

Although the Committee did not feel themselves at liberty to commit the Church absolutely to this new movement, they felt, nevertheless, that the Secretary would be justified in saying that the Committee were favorably disposed toward the proposals which had been made, and earnestly hoped that by the time the young men had finished the course of study in which they were engaged, the way would be fully opened for their employment as missionaries of our Church.

An appropriate resolution in connection with the lamented death of the Rev. John A. Williams, D.D., General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, was ordered to be drafted and engrossed on the Minutes.

NOTES FROM JAPAN.

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

MY last "note" left us at Nagoya. On June 29 we took train at 12.46 for Hamamatsu. As this was the head of one of our missions, the first I had visited outside of Tokyo, the occasion was looked forward to with a good deal of interest. At the station we were met by the native pastor, Bro. Hasimoto, and most of his members; also by Bro. Cassidy, of Shidzuoka. Subsequently we were joined by Bro. Hiraiwa, who had come out from Tokyo to render service as interpreter. Our reception by the people was very cordial. They first escorted us to a native hotel, where we were to sleep for the night, and afterwards to another hotel or restaurant, where a native feast had been prepared. We assembled in an upper room, where I spoke a few words in response to the kind and courteous greetings of the people. We then passed into another room, where the feast was spread. All the dishes were native in contents and cookery, and were excellent of their kind, but a foreigner has to cultivate a taste for most of them. After the feast we went to a theatre, which had been hired for the occasion, and found it crowded to the doors. The building in which we assembled was of the most primitive description, and this seems to be characteristic of theatres all over Japan. But this did not prevent us from having a very interesting meeting. Mr. Hiraiwa was the first speaker, and was followed by Dr. Cochran, who gave a discourse in Japanese on "The Treasure and the Pearl." Before the speaking began a long "notice paper" was hung up, having the theme of each discourse written in large Chinese characters, so that they could be read by all the people. I found my own theme, as put on the paper, was "The Soul of the Nation," which high-sounding title gave me a chance to say many things about the changes going on in the empire, and the importance of distinguishing between the good and the evil from foreign nations. Also the imperative need of a true religion

as the real soul of the nation. The people listened with every appearance of close attention, and I trust the bread thus cast upon the waters will be found after many days.

On the following morning, many of the church members accompanied us to the station to say good-bye. At Kassegawa station we were met by a deputation from the native church, and proceeded to the village. The members assembled in the usual preaching place a part of the preacher's house, and I delivered an address, Mr. Hiraiwa interpreting. It was a good opportunity to exhort them to reverence God's Word and day; to cultivate religion in the home and in daily life; to help in spreading the Gospel, and to co-operate with their pastor in his work. Mr. Cassidy followed with a brief address, after which we got some refreshment at a native restaurant, and then proceeded by rail to Fujieda, a village extending for a considerable distance along the Tokaido, or Imperial Highway. There is a neat little frame church in this village, and in the evening it was packed to the utmost, while a great many stood outside, around open doors and windows. My theme on this occasion was, "What is the best thing for Japan?" Mr. Hiraiwa also delivered a very earnest address. No one could visit these three towns of which I have spoken, and inquire into the condition of the native churches, without feeling that a good work has been accomplished, and that there is a bright promise for the future.

During the progress of the meeting a telegram was received from Shidzuoka, saying that a meeting in one of the public schools, where I was to give an address, would be held at seven o'clock the next morning. This made it necessary to reach Shidzuoka that night, and as there was no train till next day, our only resource was the jinrikisha. After a good deal of bargaining, four jinrikishas were obtained, and our party, consisting of Bros. Cassidy, Hiraiwa, Kobayashi and self, got away at 10.30 p.m., and before 1 a.m., we were at Shidzuoka, having covered the distance of over twelve miles in less than two and a half hours, although part of the road was very hilly, and progress slow. The Tokaido, over which we travelled, is a highway varying from ten to twenty feet wide, most of it bordered by rows of pine trees, and it winds along around hills and through valleys in a very picturesque fashion. Nearly all the villages passed were in total darkness, and the only light we had was from the paper lanterns carried by the jinrikisha men. In many places the hills were steep and densely wooded, and the darkness intense. At one part of the route the men could no longer pull us up the steep grades, and we climbed on foot for a mile or so, ending by a walk through a