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The Japan Mission
in 1912.

Extracts from Reports of Districts,
Stations and Individual Missionaries
Presented at the Annual Meeting.

Edited by
Harvey Brokaw.

Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

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HOKKAIDO STATION.

The Hokkaido Station “wonders at its own small missionary force,” when the “vast unworked areas, the few Christians, and the great needs” are considered. Their small force has been diminished by reason of the furloughs of Dr. and Mrs. G. P. Pierson, apostle and apostless of the Hokkaido, and by reason of the furlough of Miss Monk. However Miss E. Evans, a 1911 recruit, joined the station to work in the *Hokusei* Girls’ School, and has been busy with teaching and with study on the language. Miss McCrory, who will arrive this Fall, is requested to take up work in the same school.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Despite the small available force of missionary workers, the evangelistic work of Hokkaido Station shows progress. Mr. Johnson, reporting for the whole field writes:

“There has been a gain of 109, or 9%, by baptism. There are now 1368 members enrolled in presbytery, and there are 788 children in our Sunday Schools” [*sic*]

Three new evangelists have been added to the force of Japanese workers and are in charge of their respective fields. The Christians in three places are making strenuous efforts to erect church-buildings. A unique work in Asahigawa, started by Dr. and Mrs.

Pierson, deserves special mention. It is a sort of Bible House, and concerning it Mr. Johnson reports:

“ The results are most gratifying. Large numbers come to the preaching service, and the windows, filled with Bibles, opened at appropriate passages, and with Tissot’s pictures of the Life of Christ, are a never failing attraction to passers-by, who eagerly scan the pictures and read the open Bibles.....The pages of the Bible are turned every day so that anyone who may be drawn for a second glimpse, may find something new. The Bible-man in charge reports 600 names of those who have desired to live a new life.”

Mr. Johnson has been searching for a suitable location for a street-chapel, made possible by the Kennedy fund, “but the owners of land in the most desirable section will not sell for any price.” Another site has been considered, and Mr. Johnson hopes soon to have this local work-shop to reach the many soldiers and the needy of that district of Sapporo.

One phase of Mr. Johnson’s work is with young men, and he carries on three very successful Bible classes. One of these classes is for the middle-school students, one for university men and one for teachers. After the classes, many a heart-to-heart talk takes place over a cup of tea. The ladies are not the only ones affected by tea-parties, for Mr. Johnson has discovered, what many a veteran in the Japanese service knows, that “a *chawakwai* (tea-talk-meeting) is a great evangelistic agency.”

Such jaw-breaking names, peculiar to the Ainu-populated Hokkaido, as Muroran, Mombetsu, Nayoro, Piuka, Saromabetsu, Kitami, Gakuden, Nokkeushi, Hokosha, Biboro, Shimofurano, Kushiro and Takikawa, will indicate somewhat the scope of the Hokkaido evangelistic work, covering a territory as large as New York State, and will make more than reasonable Mr. Johnson’s closing statement, “ We greatly need three more evangelists for Hokkaido.” Alas, that the laborers are so few that it had to be said, “ Where are the men?”

EDUCATIONAL WORK.

Hokusei Girls’ School is in Sapporo, and “this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary.” “The school is a marvel of growth. Starting with six pupils, it now has an attendance of 110 pupils, commodious new buildings and fairly good equipment. Its

graduates are about to build a gymnasium.” A home has been built this year for the missionary ladies, a most welcome relief in this severe climate, after years of shivering and wretchedness in inadequate accommodations. Again, thanks must be recorded, as they will be recorded repeatedly in this report, to that princely giver, Mr. John H. Kennedy.

Miss Smith is the principal of this school, but has had to seek restoration of health during part of the year. She reports as follows:

“ Our school has suffered a gradual falling off, during the last few years, in the number of new pupils entering.....The decrease has not occurred in the boarding hall, but in the number of day pupils. The several causes reported last year, such as the opening of a new industrial school by the government, a less important one by the Buddhists, and High Schools for girls in all the more important places throughout the island, need only to be emphasized.”

But this in no way discourages, for Miss Smith mentions the earnest Christian spirit manifest in the school, the 24 baptisms of pupils, the confession of faith of 38 more, the teachers and pupils engaged in the work of 4 Sunday Schools, and adds, “ He who is for us is more than they who are against us.”