

principal of the first college for women in the empire. She said that China is now at the turning of the roads which lead to agnosticism or Christianity. The lack of adequate educational equipment hinders the progress of the latter. Fifty dollars would probably buy every Christian book there exclusive of text-books. A Chinese official educated in a western university visited her college and asked to see her scientific apparatus. All she could show was \$35 worth of material for instruction in chemistry, physics and biology. The gymnasium outfit consisted of swings, seesaws and croquet! Miss White has been twenty-four years in China and is returning to Shanghai, where she will devote herself to preparing suitable literature for women and children. She will be assisted by native Chinese girls who already aid her in editing the first woman's magazine ever published there.

The other countries represented by the thirty-eight missionaries present were Japan, Africa, Egypt, Arabia, Turkey, India, and Mexico. Their

terms of service ranged from three years to over half a century, and aggregated a total of 516 years. Mrs. E. E. Claverley, M.D., dressed in the costume of an Arabian princess, told of her medical work in the primitive town of Kuweit, on the Persian Gulf.* Of compelling interest was an address by a charming young Chinese girl who is studying medicine here. Her English name is Phoebe Stone, and she is a sister of the famous Dr. Mary Stone, head of a woman's hospital in Kiukiang.

The able leadership of women like Mrs. Henry W. Peabody, the singing by a large chorus of girls under the magnetic guidance of Miss Elsie S. Hand, the impressive services at twilight on Round Top, the spiritual suggestiveness of the outdoor festival called "The Spirit of Northfield," and the inspiring Bible lessons taught each morning by Prof. Charles R. Erdman, of Princeton Seminary, were other features which lifted the Conferences this year to an unusually high level of power.

* To be published in our October number.

SOME STRIKING FIGURES

In the United States there is one ordained minister for every 600 persons. In the whole non-Christian world there is only one Protestant missionary (men and women) for every 300,000 people.

Last year, an average of 400 per day were brought by Protestant missions into Christianity out of heathenism. American Protestant missions report 120,000 baptized last year, or 25 for each ordained minister, native and foreign. In America the average increase was 8,000 a week or 1 for every 20 ministers.

It has been estimated that one missionary, with the native force which he can train, can evangelize 25,000 within a generation. There are 27,000 such districts of 25,000 people each, which need missionaries.

To put one worker in each district of 25,000 of the 600 millions (America's share in world-evangelization) only one out of 800 church-members is needed.

In the Civil War Georgia sent into the army 1 out of 5.5 of the white population; South Carolina, 1 in 4.8; Florida, 1 in 4.3; Louisiana, 1 in 3.7; and North Carolina sent out 10,000 more than the total number of voters.

Japan in Transition*

BY MISS FLORENCE WELLS



IN some future day historians will point to the present age as the Renaissance of Japan. Changes subtle and changes blatant are gradually or rapidly, as the case may be, taking place within her borders. The surface of the country, the speech, the food, the manners, the customs, the dress, the architecture, all show transition. As the youth passes into manhood, so the Sunrise Kingdom is passing into noonday.

The great roads still run through the country like arteries through the body; but now the ox-cart and the pedestrian are learning to keep to one side lest they be run down by the motorcycle and the automobile. Where once the mountain-pass wound unchallenged through the valley and over the shoulder of the mountain, now the hissing train sweeps along, high above the mountain torrent, and dashes into the bowels of the earth, emerging in triumph to swing across a glen on a bridge of stone or steel. In rapidly growing cities like Yokohama, or Tokyo, the hills are being levelled and the rice-fields are yielding to the encroachment of houses and factories. One can not but recall the old psalm, "Every valley shall be exalted and every hill shall be brought low."

While even the temporary resident in Japan will notice these physical changes, he will likewise be impressed by the great number of people who will speak English to him. Japan is a land of compulsory education, and all children must receive instruction for six years. It is surprising how many go on into the middle school, where for five years, all

boys at least, are taught English. I dare say you may search long to find a village without its English-understanding citizen.

Herein lies a warning. The youth of Japan are reading our literature, our classics; they are in the way to get a fair understanding of our ways and our ideals, to appreciate the historic background of our people and the religious atmosphere which has kept our nation alive and strong. Unquestionably, if trouble arises between their country and ours, we can not say that *they* do not understand *us*.

