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Report
of
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HOKKAIDO

Mrs. G. P. Pierson

Personnel.

Last year our "Hokkaido Station" so-called, which covers an area as wide as Ireland, consisted of but two resident missionary towns, Sapporo and Nokkeushi. This year has added a third, Otaru, to the list where Miss McCrory, formerly of Sapporo, took up her residence last fall after Mission Meeting. Our numbers however, which last year had dropped from nine to seven, were reduced to six this year, viz. : Miss Smith, Miss Monk, Miss Evans in Sapporo ; Miss McCrory in Otaru ; and Dr. and Mrs. Pierson in Nokkeushi. For two months indeed—when Miss Evans went on furlough and before her permanent substitute arrived—we shrank to five. Mr. Johnson who went on furlough last summer has recently resigned from the Hokkaido. This leaves the Hokkaido with four ladies in charge of the school-work and one family for the evangelistic work. Dr.

Pierson writes : “ The Hokkaido Station should consist on its evangelistic side of at least six families, we believe.” Certainly Miss McCrory should not be left to cope with both school and evangelistic work alone in Otaru, that great city of 100,000 inhabitants which at present boasts only two women missionaries of all denominations.

The Year in the Hokkaido.

No striking events have marked the year in the Hokkaido, save the ripple of excitement roused by the far away Coronation ceremonies and the rise of prices on account of the war, specially in food-stuffs, glass, iron and paper.

School Work.

The following reports by Miss Monk and Miss McCrory amply and accurately set forth the work done respectively, in our Higher School for Girls in Sapporo, and in our kindergarten and evangelistic work in Otaru. The factory work begun in the latter place is a new and most interesting feature. The mothers' meeting for the mothers of the little 'kinder,' another new departure begun by Miss McCrory, is most helpful and encouraging. In fact the evangelistic work in Otaru has had a very remarkable growth in one short year, due largely to the fact that the missionary in charge has been in residence in the place.

The two months I spent in teaching in the Sapporo School were a very great pleasure. Solid substantial work is being done there, both mental and spiritual. Perhaps one might wish for a little keener edge—from the evangelistic point of view,—certainly the rich veins of evangelistic possibilities that open up on all sides make one tingle to be up and at it. What might not be accomplished if one teacher could be set apart to develop the spiritual side of the work ! For certainly the present small staff, already overburdened by this great school of nearly 140 girls, can not be expected to add any more duties to those they are already carrying so bravely and faithfully.

HOKUSEI JO GAKKO (NORTHERN STAR GIRLS' SCHOOL) SAPPORO,
JAPAN

Miss Alice M. Monk reports :—The twenty-ninth year of Hokusei Jo Gakko opened in April, 1915, with 124 students, of whom 35

were new. This was an increase of two in the entering class and of 31 in the total enrollment over the preceding year at the same period. During the year fourteen others entered, making the total for the year 138 (as against 128 in 1914-15), the average enrollment being about 120.

In March, 1916, a class of twelve was graduated,—four in the full course (of whom one had previously completed her Japanese work), four in the Japanese course, and four in special courses. Of these all were Christians, although two of them had not yet made a public profession of their faith.

The religious life of the school is indicated by the fact that during the year there were 19 baptisms, or about 16% of the average number in the school. At the close of the school year about half of the girls were Christians. The three Sunday-schools carried on by fourteen of the teachers and older students still flourish. The oldest of these, Miss Smith's at Toyohira, has had an average attendance of 48 ; that at Zenibako, of 37 ; and that at the Fukuin Kwan, or Gospel Hall (the most accessible), of 177. Two other teachers help in the Sunday-school.

Several of the teachers also do what they can to help in the Sapporo Student Y.W.C.A., which maintains two weekly Bible classes and a monthly general meeting. This society has given during the year over thirty *yen* for Belgian and Serbian relief, besides a considerable amount of clothing.

