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A Great Work

BY REV. C. E. KEARNS.

To the intinerator the winter class at the Korean New Year season marks the half way point in the year's work. At that time the country groups under his care are supposed to have been visited once and generally speaking about half the work planned for the period between annual meeting and the rainy season is done. The class marks the heaviest crash in the crescendo that begins after annual meeting and after the class come a diminuendo that finally "peters out" with the rainy season when no man can work.

I have not done half of the year's work because four men could not have done it, but I have at least used up half the time and the results are perhaps half of the results that will come out in our next annual report. Since annual meeting I have visited about two thirds of the groups in my care, baptizing 660, receiving about 1,000 catechumens, administering discipline of various kinds, holding four classes, the largest enrolling over 500, the smallest under 200, organizing ten new groups, all of which begin with very encouraging outlook.

THE LARGEST CLASS

The largest class in point of numbers ever held in Korea was the Syen Chyun winter men's class. The total enrollment was 1,140 men. Interest and average age attendance compared with former years were excellent, the number of those leaving early being surprisingly small.

The class was taught in eight graded divisions, the smallest numbering 42 men and the largest 203. Dr. Baird of Pyeng Yang and Messrs. Welbon and E. H. Miller of Seoul assisted in the teaching and in leading evening mass meetings. At one of these evening meetings the subject of preaching to the heathens was discussed and 1,190 days of voluntary preaching were subscribed.

Although the class was large there was very little confusion or friction, the thirteen Korean helpers handling matters very efficiently. On their shoulders fell a large share of the burden formerly carried by foreigners and they acquitted themselves nobly.

EUI JU ACADEMY.

A problem that came up during the class is a fair illustration of the temper of the church. Eui Ju city church with over 500 members and the centre of 25 churches within a radius of 50 li containing an aggregate of 3000 Christians presents a strong plea for an academy. They propose to donate school buildings and a residence for the foreign teacher and in addition 300 members of the "Eui Ju Academy Association" pledge themselves to give one yen per month for current expenses, yen 200 per month to be the salary of an

American teacher and yen 100 to be used for fuel, lights, etc. All they ask of the Mission is to appoint a superintendent. It is of course impossible to promise them anything, but something ought to be done with such an opportunity. The Eui Ju churches form perhaps the strongest and most influential section of the Korean church.