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REPORT  
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THE JAPAN MISSION  
of the  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

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HOKKAIDO STATION

By H. C. Whitener

PERSONNEL

Hokkaido Station has had an unusual number of changes in personnel and interruptions in the work of its missionaries this year. Miss Curtis and Miss Dunlop went to Tokyo from the school in Sapporo. Mr. and Mrs. Lake went home on furlough. Mr. Whitener spent nearly two months in Chosen and Manchuria, and in Outlook work in Japan. And Dr. and Mrs. Pierson have been away from their field more than usual for various unavoidable reasons. So as we look back upon the year it seems very short, and there is not so much to report as in some former years.

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HOKUSEI JO GAKKO

After an absence of two years in America Miss Monk returned to her duties at Hokusei Jo Gakko in September 1922. She found that the school had so grown and prospered under its two *ad interim* principals as to be overcrowding its rooms and hall-ways. In fact, 260 girls were being accommodated in a building intended for a maximum of 200, while the new double class to enter in April would bring the enrollment beyond 300.

*This made her all the more grateful* for the promise already made that the Easter offering of the Sunday-schools should be used for Hokusei expansion.

The visit of Mr. B. Carter Milliken in October marked a milestone in the history of the school, for he is the first of the Board's Secretaries to see this part of the Board's work in Japan. His interest was most stimulating, and his suggestions for publicity material gave occupation for Miss Monk's leisure hours during most of the winter.

#### MISS MONK

Miss Monk has been interested in studying plans for the proposed new school, dormitory buildings and teachers' residence. She is eagerly awaiting the response of Sunday-schools and other donors to know when it may be possible to buy the new site required—before land in desirable sections is all held in small lots or at impossibly high figures, either dilemma making purchase difficult.

It is the earnest desire, not only of the principal, but of the Board of Directors and of the Christian community generally, that a Higher Department be added soon to the present High School course. On the one hand Christian workers emphasize the deep need felt in the church and society for the leadership of mature Christian women, and such can be developed in numbers only in such higher Christian schools. For Japanese High School girls of seventeen or eighteen are too young to assume or accept leadership, and are therefore too liable after returning to a non-Christian environment to lose much that they have gained in a Christian school. On the other hand, Japanese girls and their parents are more and more seeking just such an opportunity as a graduate course at Hokusei in

literature or domestic science would provide. These added years of wider Christian training and influence would mean much for the evangelization of Hokkaido.

The project has taken on new significance because of the results of the School Decision Day early in February. At that time, in addition to thirty-five girls who purposed to identify themselves with Christ and His church, there were forty who expressed a desire to become Christian workers, and thirty-six a determination to lead at least one person to Christ this year. This certainly seems to indicate an opportunity for the opening very soon of a course in religious education.

The reader will need a sanctified imagination to realize the meaning of the figures given and of those which follow : that within three months eight of the thirty-five mentioned above and three others had been received into the local churches, while four others would have been received on Easter Sunday but for the illness of one pastor and the removal of another ; that the total number of baptisms for the school year was twenty-six ; that eleven of the seventeen graduates in March were professed Christians. At that time the total number of Christian girls in the school was seventy-nine, or 31.6 per cent. of the whole, with a hundred others—40 per cent.—who had expressed a purpose to seek for light.

Insomuch as there is yet no source from which to secure Christian teachers of science, mathematics, gymnastics and drawing, six of the teachers are not Christian, although three of these have given only part of their time to the school. This fact has been a source of real anxiety.

#### MISS DAVIDSON

Miss Davidson speaks feelingly of the relief with which she handed back the responsibilities of the school into the capable hands of Miss Monk in September. She writes : “ Miss Monk’s return was indeed opportune, for this year has brought many serious school problems which could not have been dealt with but by one of Miss Monk’s deep spiritual insight and consecration, coupled with a knowledge of school history and tradition and a mastery of the Japanese language.

“ The English classes have suffered somewhat by a complete change of missionary teachers, but this difficulty has been lessened because Miss Monk and Miss Evans returned to the school with their long and successful experience, and Miss Ensign came in September. She is an exceptionally good teacher and an unusually fine young woman in every way.