Our own students at Christmas raised the sum of about thirteen *yen* for Jewish relief ; and during the year the C.E. Society (composed exclusively of dormitory girls) [*sic*] gave for various benevolent objects.

As usual there was some shifting among the Japanese teachers, two leaving on account of marriage, and one for further study. The latter is with us again this term, but hopes, by the kindness of Huron College and that of a personal friend of the writer's, to reach America in time for the fall opening of college. Of the three new teachers, one, an assistant in sewing, is not yet a Christian.

In January Miss Evans went to America for a short vacation. She is expected back in September. When it was learned that Miss Bolin, a new appointee, was unable to come to Japan at this time, and that for the time being no one was available from other stations to take her place, a Japanese friend helped out during January, and Mrs.

Pierson most generously abandoned other plans to assist during February and March.

The greatest change during the year was brought about by the resignation, in July, 1915, of Mr. Nihira, for many years Principal of the school. This was necessitated by his removal to Kitami, the Northern province of the island. Miss Smith, the founder and during these twenty-nine years the Foreign Superintendent of the Hokusei Jo Gakko, was urged to accept the principalship (an office which was formerly not permitted to others than Japanese citizens). Upon her repeated refusal, the duty was laid upon the writer who, after a struggle, yielded to Miss Smith's expressed wishes and the nomination of the Mission. Miss Smith was made Principal Emeritus and continues to give herself whole-heartedly to the school, as always. She has also had added to her other duties that of Station Treasurer.

The new heating plant for the school has had rather bad luck. In the first place, it was not included in the estimates for the new dormitory. Then last year, when word was received that the New York Womens' [*sic*] Board had made a special appropriation, there was hardly time to get it in and no one able to superintend it, in any case. And finally this year (1916) iron has gone up so high that it is a question how much can be done with the appropriation. The money will be stretched as far as possible—that is all that can be said now,—and (D.V.) installation of engine and whatever radiation is possible made this summer.

At present perhaps the most enthralling subject of conversation at the school is the securing of *shitei*, or government "Recognition." That means, securing the privilege to our graduates of taking entrance examinations for higher schools,—whether government or those recognized as of similar standing,—and for High School Teachers' certificates. Until recently the need for these privileges has not been keenly felt. Very few wished for more than Primary School positions, and these could be easily obtained by our graduates. But Hokkaido is rapidly passing out of the pioneer stage, and her daughters are looking for greater privileges than formerly. Even those who do not themselves expect to take a higher course wish a diploma from a school which is the recognized peer of government schools. We too feel that Christian education in Japan should mean an education that needs no explanations.

From a practical point of view, without Recognition we shall lose the ambitious student ; the process has already begun and is pretty sure to accelerate, the longer we are without it.

The chief requirements for “ Recognition ” are two : First, a minimum equipment for science and gymnasium costing at least \$500 ; and Second, six or seven teachers with government certificates. Towards the former, we have perhaps thirty or forty dollars' worth of chemical equipment ; towards the latter, three such teachers. Until other of our graduates could be prepared (two or three years) an addition of about \$300 (possibly a little less) above our present salary list would be necessary, to pay for such certified teachers.

It is understood that the alumnae plan to help forward this project as largely as possible. Their resources are limited : but may we not hope for the assistance of a few good friends at home, so that the coveted privileges may be secured before the opening of the thirtieth year of the school? The Osaka, Kanazawa, and Shimonoseki schools of the Mission already have the privilege, while Joshi Gakuin hopes to secure it this year.

A word about the new school year. It has opened auspiciously, with 57 new students (many attracted no doubt by our new dormitory), and a total enrollment the first month of 149. Our new teacher (a Christian, and sister of the one going abroad) was added to the staff, and Miss Ethel M. Todd, of the Wilmina School in Osaka, is most generously and acceptably filling Miss Evans' place for this term as Mrs. Pierson did for the last.

As in the past, often in unexpected ways, so in the future we trust that God will supply all our needs, according to his rich promises and your continued fellowship in prayers and giving.