

"THIS IS THE VICTORY



Office
EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

French-Canadian Missions; Papal Countries.

JAPAN.

Report for Term ending December 31st, 1895.

TOKYO BRANCH.

School.—During the term we have not been left without blessings. Two of our students have asked for baptism, and two have become Bible-women—one in Ushigome and one among the poor in Azabu.

At our Alumni gathering more than sixty of the former students and teachers spent the afternoon with us. One of the most beautiful features of the gathering was the number of babies brought by their proud young mothers—little ones to be trained for the Master by those who themselves were brought to Christ in this school, and to whom we hope to make these semi-annual gatherings times of spiritual refreshing.

There have been fifty-seven pupils enrolled—eight daily

and forty-nine boarding students. Four graduated at Christmas; as usual, all are Christians and Sunday School teachers. There are twenty-six supported girls.

Our Wednesday meeting, class-meetings, Sunday School Normal class and King's Daughters' meetings have necessarily been left almost entirely in the hands of the girls themselves. This necessity, with the lack of time for preparation of Bible lessons, for visiting and letter-writing to former students, has been a real trouble, but the girls have bravely tried to help each other, and to wait patiently for brighter days. Miss Wigle's arrival and Miss Blackmore's return have greatly cheered us all.

In our time of need friends, teachers, pupils and servants gathered round us with counsel, sympathy and service; nevertheless we would have failed had it not been for Him who has been our Counsellor, Guide and Friend, a very present help in every time of need. The Orphanage continues as before.

Evangelistic. — Since October 1st, seven Bible-women have been at work. Meetings are now held in Azabu, Atagoshita, Kakigaracho, Negishi, Kobikicho, Ushigome and Shitaya districts. These are taught by Miss Belton. The work among the poor in Azabu District has been under the care of Mrs. Kuroyanagi and Miss Nakayama, one of the students of the school.

Since July, 1,623 homes have been visited, and 1,930 persons talked with; of these 843 were non-Christians, and 115 heard the Gospel for the first time. Because of the cholera in the city, it was later than usual before work could be resumed this year, but since October 1st, 72 meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 6.5. Three women have asked for baptism.

At Ushigome a charity school has been organized, all the expenses of which are being met by the contributions of one of the graduates of the Girls' School. The average attendance is 7.

The workers' monthly meeting and the Bible-women's meetings for instruction in the Scriptures are helpful and encouraging. The general outlook of the work has not been very encouraging, but lately a slight increase in attendance has been noticeable.

SHIZUOKA.

School.—The school and evangelistic work are so closely interwoven in all but the daily routine that it is hard to make a separate report. During the past term three new pupils have taken the places of three who withdrew after the summer vacation, thus keeping our number up to 21, the enrolment of last term. Most of the girls are helped more or less by the Society, and all are quite satisfactory. One whom we have helped a little for nearly two years has become self-supporting, her family paying arrears.

We have no baptisms to report among the girls, but I am happy to inform you that one of our former graduates, who has kept on steadily attending the Saturday morning Bible class and assisting in Sunday School work, has at last got the consent of her family to be baptized, and since school closed we have had the joy of seeing the outward form, which seals her adoption into the family of God, administered. After years of waiting her heart's desire is accomplished, and I believe a more earnest, truer little Christian would be hard to find.

A Christmas tree, kept as a surprise, made the last evening with the girls a very enjoyable one. The singing of Christmas hymns, while watching the burning of the candles, imparted a decided Christmas feeling to the entertainment, which was more like *home* than I have experienced since leaving the home land.

Evangelistic.—In looking back over the term's work we have much reason to feel encouraged. Seven women have received baptism and seven more are preparing for it. One of the women, who was baptized last month, first heard the gospel story through attending the little Sunday School at Hirono, under the superintendence of Hayama san, one of the graduates of our school. This woman and her mother lived near the preaching place, followed the children into Sunday School, became interested, and afterwards attended the preaching services and women's meetings. Another woman was baptized in Shimada, where we have work among the children. For nearly two years the girls from our school, who hold a fortnightly children's meeting, have gone to visit this woman at the close of each meeting and

have faithfully instructed her in Bible truths. We find that our graduates give no uncertain sound; they teach the pure word, and God's blessing rests upon their teaching.

