

ance, died about three weeks ago, so there was no one to look after the child. The other girl was too giddy to learn much, and her grandmother who accompanied her could not learn more than a few characters; however, she said she understood a great deal more. One young woman had to study under difficulties; indeed, that was the case with three out of the five, as they had two and three children to look after; but it was simply wonderful how they persevered and succeeded in learning quite a part of the catechism. From 9.30 till almost twelve we worked and then at two o'clock we met again. The afternoon session began with singing, then a Bible lesson and several prayers. When this was over Mrs. McClure came in to help to teach until 5 or 5.30. After tea, Mrs. Wu and I went over to the west room for an hour's singing with them, and when several of the women themselves had offered up prayer we separated for the night. It meant hard work for us, as well as the women, but we trust that it will prove a blessing in the different homes from which the women came.

We are a small company at present, only four; as Dr. Dow left on Tuesday for Chung-tô-fu, and will probably be gone for a month or six weeks. Mr. Goforth has been ill—first with pleurisy and afterwards with malaria, but from latest accounts I believe he was a little better. All here are well. Baby McClure is just a darling little thing, so bright and jolly, and will go to anybody, either Chinese or foreigner. Dr. Malcolm is alone in Hsin-shen just now, as Messrs. Slimmon and Mitchell are away, and have been for a month, touring in South Honan. The MacLennans are in Japan. Mr. Grant had a letter to-day and they were going on to Kanazawa by rail very soon after writing. The baby, he writes, is well and lively. Mrs. MacLennan, too, is stronger, but her trouble still continues. We do hope and pray that the change may completely restore her to health again.

*August 14.*—We have been having very hot weather for weeks past, and until this week very little rain. One day the thermometer registered 106 degrees in the shade, and for a good many days it stood at 104 or 102 degrees. During that hottest spell sickness and death entered our ranks and carried off the fairest and sweetest of the Honan flock, for she was the youngest. Little Marjorie McClure took ill on Thursday, July 23rd, and died on Wednesday, August 5th, of meningitis. From the first she was a very sick child and suffered intensely until she became unconscious, several days before the end. She was such a bright, laughing baby, and would go to anyone, either native or foreigner, but the Lord had need of her and