

have faithfully instructed her in Bible truths. We find that our graduates give no uncertain sound; they teach the pure word, and God's blessing rests upon their teaching.

Meetings have been held regularly twice a month in six towns, with an average attendance of 32, 49 names being enrolled. At the five other towns, with the exception of one, the Bible-women have not yet been able to start regular meetings, but faithful house-to-house visitation has been carried on. During the past six months the three Bible-women have made 1,091 visits, and have gained access into 35 new houses. The three Sunday Schools, under the superintendence of pupils from the girls' school, have had an average attendance of 120, the children's meeting at Shimada averaged 70, and that at Kakegawa 11. The girls have also begun to visit at the homes of Christians and non-Christians. A weekly meeting for Bible study among women of the higher class has been started in the school, but as yet the attendance is rather small.

The Christmas season this year was specially bright and happy. The Buddhists have several religious festivals during the year, and we have sometimes feared that the Christmas season might come to have no greater meaning to the Japanese Christians than one of their old festivals, but this year there seemed to be more of the true Christmas feeling among them than ever before. All our Sunday Schools met in the church in the afternoon, and never had we a more successful gathering. The children's singing was particularly good, owing to the careful training the girls are able to give them. In the evening the church was filled with grown people, when Mr. Hiraiwa gave an address on the life of Christ.

The Christmas tree at Hirono was the first the children had ever seen; the rooms were well filled with men, women and children, and the order was remarkably good. The programme was begun with a short earnest talk on Christmas, by Hayama san. The leading man of the village, a Christian doctor, gave a good gospel address. The entire programme was kept strictly to the Christmas text, not degenerating in the least into anything common.

Thus the work goes on slowly, but we believe surely, leaving the result with Him who alone can give the increase.