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Report
of
The Japan Mission
of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

As embodied in the annual
reports of the thirteen
stations in the Empire

and compiled by

The Publications Committee

Karuizawa, Japan, July 17, 1919

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HOKKAIDO

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The church in Urusu is growing. Easter Sunday 5 people were baptized. Last year they contributed 10 yen towards the pastor's salary, this year 15, and next year they expect to make it 20 if possible. The Fukuin Kwan in Sapporo will be sold as soon as the Board gives its consent. The reason for this change is due to the fact that already there is one strong church in Sapporo, and throughout Hokkaido the Nihon Kirisuto Kyokwai and Presbyterian Mission do not mean to duplicate work. Where one is found the other is moving out. The intention is to build a church in Toyohira, where Miss Smith has already a good church and Sunday School. This pastor can go to Zenibako and help Mr. Lake. Tomakomai has 9 members together with outsiders who come to the church services, a Sunday School of about 30, and a kindergarten.

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Mrs. Lake began the fall months with teaching 3 classes at Hokusei Jo Gakko during the 6 weeks interim between Miss Smith's departure and Miss Evans' arrival. This was a privilege as well as a genuine pleasure to her. She has also had the Chorus during the year, teaching something of tone production with the regulation work. The two efforts of the year have been the Christmas and Commencement music. For the former, Mrs Lake arranged a cantata illustrating, by carols, solos, trios and hymns, the birth of Christ. She also directed the Christmas music at the union church service, which included the singing of Handel's " Hallelujah Chorus " by a mixed chorus, and other numbers. She has as many music pupils as her time will allow, one voice pupil of exceptional talent being a graduate of Ueno Conservatory of Tokyo. Throughout the year she has assisted, musically, in University and other school programs. One seemingly unimportant thing has been accomplished this year in the Sapporo church, but something that the Japanese churches have yet to learn in church worship. This is the prompt rising *before* the conclusion of the hymn when it is announced by the organ, so that the attack on the first words by the congregation may be sure and full. The Hokusei Jo Gakko girls are also learning a women's quartet arrangement of Stainer's " Seven Fold Amen " to be used at the conclusion of the service instead of the soft " Amen " from the organ.

Mrs. Lake has accompanied her husband on 2 itinerating trips, even venturing to take her small daughter on one, much to the baby's delight[.] She is having 100 subscriptions to the monthly magazine, " Light of Love," sent 2 [*sic*] country churches.

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Miss Monk reports for the Hokusei Jo Gakko (Northern Star Girls' School) of Sapporo :—

" The most conspicuous event of the year is the granting, on April 19, 1919, of the long-desired Government Recognition. Its privileges, moreover, are available for the class graduated in March. Thanks are due to many persons for this happy outcome—for hours freely spent in numerous consultations, for teachers lent by other schools, for gifts of apparatus by the alumnae, and for the faithful

prayers of friends known and unknown. Thus begins a new chapter in the history of the school.

During the influenza epidemic in October and November, school was closed one week. Happily there were no cases in the dormitory, and no deaths among students of faculty. The janitor's daughter has had a severe attack this spring, and two widely separated cases of typhoid fever have occurred, but all have recovered. Several of the alumnae, however, were taken. One of these would soon have completed a music course in Kobe College. Her strong faith made a deep impression on the student body there.

In November, Miss Lillian Evans joined the staff for a year of service. Her coming not only rejoiced all hearts, but enabled Miss Smith to take her long-postponed furlough. During the same term, 4 other teachers left the school, one of whom took up Bible training. A fifth gave up most of her teaching in order to enter the Hokkaido Imperial University, the first and only woman student there. Again in April 3 teachers were lost. As one of the latter had been in the school nearly 13 years, he will be very greatly missed. Altogether, 2 Christian teachers were lost, while 3 were gained, if one may count as new Miss Kunii, returning from her year in Tokyo and Siberia. At the request of the National Y.W.C.A. she spent from January to March (1919) in Vladivostok, helping to carry on investigations and work among Japanese women. Thus 9 of the full time and 2 part time teachers are now Christians, while 2 full time and 3 part time teachers are not. Of course, none are hostile.

The entrance class in April, numbering 82, was the largest since 1908. The total enrollment now exceeds 200.

Financial problems have been pressing, as all salaries have necessarily advanced 25 or 30 percent, beyond a year ago, while those were themselves on [*sic*] advance of 15 percent over previous years. Fuel and all supplies continue to be very high. Repairs, paint, and alterations to accommodate larger numbers are all greatly needed, while appropriations are the same as 2 years ago and fees cannot be increased beyond the amount to which they were advanced last year. In this crises, two faithful friends, members of the Mission, have made a gift to the school, for current expenses, of over 700 *yen*. Added fees from the increased enrollment will also aid somewhat. Thus a way has been provided to meet immediate necessities.

Spiritually, the outstanding fact of the year was the happy conversion of one of the teachers,—she who entered the University. Coming to the school in April, 1918, from the Tokyo Higher Normal School, Miss Kato had little or no knowledge of Christianity. But, being of an eager and open mind, she began immediately to study the Bible, asking many questions of those already in the faith. In July, after a quiet meeting in the dormitory, she confessed her own faith and in October made her public profession.

