

Missionary.

News From the Field

At Shingo, Japan, one of Mr. Prudham's preaching places in the Toyama District, an influential citizen wants to open up a night school in which instruction in ethics, home life, public duties, etc., will be given. At Takakoa, another preaching place in this same district, where service is held once a month, great interest is being taken in Christianity. The students of the middle school are being instructed. One came all the way to Toyama one Sunday to talk with Mr. Prudham about Christianity. Once a month Mr. Prudham and the Japanese pastor associated with him meet with the young evangelists of the district for a week of study, the subjects being English Bible, English literature and theology.

At Bella Coola, B.C., a new church is being built. The labor will be done by the Indians. The timbers were gotten out during the winter. The people are taking a deep interest in temperance work and Dr. Spencer hopes for an improvement in all directions among his people.

Writing of the New Year celebrations in China Dr. Service says:

"Everybody expects 'a good time' on New Year's Day—great and small, rich and poor, old and young, male and female, strong and weak. Even the sick seem to have no time to think of or to care for their ailments, nor to consult physicians. Our hospital is deserted for the time. Even the beggars expect to be well treated on New Year's Day. On the forenoon of that day on one of the busiest streets I saw four of the dirtiest and most wretched of beggar boys lying curled up in the sun, asleep. An older missionary said that, owing to the customary generosity of the season, they had just had a good meal, the only one of the year, possibly, and had eaten so bountifully that they had laid down to sleep, like some others of the animal kind.

"Every Chinese is in debt, of course. He would not be a Chinese if he were not. The last few days of the old year are employed in searching out and running down the debtors, which means that practically every adult male Chinese at least is being sought for. Indeed, at this season the national game is 'hide and seek.' Of course, every debtor tries to keep out of the way of his creditors, while at the same time he is hunting down those who owe him. But as soon as the New Year arrives every man feels secure for another year and congratulates himself if he has been shrewd enough to elude his creditors.

"The matter of being in debt is one that sometimes affects us foreigners, a striking illustration of which we have just had. Our cook took to himself a wife a few months ago. That event means, for most Chinese, a debt of some degree. Well, our cook is in debt, he says, to the extent of 12,000 cash. A few nights ago, by adroit indirection and circumlocution, which only an Oriental can command, he finally came to the point of suggesting that I lend him that amount, as his soul was very sorrowful. I knew, of course, it was because his creditors were hounding him. I refused to do so again. On the last evening of the old year he came and said 'perhaps' I was convinced he did not really want to leave. I said, 'Well, please yourself.' I think he went away more sorrowful than ever. From what we have since

heard we think he took this plan to get an increase of wages, thinking, of course, that we would not let him go. We shall let him wait awhile. He will probably come back soon. Meanwhile, he is without employment and wages, so that his last state is worse than the first. However, we are ourselves inconvenienced for the time."

Mr. and Mrs. Jolliffe write hopefully of their work in Yulin Hsien, China. One evening as Mr. Jolliffe was returning from a walk, two policemen (for Yulin Hsien has recently taken on a force of about fifty policemen) stopped him and asked to have a little conversation regarding the doctrine. Mr. Jolliffe asked them to go home with him and Dr. Smith would help them. They willingly went and their chief point of enquiry was could they be believers in Christ if they had to be on duty on the Sabbath. They have attended the services and have put down their names as enquirers. Would that so many at home would be so conscientious regarding the Sabbath.

In travelling from Kiating to Yulin Hsien at the first resting place Mr. Jolliffe was very indignant to find that he had to chase his chair carriers out of an opium den before they could be started

this way no one misses a point I want to make. The class is held just before the morning service. A valuable feature of the work is that over half the men remain to preaching service." Mr. and Mrs. Hennigar are doing good work among the students with whom they come in contact. Meeting with them socially is proving to be a means of winning them to higher ideas of life, for there is said to be actually no place of clean entertainment in the city of Tokyo outside of what the churches are trying to provide.

Our missionaries, Rev. F. W. and Mrs. Hardy, at Skidegate, Queen Charlotte Islands, who are supported by the Leagues of the Palmerston District, receive their mail but once a month. Mr. Hardy says the amount of mail matter received is surprising till one remembers that all the white residents are subscribers to a good many papers and magazines and that these, together with parcels, letters, catalogues and almanacs, have been accumulating for a month.

The bulk of the mail for the Indians consists of mail orders that have been filled at the stores of our great cities. A catalogue is a piece of literature every Indian can rejoice in, and so diligently it is studied that a sarcastic trader has named it the "Skidegate Prayer Book." In spite, however, of the violation of the sound maxim, "Spend where you earn," the mail order system has brought to our people home comforts, neat clothing and a growing ambition and incentive toward general self improvement. This is especially noticeable among the young men. They have for the most part excellent taste in matters of dress and their conduct is far superior to whites of equal education. For example, white men have been guilty of the rudeness of keeping their hats on and smoking when in the mission room and fall sometimes to even say "thank you" for medicine received. The Indians are invariably more courteous.

Rev. R. B. Steinhauer, White Fish Lake, Alta., who is supported by the Orangeville District, in answer to the question, "Are the Indians interested in the service?" which he received in a letter from one of his Epworth Leaguers, writes: "I do not think you could find a more attentive, reverential and orderly congregation in your own home circuit than those at White Fish and Good Fish Lake appointments, and if I may be allowed to say, we have better congregational singing in all our mission stations than you have in most of your white ones." He writes further: "We have discouragements in our work which are constantly caused by our foreign element. Our people rub up against many things that are too strong for them. They are not enough intellectually and morally enlightened to weigh matters for themselves, though I can safely say our members are faithful and true, generally speaking. Many of the Indians are addicted to the use of strong drink, but these are not members of the church, I am thankful to say."

Mr. Steinhauer finishes his letter by requesting the prayers of the young people.

At Nagano, Japan, the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist Churches united in special evangelistic services, having four services in each of the churches. The attendance steadily increased until, at last, the Methodist Church, the largest of the three, was well filled and the audiences always gave the best of attention. Fifteen gave in their names as having decided to follow Christ. Among them was one whose first knowledge of Christianity was from Rev. J. G. Dunlop,



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again on their journey, but his indignation gave place to sorrow when at almost every stop men had to be gathered together from the opium dens. Mr. Jolliffe remarks that the awfulness of the opium habit seems to grow upon them as they realize how widespread is the desolation and ruin caused by opium in China, not only to the destruction of the individual but of a nation.

Rev. E. C. Hennigar, who is supported by their first Epworth Leagues of the New Brunswick Conference, writes from Tokyo, Japan: "I must tell you something of the work I am trying to do along with my language study. First, my Sunday morning Bible class in Ushikome. We have fifty-four enrolled with an attendance of from twenty to twenty-four. These men are all teachers or students, for the most part university students or graduates. About fifteen are very regular in their attendance and are manifesting a marked interest in our study. To many of them this class is their first experience in attending any Christian service. All understand some English, but scarcely enough to understand clearly the Bible lesson given wholly in English, so I have my lesson interpreted in part and can be sure in