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The Japan Mission
in 1914

Reports of Districts Stations and
Individual Missionaries to be
Presented at the Annual Meeting

Karuizawa, July 23

Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

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REPORT OF HOKKAIDO STATION.

Prepared by Dr. Pierson.

Introduction, Personal.—All of our seven missionaries are in working health, with more than enough to do—as we are pleased to think—and with unique opportunities on every hand. Miss Monk and Mr. and Mrs. Pierson returned from furlough in time for the work of the Autumn.

The epoch.—Our commercial Island is, with the rest of Japan, fast being crowded into that angle from which lies no escape other than reaching up to Christ or sinking down into irreligion. The Nation has been smitten and afflicted—famine, flood, earthquake, the central figure of her new life for almost a half century, removed—she faces now a new world situation and with less confidence. She may say “all these things are against me”, but all these things are really for her good. Each year we rewrite old reports only with new underscorings. The times seem ripe. In a region of our Island where Buddhism would be thought supreme a priest said, “I have many *danka* (temple retainers) but no *shinja* (believers).” Another priest said to a missionary friend of ours, as he drew from his kimono a new Testament, “When I am short of

sermon material I use this". These cases if not typical are far from being isolated. We have watched the ebb for years ; we are now privileged to see the flow. However the average missionary not infrequently rebukes himself with the question, " With the enemy so easy of conquest why are the captives so few? "

Our Homes.—Not one of the Hokkaido missionaries is living in the unsatisfactory houses that sheltered them three years ago. We find ourselves well housed. A touring missionary is especially grateful for a house to come to where drafts are dirigible, where life is lived off the floor, where a surprised digestion can relax again into its normal courses, and where the thermometer is compelled to maintain a high standard of excellence. The Johnson family, the Sapporo ladies, and the Piersons have reason to be especially grateful for substantial and comfortable homes.

Schools, Buildings & work, Sapporo.—The School ladies rejoice primarily in the new School buildings recently made possible. In Sapporo for a few years applicants for admission had diminished. Interest in the School on the part of society "had been overcast by the glories of the two new government schools." Shabbiness, and even danger in part of the buildings, were features that added nothing to the School. " But March brought the intelligence of an appropriation by the New York Woman's Board sufficiently large to provide a new building in place of the oldest part of the structure, with repairs on the newer wings and subsidiary buildings, a heating plant and paint for everything!" Our girls' schools are chiefly in order to make Christians and develop Christian character. Of the March graduating class of seventeen at the Hokusei (Northern Star) School, all but two had been received into church fellowship and these two earnestly covet the privilege. Miss Monk, who writes the report for the School, bewails the loss of a teacher, who, a child of the School's kindergarten, passed thro' all the grades of the School, spent two years in Tokyo, and served as teacher for eight years or more. " The loan of Miss Evans to Kanazawa Station for the year has necessitated the postponement of plans for strengthening both the educational and evangelistic sides of the work in accordance with real needs."

Otaru.—There is no kindergarten in the Hokusei School now-a-days, but there *is* one in Otaru, conducted hitherto by Miss Rose. The pupils number 100. Other pupils of the Seishu Girls' School number 50. Ten graduated from the upper department and 13

from the kindergarten in March. Eight of the pupils received baptism. Thus the School helps the Otaru church and the church helps the School. The Otaru School has a distinctly domestic aim in the education it supplies. Its graduate pupils may be found in Formosa, Saghalien, Korea and throughout the Hokkaido.

School Evangelistic work.—Both the Otaru and Sapporo Schools are sources of extensive help to the general evangelistic work in the Island :—

Miss McCrory writes of the work done by herself and helpers from the Hokusei School in the flourishing Sunday-School held in the upper story of Mr Johnson's Evangelistic Hall. There is another Sunday School in a Suburb in Sapporo, for which Miss Smith is responsible, and still another in a little fishing village, Zenibako, under the care of Miss Monk. All Sunday Schools are in flourishing condition.

Evangelistic work (Special feature).—The Hokkaido shares in the general blessing being bestowed on Japan in answers to the prayers of many in behalf of the three years special all Japan Evangelistic Campaign. We hear good reports from all sides. Mr. Kiyama, secretary of the B'd of missions of the " Church of Christ " said to me, " I am little at home this year ; so many are the calls that come to me from all quarters."

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Mr. Johnson's Report.

The work of this section of the Hokkaido has gone on as in former years. We have rejoiced in a goodly number of baptisms, every out-station having made some contribution. We have welcomed two new, and have released two old, trusted and tried workers to other fields. Mr. Shimizu, after seventeen years of successful work in the Sapporo Church, left to take up his duties in the little preaching chapel of Shidzuoka ; while Mr. Fujimoto, after three years of good, faithful service in Muroran, left to assume the duties of pastor in the Sakai Church. Though we have lost these good friends we rejoice that their places were soon filled by men of promise. Mr. Takakura came to Sapporo in Nov. and soon the whole church felt the presence of a guiding spirit. He preaches the Truth with power and conviction and reveals a deep spiritual life. All the

services of the church have been strengthened, the Sunday morning services ranging from one hundred and fifty to over two hundred in attendance. Mr. Hanabusa, a graduate of this year's class of the Meiji Gakuin, comes to Muroran on the second Sunday of June. He is a man of ability and we trust that he may be able to lead that difficult church into a richer experience of spiritual things.

