

The Rev. Malcolm Scott, of Fort Vermilion, is coming east this summer and hopes to visit some of the W. A. Branches.

JAPAN.

Miss Jennie Smith, our Lady Medical Missionary at Nagano, Japan, writes as follows. "I have thought that an account of the Evangelistic work my girls have been doing in the country lately, might interest the W. A., so am sending you these particulars. There are two country villages or small towns, each about eighteen or twenty miles from Nagano, where Mr. Waller has Catechists stationed, and where he visits every month. The prospects for Christian work in each of these places is very encouraging, the people being very simple and friendly, or at least, not opposed to Christianity. Before I came to Nagano, I had always thought that with so many women workers, we should be able to go out into the small towns to teach the heathen. Before Christmas Miyaki O Keku San went out to Nakano for ten days, and with the help of the Catechist, she made the acquaintance of several women and did a good deal of visiting among them. While there she found out that they were very anxious to learn knitting and sewing, and as they heard about the Nursing School, they were much interested in it and wished to be taught bandaging, etc. About two weeks ago we sent her out again with O Nami San. Every morning at about ten o'clock they conduct a knitting class, and when the women are busy working, one or the other tells a Bible story. In the evening O Nami San has practical talks on sick-nursing, and afterwards Miyaki San makes an address and tells them of Christ and how much we women, especially, owe to Him. They say many appear to be deeply impressed with the gospel truths. As the Catechist resides in the village we hope that this work may be carried on and the people induced to attend the Church Services in the Kogisho or Mission House. O Toshi San and O Sada San have been out at Juari Yama, the other country station. Their work is carried on in the same way as at Nakano and the reports are even more encouraging. I send you a copy of one of the girls' letters, just as they were written in the quaint English that Japanese, not perfectly familiar with our language, so often use. One feels so glad and thankful that Japanese women are capable of doing this work among their own people, and that they are so earnest in spreading the good news among those who have not had the privileges that they have enjoyed themselves. When I hear my girls address a meeting and see how they can reach the hearts of the people as no foreigner can, I feel so very incompetent and helpless. The Japanese language is so difficult that one must study it carefully for years before one can address meetings fluently. Of course, in training the Japanese women to teach and speak, one is doing the best work for the people, for it is the aim of all Missionaries to make the Japanese Church independent as soon as possible.