It is not from books alone, however, that Japan is receiving impetus. Until this year there has been a steady increase in the number of tourists from Europe and America. These people little realize how certainly they leave their impress on the Japanese with whom they come in contact. Then what shall we say of foreigners residing in Japan?—from America and from every nation in Europe, young men and women in business, families, and missionaries and teachers. The right kind of person in Japan is an infinite blessing, while the wrong kind is an incalculable injury to the nation, especially at this formative time. A tourist one day went into the embroidery shop of a Christian, and having bought and paid for something, asked that the bill be written down at much lower figures so that she, showing it at the customs in San Francisco, might have less duty to pay. She was astonished when the shopkeeper replied, "Madam, I can not do it, for we are trying to teach our children that 'honesty is the best policy.'"

* From *The Missionary Link*.

Formerly in the banks only Chinese were employed, and rumor had it that the reason was the dishonesty of the Japanese; but that can not be, for now that Japan has learned European banking methods, one sees as many Japanese as Chinese employed in foreign banks.

Foreign cooking has become popular among the men, and it adds to a young woman's matrimonial chances if she is able to prepare American food. The Japanese man on the dining-car will almost invariably choose beefsteak and potatoes in preference to fish and rice. We notice, too, that a great many wedding feasts are held at the foreign restaurants; and we are told that it is less expensive than to provide a first-class Japanese feast. Often in private homes and even in country hotels you will be served with one course of French or American dishes. Ice-cream is gaining popularity, but it has a native rival in scraped-ice covered with syrup or fruit juice. Chewing gum can not seem to make headway among the Japanese, nor chewing tobacco; but beer and cigarettes are not only imported but also extensively produced.

The popularity of the foreign dress, also, is astonishing. One sees it in all stages, one or more garments being Japanese. It is amusing to see a man wearing a full dress native costume and a black silk hat. The English suit is largely used by teachers and by men in business, and middle school students wear military suits. The girls in schools and offices follow prevailing styles of hair arrangement, but as a rule follow a year or so behind time. Shoes have found their way into all parts of Japan,

largely through the soldiers. Even the Imperial Court has adopted the full European costume, for both its ladies and its gentlemen to wear on state occasions.

The changes in dress effect changes in the architecture. A man in trousers can neither comfortably nor economically sit on the floor; so, sitting on a chair, he must needs have a high table to match; then rather than spoil his soft matted floor, he builds his next house with one or more foreign rooms. Now that transportation is made easy by steam, a great variety of building materials may be had. With the exception of schools, nearly all of the government buildings are of stone or brick, and furnished in European style.

Because of these changes which are stirring the pulse of Japan, and because of the remarkably short time in which these changes and many more have taken place in government circles, other nations expect of her exactly as much as they expect of each other, and forget that she was born into the family of nations but little more than fifty years ago. Fifty years is but a short time in the life of a nation; and while Japan has the appearance of maturity, she is nevertheless a youth with undeveloped possibilities, but full of hope and energy, with her life before her. If she seems sometimes to make mistakes—no doubt her sister countries did the same when they were young. And, never fear, she will not make the same blunder twice. She is reaching out for something from each land, and if each gives her its best, what may not the world expect of Japan in the ages to come!

A JAPANESE CALL TO JAPAN

In no country in the world is there given a freer hand for the propagation of any religion. In a country like Japan, where the state and people are governed by a spirit of nationalism, the principles of Christianity are most suited. It is to be hoped that missionaries will redouble their zeal in promoting the welfare and happiness of the Japanese.—*Editorial in Japanese daily paper.*

Christ in Korean Homes^{*}

BY MATTIE WILCOX NOBLE, SEOUL, KOREA



FIRST of all Christ has elevated women in Korea.

A recognized helpfulness of true womanhood is asserting itself in the home and among the girls. Formerly, no right of leadership or refined co-partnership was ever vouchsafed her. Now, she often goes side by side with her husband to church, and is even permitted to eat with him. Women of the well-to-do classes no longer are obliged to hide themselves in the women's quarters; neither do the young women of any class, when they go walking, have to throw a long coat over their heads, drawing the front together under the eyes, nor to carry a large hat, between eight or nine feet in circumference, over their heads to conceal their features. The coats, veils, and the enormous hats are fast disappearing and women are beginning to feel the sunshine in the open air. True, it is a transition period, but light and freedom are coming to women through the Gospel.

Protection has come to childhood with the education of the individual and the elevation of the home life. Now, special care is taken of the health and the moral development of the child. Modesty, for the child's sake, is studied by the parent. Flagrant immodesties are still to be seen, but could newcomers to Korea lift the veil of several years ago the great contrast between then and now would be clearly recognized.