“ The criticism has been made that while Japanese schools are devoting much time to foreign cooking and sewing, Hokusei, with its foreign teachers, has taught neither. But this year the senior class has had one term of each. As very few Japanese homes have an oven of any kind, baked food can not be prepared. At the end of the course, when favored dishes were called for, steamed apple dumpling headed the list, with steamed squash, custard and pancakes as close rivals. The girls also enjoyed hamburg steak, fudge, apple sauce, various kinds of salad and vegetables. It has long been the custom to entertain the senior class at a foreign dinner, and this year the girls could appreciate it to an unusual degree.

“In the sewing class six girls completed an outfit, underclothes and dress, for a little girl, and all made a part of the garments. The object of this course is not only to teach how to make the garments, but also to teach what garments are necessary and how to wear them. Children’s foreign clothing, too often of a style fearful and wonderful to behold, can be purchased ready-made in nearly every city. But emphasis on simplicity and comfort is still necessary, especially as regards underclothes.”

Miss Davidson’s teaching has been with the senior class, and she has been making an effort to increase an appreciation of English literature and ideals, and to give some idea of the beginning of history and the earliest civilizations. The latter is not secured from the Japanese course, but it seems to us an important basis for a true perspective in this day, when the multitude of so-called new ideas are so insistently urged upon society.

#### MISS EVANS

Miss Evans reports an interesting year in the school and church. She has spent most of her time in the class-room, teaching Bible,

English and Music, but has also helped some in church work. Two seniors, members of her fifth year Bible-class, were baptized just before Commencement. One of them, the leader of the class, intends to become a Bible-woman and is going to Tokyo for further training. The other, a quiet girl, who has come out strongly, however, is going home with the purpose to win her whole family to Christ. The outstanding feature of the year is the awakening of the Christian girls during a series of meetings to a determination to do something. A Christian workers' class was started for them after school, and about fifty have attended faithfully. Another class was started for the seekers with an average attendance of fifteen.

As there are eight people capable of managing the Presbyterian church organ, Miss Evans felt it a duty as well as a privilege to help on Sunday mornings the Congregational church, which has no organist. On Sunday night she is a Presbyterian, playing the organ for the evening service, and from eight o'clock teaching a young men's English Bible-class. At the same time the pastor is conducting a Japanese Bible-class, and many remain after the service for these two classes.

The Presbyterian church in Sapporo is full Sunday mornings, and it is an inspiration to see from seventy-five to a hundred out almost every Sunday night for the evening service. They need a new church, and every effort is being made to raise money for that purpose.

The Sunday-school for university professors' children, in which Miss Evans is interested, expects to have a new home by summer. They have been meeting in one of the professors' homes, and fifty children have been crowding into two small rooms. Dr. Sato, the president of the university, has given the land, and all but about fifty yen of the thirty-five hundred yen has been raised by the Japanese themselves. It is to be used as a kindergarten during the week. Many of these children live too far from the Church Sunday-school, and it is a wonderful opportunity. A young business man, who until recently was so against Christianity that he tried to keep his children away from Sunday-school, now brings them himself, and is attending a seekers' class held in the same home.

#### MISS ENSIGN

Miss Ensign, who is spending her first year in the Hokkaido after a year in the Language School in Tokyo, is very enthusiastic about this island. She has not yet been weaned away from her native land, and Sapporo seems so much like home. The plan of the city, the style of architecture, and the most important factor of all, the presence of several large churches in the main part of the town gives the city a “ homey ” atmosphere. There are temples too, plenty of them, but they are in the background instead of the foreground, which is indicative of the place Christianity has here. The people are different, of course. They don’t have three hundred years of Christian ancestry behind them, but when one sees what beautiful Christians develop during just one short school year one receives a wonderful testimony to the transforming power of the love of Christ.

#### MISS SMITH

Miss Smith has had nearly eight hundred scholars in her various Sunday-schools, and has been one of our most efficient missionaries during the year. She has helped greatly in building the new church at Muroran.