

While I do not for a moment minimize the value of direct evangelism on the part of the foreigner, yet the more experience I gain, the more deeply am I convinced that, where consecrated Japanese Bible women can be procured, the foreigner can do her best work through these Bible women.

Indian Work

Miss Scouten writes from Kitamaat:

We are having extremely cold weather just now, the thermometer dropping as low as 22 degrees below zero. The oldest man of the village cannot remember it ever having been so cold before. We take turns keeping fires going at night. How thankful we are for the good solid foundations, for so far there has not been any real harm done by the frost. We are glad the cold snap did not come before Christmas.

At that time we had nice weather and everything passed off pleasantly. The children had their Christmas dinner on Friday at noon. (Grouse and wild duck shot and given by Beth Anderson). About two o'clock, at high tide, so that friends from the Valley could attend, gifts from the Christmas tree were distributed and a concert held. Mr. and Mrs. Swann had a present for every one in the village and the Home gave each of its girls a book and the boys a horn, from the tree.

The time of the year for the children is the hanging of the stockings. They begin to count the weeks two months before Christmas, and the last week they count the days. They got so in the habit of counting, that the next day after, little Joseph wanted to know how many weeks before the next Christmas. When told, he found that was more than he could count, and, with a sigh, gave it up. The excitement of examining their stockings, and the exclamations of delight, expressed their happiness. One little girl spending her first year in the Home laughed until she almost cried.

On account of the many calls for help at this dreadful war time, we did not receive as much as usual for the stockings this year, but there was not a complaint made and all seemed thankful for what they received. Very little breakfast was eaten by the children that morning, but when all had taken a good hot cup of cocoa they were allowed to spend the day at their homes.

Miss Clarke, our dearly beloved Home Superintendent, gave the Christmas dinner to the staff, inviting Mr. and Mrs. Swann and Miss Alton, from the Mission House, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and two children, and Mr. and Mrs. Moore, from the Valley, making a jolly crowd of missionaries. We did not have turkey and cranberries, but were just as happy eating roast chicken, given by Mr. Anderson, and real English plum pudding, made and given by Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Our hearts were somewhat saddened with the thought that this was our last Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Swann. We will miss them. They have so nobly stood by the Home, but we know their prayers as well as those of all our friends will go up on our behalf.

Miss Alton is busy every day nursing and looking after the sick of the village, even having some night calls, which are not very pleasant these cold nights. Once a week she holds Mothers' Meetings, which are well attended. With all her work she is never too busy to help us in the Home. She is just the right person in the right place.

We are glad to report we have no sick children just now. Only those who have been in the Indian work will know what that means, especially when there is no doctor to rely on.

"Strangers Within Our Gates"

SAULT STE. MARIE.

Miss Cunningham writes:

At our Rally Sunday we had eighty-two present at All Peoples' Mission Sunday school in "Little Italy."

The review of the lessons of the previous quarter was conducted by two Finnish girls, thirteen and fourteen years of age, respectively.

About forty of the pupils took part giving the Topics, Golden Texts, and the story of each lesson. At the close of every lesson, a short recitation and bright little hymn were recited and sung, mostly by the pupils of the primary classes.

Thirty-seven practices were held for the Christmas concert, as well as some training done in the homes.

One Sunday morning, our children gave a concert in the Finnish Temperance Hall. There were thirty-seven numbers on the programme, consisting of recitations and hymns, the Ten Commandments and the twenty-third Psalm, the former being recited in union by seven little girls. These commandments were recited beautifully, every syllable being perfectly enunciated and not a break or pause from beginning to end. The seven little girls represented three nationalities—Russian, Syrian and Finn.

"The Christmas Story," as told in Luke, was given by twelve of the senior girls, representing four nationalities—Italian, Russian, Finn, and English; the story in Matthew, by seven of the senior boys.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" was sung by one of our Finnish boys, who has an unusual voice, sweet, strong and true. Nearly every child in the school took part in either recitation or song.

The day was all that could be desired, and we had a large attendance of parents and friends.

Suggestive Programme

AUXILIARIES AND CIRCLES

May, 1916.

Our Watchword.

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Subject for Prayer.

"That our members may be guided in a wise selection of officers for the coming year, and that the Branch Meetings may be a means of inspiration."

- I. Hymn—"I Need Thee, Every Hour." No. 36, Canadian Hymnal.
- II. Scripture Lesson, Matt. 25: 31-40.
- III. Prayer.
- IV. Minutes.
- V. Annual reports.
- VI. Hymn—"He Leadeth Me." No. 40, Canadian Hymnal.
- *VII. "Some Pointed Questions."
- VIII. Election of Officers.
- IX. Prayer.
- X. Hymn—"Go, Labor On," No. 171, Canadian Hymnal.
- XI. Benediction.

*See Suggestive Programme Leaflet. Price, 3 cts.

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