

shine and everything looked its best, forty little ladies came to enjoy all with us. Another day the church people—about fifty—came. Another day the mothers of the children in our three kindergartens came—nearly sixty of them. Again twenty government school teachers came, and then there were smaller parties, until I think there was not a man or woman among our acquaintances in Kanazawa who had not had an opportunity to see the inside of "Strachan Hall" and the "Herbie Bellamy Home," and to taste our sandwiches, cake and coffee. For my part it will be a long time before I can look again with anything like interest on that particular kind of cake and sandwiches, so tired did I get of them. But all our guests were so plainly delighted to inspect things and so sympathetic in regard to the work we hope to carry on here that it was a pleasure to have them. A number of them, to show their good will, brought gifts for the new home. The gift of the church people—a great surprise to us—was a beautiful large vase, which they had especially handpainted and inscribed at the Industrial school here.

It would be useless to try to describe "Strachan Hall" to you. As soon as the grounds are fixed up a bit, I will have it and the "Herbie Bellamy Home" photographed. Even so, it must be seen to be appreciated.

Often I have wished Mrs. Strachan, Mrs. Ross, and other friends could visit us. One day, especially, I wished for friends from home. At the time, in two of the school rooms, English lessons were going on; in another twenty girls were having a cooking lesson. In a small room we call the "waiting room," one of our teachers had her Sunday School class drilling them for Christmas, while in the room which has been furnished in Mrs. Whiston's memory Miss DeWolf was preparing for the Sunday School Normal Class. An hour later I was in our own little parlor helping a Government school teacher with some music she was preparing for our Christmas celebration. That is the way it is always—every room is useful and every room is almost constantly in use. The house is so comfortable throughout without being extravagant and could not be better suited to our needs.

I must ask you to be patient a little longer while I "hold forth" on the subject of the "Herbie Bellamy Home." Such a cosy, homey little place it is! And we are trying our best to make it in spirit as well as in appearance a real home without the capital "H." In a short time, we will have sixteen in it—ten of whom are pay boarders. I should love to write you all about these girls, but I shall only say that nearly all are from homes where Christianity is wholly or almost unknown, and almost all, little or big, are absolutely without training along Christian lines. We realize our great responsibility and wonderful opportunity. The Japanese teacher who shares the responsibility with me is one of our old Shizuoka supported girls, and is a great help. She rooms in the hostel, and is thus brought into constant and close connection with the boarders.

A letter came to me a few days ago which shows the need of such a Home as this now is. A man away out in the country—a total stranger—wrote saying that he and his wife had been wanting to send their daughter to Kanazawa to school for a long time, but almost gave it up, as they knew of no safe place where she might board. Then, from a friend, he heard of this hostel, and wished me to appoint a time when he might meet me and make arrangements for her to enter.

I cannot close without saying how full of gratitude Miss DeWolf and I have been for all that has come to our work and to us the last few months. It has almost

overwhelmed us at times. It would overwhelm us were it only for us and the little we can do. But we look ahead to the time when we shall be far removed from it all and others will be teaching here and these buildings will still be standing—a monument to the generosity of W.M.S. women and their love for Japan.

Indian Work

Miss Isabella Clarke, School Teacher at Kitamaat, B.C., writes:

Almost a year has slipped away since I came to Kitamaat. We are just in a nice little corner of the world by ourselves here. We do not hear much of the outside world and its doings, but occasionally a boat comes, and then we get a glimpse of what is going on.

The average attendance at our village school is about forty-five. The Home children (about thirty) make fairly good progress, as they attend regularly. The difficulty of the school work is language. So long as the children speak and think in their own language progress will be slow. The teacher may require answers in English, but it is easy to see that those answers have been arrived at by a process of thinking in a more familiar language. Their powers of imitation are good, and easily developed. They draw, write and sing well.

Miss Scouten, who was away for some months, returned by last boat, and we are delighted to have her with us again. She is feeling fairly strong.

Christmas and its festivities are over once more. The children say they had a happy time. Each boy and girl took part at the entertainment.

The week after Christmas a treat was taken round to the old people of the village as usual, it being too slippery for them to come to the Home. We also entertained the parents one day.

On New Year's Day we were given to understand that there was to be some Indian fun in the band hall. Some of us went, although no formal invitation had been given. We soon discovered that we were to witness a mild form of Indian dance, and, as some were very careful to explain, just given for fun, and to show the younger people what they used to do. Most of the actors donned old Indian costumes, and feathers were much in evidence. Their movements were accompanied by beating on an improvised tom-tom, which, while not musical, was at least rhythmical. The whole thing looked rather crude to our modern minds; but we are glad to have seen it, as it gives us an idea of the advance that has been made.

The children in the Home are well now. In the fall we had an epidemic of mumps, from which all made good recovery.

Oriental Work, Vancouver

Miss Preston writes:

The close of the last quarter brought us an addition to our small working force in Miss Kersuma for evangelistic work among our Japanese women and children. She is a graduate of a Mission School in Japan and speaks English very well.

In October Mrs. Smyth, a trained kindergartner, joined us, and has taken charge of the kindergarten in the Japanese Mission, where with her knowledge and experience she is moulding the precious young life given to her care.

We have a Miss Smith as local supply for the Chinese kindergarten, which was reopened in October, and had an average attendance of eleven in December. Miss Chan, our Chinese Bible-woman, calls for the