We opened the Fukuin Kwan, in Sapporo, last September and have had services every Thursday and Sunday night. During the Sapporo Matsuri we had services for four days, afternoon and evening. At these meetings some thirty five expressed their desire to examine Christianity more carefully. The meetings have not been large, though the attendance averages about twenty per meeting. One peculiar feature of these meetings is the fact that over half of the audience continues to come regularly. The other portion of the audience is made up of flotsam and jetsam. Some of these latter come now and then, but the larger portion of our audience is a fixed body of seekers. Already five have united with our Sapporo Church as a result of the work of the Fukuin Kwan. We had hoped to draw a large number of soldiers to the Fukuin Kwan but the movies have come in such numbers and offer such attractions that we have not been able to draw many soldiers to the building.

In our building Miss McCrory of the Hokusei Jogakko has a most flourishing S.S. This Sunday School was formerly held in the Toyohira district, but that meeting place was hardly suited for a successful Sunday School. As our new building was nearing completion Miss McCrory was informed that many of her pupils would not come to her S.S. any more as they intended to join the new S.S. in the new building nearer town. She said nothing of her intention of holding her S.S. in that new building until the building was completed. On the first Sunday the school was much larger than the one she had been accustomed to have on the other side of the river and on the second Sunday she was swamped by the large attendance. Even the large second story of the Fukuin Kwan is not large enough to accommodate her S.S. comfortably. Thus we are able to hold a successful S.S. and gratifying preaching services in our new building even though we have not yet been able to touch the soldiers.

REPORT OF HOKUSEI JOGAKKO.

Prepared by Miss Monk.

Upon the writer's return, last September, from a busy but invigorating furlough, the first thing to be noticed was the new home for the American ladies. This had been occupied for a year, but the clean, well-lighted rooms, all plastered, the conveniences of attic and cellar and first floor study, were all to be admired afresh by the new-comer. Soon one was taken to the farther end of the compound to inspect the new gymnasium. This was the gift of the Alumnae, in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the school (1912), and had just been completed. Unpainted, but of sufficient size and of good construction, it adds a much-needed item to the equipment of the Hokusei Jo Gakko. One may add that at the dedicating exercises, in October, the building was presented to Miss Smith, for the use of the school, free of debt.

The new buildings, by contrast, made the old one appear even more shabby than before. And during the early winter the element of danger was added to that of unsightliness. But March brought the joyful intelligence of an appropriation by the New York Women's Board, sufficiently large to provide a new building in place of the oldest part of the structure, with repairs on the newer wings and subsidiary buildings, a heating plant, and paint for every thing! Then, indeed, our hearts and lips sang a song of thanksgiving for answered prayer! And Commencement became a doubly joyous function, with the story of this gift to tell to friends and returning Alumnae.

Of the March graduating class of seventeen, all but the two had been received into Church fellowship, and those two earnestly covet the privilege. Altogether, during the year, at least eleven students and three graduates came into the visible church. One of the latter found her opportunity in her marriage into a Christian family. No sooner had she reached her new home in far Kitami than she asked for admission. And no great-aunts could say her Nay.

Among the guests at Commencement were a larger number than usual of parents and of representatives of other Schools. It is hoped that this means a revival of interest in our School,—an interest

overcast for the last few years by the glories of the two new government schools. A further indication of such a revival is the increased registrations at the opening of the new school year in April. In spite of the comparatively large class graduated, the recent yearly decline in numbers in [*sic*] checked. And larger numbers are hoped for when the new dormitories are opened in September.

There have disappointments, of course, as well as joys. Of these, one is the not uncommon, but always regrettable loss of experienced teachers, to be replaced by others, for the most part well trained, indeed, but lacking in experience. This year the loss was unusually heavy,—of three such, one of whom had been connected with the school almost since its founding. The daughter of a Bible woman, she entered the Kindergarten, passed through all the grades of grammar and high school, spent two years in Tokyo, and served as a teacher for eight years or more. She has gone to grace a parsonage in Manchuria, and writes most happily and hopefully of the whitening harvests there ; but her place here is very empty.

The loan of Miss Evans to Kanazawa Station for the year has necessitated the postponement of plans for strengthening both the educational and evangelistic sides of the work in accordance with real needs. Miss Smith, too, the American principal, has had an unusually obstinate attack of her old enemy, rheumatism. She has gone to classes as usual, though on crutches, but otherwise has been largely confined to the house ever since early in March. It was a matter of universal regret that she could not be present at Commencement. We trust that the new heating plant, by keeping school halls and rooms reasonably warm and equable, may obviate such attacks in the future.

The usual Sunday Schools have been maintained, all three of the independent ones having changed location during the year, and all to advantage. The Toyohira school has gone further east, towards the barracks, thus increasing the distance between it and the Chapel Sunday School, and reaching new children. The latter, in its new quarters, has about doubled its former attendance ; while the school at Zenibako, in a more central location, has increased by at least ten percent in number.

The attendance is also noticeably more regular. The combined average weekly attendance is probably not far from 230. Teachers and older girls also assist in the church Sundays [*sic*] Schools, work in the Sapporo Y.W.C.A., and maintain a large Bible class for girls in

the Industrial School, besides taking part in the regular religious services of the school itself.

Opportunities open in many directions, and the times are propitious for advance. The call is forward! but let us all remember that it must be on our knees.

[unnumbered page, statistics in "Girl's Schools" table]

Place.

Hokkaido

Sapporo

Institution.

Hokusei Girls' School.

Enrollment.

104

Graduates.

22

Founded.

1887

Christian Graduates.

15

Christians in School.

50

Baptisms in 1912-13.

15