

weeks I have suffered very much from muscular rheumatism in my neck, caused, I expect, by lying in such damp quarters, but now that we have a house where we can get the sun, I hope soon to be all right. The nurse that Mr. Kennedy got last autumn, from Miss Smith, is to be married next month to Dr. Shiba of the Nagano Mission, and so they will have her back there again. My teacher and helper, Schimina San, is of great use to us, but the worst of it, is always being bothered to get married, the Japanese can't understand a woman that is not married. The report spread about me here is that I am a very rich widow. There is a Japanese Dentist here, who spent several years in California, he proposed to Schimina San, but she told him she did not care for him, a most unusual thing in Japanese women, for they never have anything to say in these matters, all being arranged by the parents, however I am glad to say that my helper has a mind of her own. This same dentist married the other day a girl he never saw till the wedding day, I am told he had not even seen her photograph, but his father said he must marry, and so arranged the whole matter. But I cannot hope to keep Schimina San all the time I am in Japan, there is an engineer whom she has promised to marry on certain conditions, he is to study Christianity, and if he becomes a Church Christian she will become engaged to him, and then he is to be on probation for a year, and if he prove worthy she will marry him. If you only knew what a step in advance this is for a Japanese woman, why most of them are neither body nor soul their own, they are ruled from their birth to their death by either father, husband, brother or son.

L. PATERSON.

Miss Mulvaney, Sec. C.E.Z.M.S., writes, "I am thankful to say Miss Rose is better, but not yet well enough to enter upon any business matters, so we must wait to hear from her all about her visit, but we cannot speak too gratefully of all the kindness that was shown to her in her illness."

Rev. E. H. Bassing of Shoal River, writes. Our new Church was opened for Divine Service on Advent Sunday. That was a day of real thankfulness to all of us, when for the first time we were able to offer up our praises and prayers in a building set apart entirely for the glory of our Heavenly Father. There is still a little work to be done on the outside of the building, which will be finished, I hope, very soon. There is still \$60 required, for which I am personally responsible, to pay off the debt on the Church, which I hope will be cleared very soon. Our most pressing need now is a bell for the Church, which will, I expect, cost about \$70 before it reaches here; towards the bell I have in hand \$14, given by our people in various ways. This shows that they try to do what they can. This week the men have been making a fence of peeled pine for the Church and graveyard, this is purely voluntary work.