



JAPANESE ORPHANS.

WONDER which one of the faces in the group of Orphanage children presented here will be of most interest to the boys and girls who read the Palm Branch? To us who have known them as they have been taken one by one into the Home during the past four years, each one has a special interest and each face suggests its own history, but to those who see them for the first time sitting so solemnly in straight rows in the picture, they will perhaps look "all alike" as several people have said to me on looking at the photograph. To a Japanese child, having a photograph taken is a very serious and important affair, and they invariably settle their countenances into the utmost gravity, so that it is seldom that one gets a natural picture unless taken as a snap shot. They are not always as grave as they look here however, but are as bright and happy a set of children as you will find in Japan, or America either, I might say



But I have promised to introduce them to the Palm

Branch readers today, so let me begin with the Matron, Okumura San, whom you will notice at once, standing in the middle of the row at the back. We consider ourselves especially blessed in having such a good mother for our large family, for Okumura San is really like a mother to them all. She is a Christian woman, well educated and refined in manners, but was left a widow a number of years ago and became very poor so that she was obliged to become a servant in order to support even her two boys after giving away her two little girls. The boys whom you see sitting one at either end of the same row are her sons, now fifteen and seven teen years of age, are fine, manly boys who have become Christians and been baptised, and are quite the elder brothers of our family. The eldest is no longer in the Orphanage, having successfully passed the entrance examinations to the Normal School where he will be supported by the Government during his three years course, returning part of the amount after he becomes a teacher. He thought at one time he would like to become a minister, but being rather slow of speech