

the great heat, and on our return we were very busy fitting up and arranging the new Dispensary, which was finished early in the summer. During this time we were successful in engaging a very good Japanese Doctor. We were fortunate to secure a man who had been some years in the Yokohama Hospital, and who had been taught to dispense medicines in the European way; also he is a very good Christian. At first he was shy, but since he has become used to work with foreigners he has done his work exceedingly well, and has proved himself capable of undertaking very severe and serious cases.

On September 10 we opened the Dispensary, and on the first day we had one patient. By Oct. 5 we had seven attending daily. These in due time were cured, and then we suddenly dropped down to one a day. This continued for about five weeks, and we began to get anxious, but the Doctor assured us that in November and December it is such healthy weather that it was wonderful to have any one at all. We have, as stated, one Doctor, a Japanese, fully qualified, but Dr. Bailey, who is the first Physician in Japan, and has a great knowledge and experience of Japanese illnesses, is our Consulting Physician. He is always ready, and most kind and attentive. At present we do not require his services quite so much as we shall do after the Hospital is built.

In January, 1890, the numbers increased, and by the end of the month we had fourteen every day.

We had no one to recommend us, but I think probably the fairness of the price of medicines, and the good quality of the drugs, helped to give us a good name. The charge for medicine to be taken three times a day is three sen, but we always make up a six-ounce bottle, which lasts for two days, charging six sen; for lotions, night draughts, pills, powders, and ointments, one sen five rin is charged a day. Bottles are charged for separately, and the money returned if the bottle is brought back sound. This scarcely pays us at present, but when we get more patients I hope that the month's receipts will cover the monthly drug bill.

As we wish the Dispensary to be, as nearly as possible, a charitable institution, we treat a good number of patients free. Most of the Mission women, catechists and their families, and others connected with mission work, who receive small salaries, are treated free of charge; this, of course, is a great strain on our funds. In October, 1889, six patients were admitted free; in November and December three were admitted free; in January, eight; February and March, three; and in April, three; total, twenty-four. This does not sound a great number, but some of them have

been since we first opened, and are likely to continue for some time longer.

From September down to December 31 forty-two patients had attended the Dispensary, and one hundred and thirty-four visits been paid; out of this number seven patients were visited in their own homes by the Doctor and Nurse.

Since January, 1890, up to the present time, there have been one hundred and twenty-seven patients and six hundred and forty-six visits paid. Out of these ten patients have been attended in their homes, twelve visits paid by the Doctor, forty-one by the Nurse.

March 6, we took in our first in-patient, a child of twelve, very ill indeed with pneumonia. She was brought by her mother, tied on her back, a distance of two miles. The Doctor felt that if we allowed her to return home she would probably die on the road, so we took her into the waiting-room and made up a Japanese bed. At the end of the week she was able to return home nearly well.

Now that the foundation-stone of the Hospital is laid, we hope to begin to take in occasional acute cases. Very little is required for them: the greatest outlay will be a mat, such as they use to sleep on, and a blanket. Then, again, we hope to open the Dispensary two evenings a week to try and meet a want felt by working men who find it difficult to leave their occupation during the day.

In January we opened a branch Dispensary at Ushigoine, one of the extreme points of Tokyo. There we attend twice a week—on Tuesday from one to 3.30, and on Friday from nine to 3.30. As yet we have had only thirteen patients, but they have increased a little the last two weeks, and we hope now that they will go on increasing. In this place we very rarely get a patient able to pay, so that at present this work is a dead loss to us, but it is a satisfaction to know that they are deserving people. Nearly all have large families, and are struggling to keep themselves respectable. One young woman lives with her mother together by sewing tea-gowns. They just manage to live; both these we hope soon will become Christians, as they are listening to instruction.

Before finishing I should like to add that there is evangelistic work being done at the large Dispensary, but it requires a great deal of tact, in case some of the patients should take offence. As a rule the men are great scoffers, and many of them atheists, and we are afraid to speak much in the Waiting Room, for fear they should leave and go elsewhere. I therefore think it wiser to work up the Dispensary first thoroughly, and get our name well established, and then we can talk in the Waiting Room without fear. How we

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)