The religion of the Bible has made a place for the little ones. At first, when only small portions of the Scripture had been printed, babies were brought to the altar for baptism, quite slippery in their

original birthday clothes; but now, they are brought well drest, and sometimes gorgeously arrayed. When a baby girl is born, instead of condolences being offered to the parents, friends now say that they have received a gift from God; or, a new girl student for the School or Sunday-school has come to the home. One of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen, it being also a symbol of advancement, was at the first Parents' Day Services in Korea for the Cradle-Roll babies. There were some 200 babies with their mothers present, and at one side sat some fathers, a few of them proudly holding their baby girls.

The Bible has given an impetus to learning and brought an education within reach of many. Formerly, only women and girls of the dancing-girl class were allowed to learn or read. Now, all doubt as to the respectability of one's wife or daughter learning to read, has passed. I have known old ladies nearly seventy years of age to sit down and, little by little, learn to read. One of the finest Bible women in Korea learned to read after she was thirty years old and she is now a scholar in Bible literature, as well as a woman of deep spiritual insight.

The Bible has given a touch of social life to the men and women. Before the Bible came there were no halls or buildings where men and women gathered to listen to sermons, lectures, music, or to witness any entertainment; but after the Gospel was preached, both sexes met in the same room to hear and see all of the above. Of course they sit on opposite sides of the room and, in most cases, with a partition between. At a social held in our home at the close of

^{*} From *The Korea Mission Field*.

a Women's Bible Institute, many games were enjoyed by the old and young women; one would search very far to find a more joyous company. Play was new to them all; they laughed till the tears rolled down their cheeks.

The Bible liberates slaves. Many a wealthy Korean who owned slaves before he heard the Bible story, has liberated those slaves and brought them, with himself, to the mercy seat.

It has taken from the husband the power of torturing and deforming the body of his wife. In a fit of jealousy over a real or fancied cause, a husband can not now cut off his wife's nose. The sentiment of respect for women has grown so much in Christian neighborhoods, that a man can not even beat his wife without incurring censure. The old, lawless right of any man to forcibly seize a widow, and carry her away to his home, is fast passing away.

The Bible raises the marriageable age. Several years ago, the Church refused to perform the wedding ceremony for a boy under eighteen years of age and a girl under sixteen. Now, one rarely sees a little boy riding on a white horse to his wedding, or a weeping little girl being forced from her parents home to the home of her husband. Even at a heathen wedding the bride's eyes are rarely glued tight shut, in these days.

Formerly, only dancing girls and men

sang, and their songs were usually of wine and dancing, but now songs of rejoicing sung by both sexes are heard wherever the Gospel is preached.

In Christian communities, the teaching that "they twain shall be one flesh" is adhered to; likewise in Christian home the misery and distress accruing from the concubinage system is past and gone.

Cleanliness, beauty, and contentment are brought to the Christian homes. I recently met an old lady and her daughter whom I had taught eighteen years ago. The old lady was deaf and leaned on her staff as she gave me a whole-souled greeting. In recounting the events of the early days, the daughter said that her mother had always carried out, to a marked degree, my teachings on cleanliness, and that all these years she had been a living example of the beauty of cleanliness, and had taught the lessons to scores of young and old people. Formerly, water was little used by the sick and the aged.

But, greatest of all, the Bible brings to the homes of the people Jesus, the Savior, who gives salvation, peace, joy and hope to the Koreans who were crushed under the bondage of heathenism, and over whom the gloom of the centuries had settled: now, on those who have received Him rests the light of the Divine life.

FACTS CONCERNING KOREA'S PROGRESS

Korea has emerged from the secluded region of the genii, where the fairies congregate, where the elixir of life grows, where sages and immortals meet and talk together, into the limelight of the rushing, hungry world, with the Manchu express going by, and motor-cars and automobiles rushing about here and there through the ancient streets and market-ways. . . .

In religion, too, she has met a new and startling outlook, tho not a wholly unfamiliar one. Far wider than the few baptized or numbered on the church rolls (the total roll of full communicants in Protestant churches is 68,195, while probationers and other adherents regularly attending services increases the grand total to 179,167 members of the Protestant community) has the word of this news gone forth; namely, that God has Himself spoken to men tenderly, and kindly offered them peace.—JAMES S. GALE.