Meetings have been held regularly twice a month in six towns, with an average attendance of 32, 49 names being enrolled. At the five other towns, with the exception of one, the Bible-women have not yet been able to start regular meetings, but faithful house-to-house visitation has been carried on. During the past six months the three Bible-women have made 1,091 visits, and have gained access into 35 new houses. The three Sunday Schools, under the superintendence of pupils from the girls' school, have had an average attendance of 120, the children's meeting at Shimada averaged 70, and that at Kakegawa 11. The girls have also begun to visit at the homes of Christians and non-Christians. A weekly meeting for Bible study among women of the higher class has been started in the school, but as yet the attendance is rather small.

The Christmas season this year was specially bright and happy. The Buddhists have several religious festivals during the year, and we have sometimes feared that the Christmas season might come to have no greater meaning to the Japanese Christians than one of their old festivals, but this year there seemed to be more of the true Christmas feeling among them than ever before. All our Sunday Schools met in the church in the afternoon, and never had we a more successful gathering. The children's singing was particularly good, owing to the careful training the girls are able to give them. In the evening the church was filled with grown people, when Mr. Hiraiwa gave an address on the life of Christ.

The Christmas tree at Hirono was the first the children had ever seen; the rooms were well filled with men, women and children, and the order was remarkably good. The programme was begun with a short earnest talk on Christmas, by Hayama san. The leading man of the village, a Christian doctor, gave a good gospel address. The entire programme was kept strictly to the Christmas text, not degenerating in the least into anything common.

Thus the work goes on slowly, but we believe surely, leaving the result with Him who alone can give the increase.

KOFU.

School.—We have had several withdrawals through the term, our present number being 32. One graduate of last spring remained in the school an extra term for music, English and some special Japanese subjects. The term opened with four new teachers on the staff, all being graduates of other mission schools. These, with our other teachers, have done good work. The girls have been diligent, doing exceptionally well in their studies, giving us an unusually large number of honor pupils, who have taken 85 per cent. in both English and Japanese.

The King's Daughters' Society has increased in number during the term. The members are now taking care of a little orphan girl, whose father, a former teacher of our school, died last spring, being converted shortly before his death. This little girl during her father's life, was a pupil of the school, but was a very backward child. We have received her now, not as a regular pupil, but with the hope of teaching her to sew, or training her in some way by which she can earn her own living. The King's Daughters pay her boarding expenses.

On the Emperor's birthday we had a reunion of former pupils, when an alumni association was fully organized. We hope it may be the means of doing much good. Mr. Shinkai, the owner of the school, is President.

The intelligent questions that are asked by the girls with reference to the daily Bible lessons, or in our class of new students, which meets on Sunday afternoons, show that they think, and to some purpose.

Three of our supported girls, daughters of Christians, who entered school last spring, have been received on trial for baptism.

Evangelistic.—Again this term we have had interruptions in the work. Most of it outside of Kofu is among farmers, and during the month of November they are so busy with the harvest that we are compelled, to a certain extent, to "rest on our oars." Then towards the close of the year, both in the city and outside, people are so busy with accounts, cleaning house and other preparations for the new year, that there seems to be little opportunity for sowing the Word.

Miss Cartmell has charge of the women's meeting in Kofu church, and visits all through the city. She goes every two weeks to a largely attended meeting in the country. Naito san, one of our own Yamanashi workers, has charge of several country meetings and a Sunday School in the city. Yamanaka san, a graduate of the Azabu School, who has been with us nearly three years, teaches a little in the school, but devotes herself largely to evangelistic work. Both in school and out we find her a most valuable worker. She has also charge of a large Sunday School in Kofu. Mrs. Wada, our Kofu Bible-woman, visits in the homes of the Kofu women. She has little education and is of humble position, but she is a good woman, shrewd and well fitted for her work in the homes of the common people.

We report 48 meetings, average attendance 10; children's meetings 10, average attendance 13; visits made, Christian, 361, non-Christian 393, total 754; new homes entered 83. We have had 7 Sunday Schools in operation during the term; 92 sessions were held, with an average attendance of 26. Every Saturday a Normal class is held to prepare the lesson for Sunday. We are finding our way to the homes of some of the pupils, and already results are seen in the improved conduct of some of the children.

