that very soon the girls themselves will send for us to help them. Pray for us that we may have patience and wisdom in our work.

I find I have forgotten to mention the visit of Dr. and Mrs. Brecken in September, which was a great pleasure to us and also a great encouragement, because I wish very much that our friends should see the work as it is; the dark as well as the bright side, and judge whether it is wise to carry it on.

## Suggested Programme—May, 1901.

Subject for Prayer and Study:

"The Stranger within Our Gates."

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| I. Opening Exercises.                                       | { Doxology.<br>Read Subjects for Prayer and Study.<br>Hymn.<br>Scripture Lesson.<br>Prayer. |
| II. Regular Business.                                       |   |
| III. Hymn.  |   |
| IV. The Watch Tower.  |   |
| V. Readings. Subject, "The Stranger within Our Gates."*     |   |
| VI. Awakenings and Beginnings in the Nineteenth Century.†   |   |
| Five Minutes' Address. Subject, "The Life of William Case." |   |
| VII. Hymn. Prayer.  |   |

\* See Leaflet. "The Stranger within Our Gates." Price 4 cents.

† For data, see "The Life of William Case." Price 5 cents. We suggest that this address be given by the Watchman for our Indian Missions. This life, so rich in incident of the early days of Canada, should be of especial interest to us.

The above may be ordered from Room 20 and the Depots. For addresses, see foot of Catalogue. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

## Notes from Room 20 and the Depots.

The following gratifying note concerning the Flag Exercise has been received at Room 20:

OIL CITY.—"The 'Flag Exercise,' prepared and published at Room 20, has been successfully given by the Junior League of this place. The children acquitted themselves admirably, both in song and recitation, and we know of nothing that could arouse a deeper missionary spirit than this 'Exercise.' Parents and friends were not only delighted but deeply moved to see the boys and girls, so early in life, falling in line with this great missionary movement."

**THE FLAG  
EXERCISE.**