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1906

Report of
Hokusei Jo Gakko
Sapporo

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Mr. Speer.

Since we entered our new buildings three and a half years ago, and there was such a large increase in our number of pupils, there has been no very marked change in the school, tho[ugh] we think that in many ways it is improving every year. Our one great need is more room. And this has become a serious matter for consideration in connection with the boarding department, where gradually the number has become large, through the entrance of new pupils, and day pupils who formerly boarded in town but have come to prefer a home with us. We have no suitable place for storage, which is very necessary where so many are to be housed and fed in the least space possible and at the lowest rate practicable. Then there is but one lavatory twelve feet square for seventy people, and one bath-room six feet by nine - no possibility of more than one tub. There is no way open for enlarging as unfortunately our neighbor will not sell us a single foot of land except at an exorbitant price. We feel it an insult to furnish such accommodations for persons who are so dependant on the bath as the Japanese are; but seeing our helplessness they try to make the best of it. The necessary limit to our exercise ground, for a hundred and fifty Academy girls, is certainly pitiable. However, we have much, very much to be thankful for. Miss Monk, who came to take the place of Miss Sherman, is very well and making splendid progress in the language, as well as captivating all our hearts with her good sense and pleasant ways. Under Miss Ward' s care and skill the music has become a very pleasing feature in our work.

Nineteen of our present pupils and two former ones (There may have been more of the latter whom we have not heard about) received baptism during the past year. We have not been able to do as much visiting-work as we would like, but what we have done has been attended with good results - getting day scholars, and sometimes parents[,] out to church. Our sunday-school [*sic*] work in the suburb, and Christian Endeavor work in the school

is very satisfactory. We ask that all will unite with us in praying that the results may be yet greater this present year, upon which we have just entered; and that the Father, whos[e] work it is, may in some way give us the means for improving the lamentable conditions I have spoken of.

S. C. Smith

Sapporo, Jan. 19, 1907.