Thirteen students have entered the church, including a graduate of several years ago. There is likewise good news about the wayward girl for whom many have been praying. She is repentant, and living quietly in a remote village.

Of this year's 11 graduates, all but 2 were Christians. But in the new Senior class of 27 girls, just one-third are still outside of church connections. Several of these are girls of strong and active personality, who will naturally be leaders. The prayers of God's people are asked for them and for their teachers.

To Miss Elizabeth Evans the coming of her sister, Miss Lillian Evans, to help in the school has been the most important event of the year. It has been joy to work side by side with a sister. The trip made by the two sisters through part of southern Japan during the Christmas holidays opened their eyes to the wonderful opportunities in other places besides Hokkaido and to the vast amount of work already done and still to be done. The temples in Kyoto, shrines in Yamada, Ise, and the seeming intelligence of the people worshipping at these places were disconcerting. Not only the poor, ignorant country folks were found at these shrines but well-dressed, educated, fine-looking men and women were clapping their hands and bowing their heads in worship before a thing made with hands or before curtains placed before the shrine. The bright earnest faces of the young priests who were just being initiated into the mysteries gave one also a sinking sensation. How were they attracted and recruited? Why cannot more be shown the truth and drawn into the small ranks of pastors and evangelists? However, there are many reasons to be thankful when one thinks of the churches, Sunday Schools, schools, kindergartens and all forms of Christian work already started and the new opportunities coming every day.

The Sunday School work in Toyohira and Zenibako has been encouraging. Evening meetings for adults are held in each place

once in 3 weeks. At Toyohira, the group consists of a dozen interested persons who attend regularly. It is hoped therefore to develop an organized preaching place soon, especially as the village is growing. In Zenibako, interest is increasing. Whereas formerly, after faithful calling, only a handful gathered to hear the message, this winter from 20 to 45 persons have come together. Nowadays the caller is greeted with thanks and smiles instead of the former apathy or veiled antagonism.

The Sapporo Fukuinkwan Sunday School is hanging on to its children for dear life. Since Christmas there have been about 100 in regular attendance but recently a fall to 60 brought forth inquiries and the replies of those who were there showed that the nearby temple was redoubling its efforts and making attendance there compulsory. The children said that the priests were teaching the creed and principles of Buddhism now. A former Fukuinkwan Sunday School pupil, now grown up, has been found by the Presbyterian pastor in Yokosuka and brought into the church. He is a sailor boy and seems to be having good influence over his associates. Some one has said that 80 percent of the church members in Japan were at one time or other Sunday School pupils. This should put new courage into the hearts of all Sunday School workers.

The Sapporo city Y.W.C.A. is still growing, having almost doubled its membership again last year. At the opening meeting of the spring term there were 60 girls present. The Bible Class of the Government Girls' High School has a regular attendance of 7 and it is expected that Miss Kunii, who has charge of it this year, will bring in many more. Mrs. Eddy and Miss Michi Kawai honored and helped the association by visiting it last June. Meetings were arranged for them in 2 of the Government Girls' Schools and although it was stipulated that they should not mention Christianity they interested the girls so much in what women of other lands were doing that many of them afterwards came to the church meetings. A secretary has been requested for the Hokkaido Y.W.C.A. work.

So ends the Hokkaido report, but not the work. Every part of the field is opening up. The people are responding as never before, especially in the country places, and the school and kindergarten are growing.

In the early days of the opening up of this Island some one scattered white clover seed here and there and the pleasing

presence of this homelike sod greets you occasionally even in remote and unexpected places. So it has been with the gospel seed, but effort has been sporadic, intermittent and local. We need to make an island-wide evangelization the first order of the day, placing first things first. To this end we need a band of Bible men and Bible women who will visit every house in the Island—say about 400,000 houses. Perhaps better than this would be such a universal enterprise undertaken by the Church Christians, of whom there are say, 10,000. Such a movement is not going to just happen; a coddled church is not likely to volunteer. Nor is any but a Bible Christian at all likely to move. We need a prayer-induced, God-given revival. If our Christians would read, they would pray. If they would read and pray, they would work. If they would read and pray and work, they would tithe. If they would tithe they would resign from Mission support, and your missionaries would be sending you the joyful report of Kushiro, Nokkeushi, Saroma, Engaru, Takigawa, Piuka, Seien and Muroran all self-supporting and be hastening on themselves to beckoning fields, now slowly but surely filling up with Buddhist temples. We report progress only because we are a step or two beyond past achievement and because we are comparing ourselves among ourselves, and too little with our Commission and Opportunity.

Japan is not an easy field. It requires a strong body, healthy nerves, an alert and thoughtful mind, an adaptable and humble spirit, with a big faith and an unfaltering devotion to Christ. And who is sufficient for these things? But the waiting harvest and the scanty band of laborers are a challenge to God's people like John's of old: "I write unto you, young men (and women), because ye are strong."