On the 21st of December we held a Christmas gathering of these schools in our girls' school. It was most successful; over 200 children were present; the programme was well carried out by the members of the different schools. We had a small Christmas tree, and the little ones went home happy, each bearing a bag of cake and a small gift. Many of these children come from very poor homes, and are both ill-clad and dirty.

KANAZAWA.

The report of our Kanazawa work must necessarily be a brief one this quarter, various causes combining to make it a very broken period;—first, the prevalence of cholera, then early and deep snows, and the illness of one of our Bible-women, so that the number of visits made since summer has been small—160 in all. The new year festivities are making another break now, but we hope soon to resume the regular work.

The quarter has not been without encouragement, for our two weekly meetings have had a good attendance, averaging 7 and 11 respectively, and 3 of the women have, to our great joy, asked for and received baptism.

The Daijime poor school is in a more prosperous condition than last year, having now plenty of work from the match factory, and the Sunday School and Wednesday meeting having an attendance of about 40. At the Kawakami school we have had reverses during this quarter, reducing the number of girls in the embroidery department to six regular workers, but these six are very faithful and constant in their attendance at Sunday and night school, and we have heard of some new ones who wish to come in after the holidays. The envelope department has 10 boys, all of whom are pupils of the night school, which is very satisfactory this year, having a steady attendance of about 18. The "Mothers' Meeting"—we have been able to hold but one this fall—was largely attended, there being upwards of 50 persons present, about half of whom were women. We expect to hold this meeting regularly each month hereafter. The teacher whom we secured for the embroidery department in November is giving good satisfaction, and we trust the outlook for the school will be brighter before the end of the coming quarter.

Respectfully submitted,

MINNIE A. ROBERTSON,

Cer. Sec. of Japan Council of W.M.S.

INDIAN WORK.

From Mrs. Redner.

PORT SIMPSON, B.C.

Our little Minnie, who was in the hospital for some time, has gone, we believe, to be forever with the Lord. Her death just one week before Christmas seemed most triumphant. Little Jane Poole, cousin of Minnie's, has been taken home for fear she would die like Minnie, but we hope she will be brought back again after her parents get over the fear.

We were kindly remembered by auxiliaries in Vancouver: they sent us some very pretty calendars for our rooms, and several letters of encouragement. Even little things done in a loving spirit help to cheer us in our isolated home.

Suggested Programme for May Meeting.

I. Opening Exercises. What evangelistic work is your Auxiliary doing?

II. Regular Business.

III. Hymn.

IV. Subject for Prayer for the month: The Chinese.

There are 250,000 lepers in China. Leprosy, for the most part, is a lingering disease—a long drawn out agony—attacking the outworks, and taking its time to sap and undermine the citadel of life.

Dr. Main writes from Hanchow, China: Our hearts have been made sore by a poor woman leper, in a putrefying condition, begging us to take her in. She is in such an advanced stage of leprosy that we could not now put her beside the others, and we have not a separate building for them as there is for the men."

V. Prayer: Let us remember "a million a month in China are dying without God!"—H. GRATTAN GUINNESS.

VI. Reading: { 1. Protestant Missions in China. Page 81, G. A. L.
2. Worship in a Taoist Temple. " 83, "
3. The Children of China. " 68, "

VII. Question Drawer. †

VIII. The Watch Tower.

We hope it is distinctly understood that no "Watchman" may take more than three (3) minutes to tell her items.

IX. Hymn. Prayer.

* See "Gospel in All Lands," February, 1896. Price 10c., at Room 20.

† Questions will be found on Page 9. See answers in "China" (Question Book Series), price 5c.; and "The Gospel in All Lands," February, 1896. Price 10c., at Room 20. There are seventeen questions—a question and answer should be given to as many members before the day of auxiliary meeting. At the meeting the questions are given to the President, who will read them according to number, and we urge each member to be prompt in giving her answer. This is reversing the usual order of a Question Drawer, but it would be very tiresome for the President to read all the answers.

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