

JAPAN.

One of our missionaries, in a private letter, tells of her experiences in travelling to her station as follows:

"I never heard Christianity so much talked about as we did on this trip. I believe the Buddhists have done a good work for us in the lecture meetings they held last year through the Ken (province). They called people's attention to Christianity, and broke up the indifference that made the work so hard before. The mistress of the hotel at which we stopped for lunch, had been very attentive to us, and on leaving I gave her a Testament which I had with me. I saw her husband take it and begin to examine it, so while we were putting on our shoes I kept my ears turned in his direction. He soon discovered what it was and exclaimed, 'This is a Christian book,' and added in most emphatic tones to the guests who had come out to see us off, 'Christianity is a very good thing.' Our basha (stage) was not ready, so I moved over to where they were sitting and asked him if he understood Christianity. He said he did not know anything special about it until a few weeks ago. He had been to Yokohama on business. A friend whom he met there was studying Christianity and had told him a great deal about it. He was very glad, he said, to have a book about it. I told him the teachings of Christ were all written in the book, and that the marked places were the most important points and also easy to understand. The other men had got hold of the book by this time and at once began looking up the marked places. He told them that it was all in that book and people read it themselves, and then they went to church and heard it explained, and when they believed they changed inside and then they received baptism. He said he did not know much about it, but everything his friend told him was good. I did wish to be able to talk better, but anyway I left God's own word with them, and perhaps words of mine were not needed.

"Almost the first thing the minister said to me on arriving was that the work in the province is growing more hopeful.