REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1909

OF THE

JAPAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY

3 YURAKU CHO NICHOME, KOJIMACHI, TOKYO.

REPRESENTING

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON

AND

THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

(GEORGE BRAITHWAITE, AGENT.)

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YOKOHAMA.
1910.
REPORT
OF THE
Japan Book and Tract Society
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
December 31st, 1909.

In presenting this, our eleventh Annual Report, we desire to express our thanksgiving to the Lord of the harvest for having given us the privilege of continuing throughout another year to send forth our tracts and books up and down this land where even now the living teachers of the Word are so comparatively few in number. We rejoice to know that the Society's little printed messengers often create a desire to learn more about the true God; or where the Word has been already preached, assist in fixing the message on the hearts and minds of the hearers, helping them rightly to understand what they have heard. "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." (Nehemiah viii. 8.)

During the year under review we were much pleased to receive from the American Tract Society substantial help towards the cost of Publication Work.

The Religious Tract Society has continued to assist us, and also sent us a grant of £25.—. — for Special Work. Thus we were free from the financial anxiety which has been our lot in some years.

The financial stress which was spoken of in our last report as having been prevalent in business circles throughout the Empire was even more pronounced during the past year, but in spite of this we are thankful to report a substantial increase in our circulation. For
CIRCULATION.

the convenience of comparison we give the actual figures for both 1908 and 1909 below:—

CIRCULATION 1908.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales at Depot ...</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>62,413</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>4,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; to Correspondents..</td>
<td>3,660</td>
<td>189,509</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>4,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; to Book Shops.</td>
<td>1,083</td>
<td>10,993</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sent to Religious Tract Society..</td>
<td>5,739</td>
<td>262,915</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>10,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Grants ...</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28,925</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
<td>48,036</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total...</td>
<td>5,828</td>
<td>339,876</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>10,862</td>
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</tbody>
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CIRCULATION 1909.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales at Depot ...</td>
<td>1,757</td>
<td>60,667</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>5,677</td>
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<td>&quot; to Correspondents..</td>
<td>5,448</td>
<td>263,660</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>4,272</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; to Book Shops.</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales for Special Distribution...</td>
<td>8,950</td>
<td>327,217</td>
<td>1,219</td>
<td>11,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>102</td>
<td>96,046</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sales...</td>
<td>9,052</td>
<td>423,263</td>
<td>1,219</td>
<td>11,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Grants...</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>34,199</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total...</td>
<td>9,351</td>
<td>457,462</td>
<td>1,219</td>
<td>11,135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLICATION.

During the year under review, the Society has paid for the printing of 7,500 Books and 372,000 Tracts in Japanese, and 1,000 Tracts in English. In addition to these, we have, for the convenience of our customers, superintended the printing of 5,000 Tracts in Japanese, and 2,000 Books and 1,000 Tracts in Chinese, the total publication amounting to over five and a half million pages.

The books include reprints of Mr. Wm. George Smith's two books "The Introduction to the New Testament" and "Where Does Christianity Come From," for both of which there exists a steady demand. An edition of 1,000 copies of "Stalker's Life of Christ" was also issued. This book was first published in 1892 and since that date 3,000 copies have been disposed of. The edition now issued is an entirely new translation and is meeting with much favour.

Four new books were completed during the year. Of these the most noteworthy perhaps is the third double volume of "Edersheim's Old Testament History." This valuable work, therefore, is now complete. The Society also issued "Line Upon Line" Part I, and is now having the Second Part translated. The other two new books issued during the year are "Teddy's Button," the copyright and shells of which we purchased from a Japanese publisher who had no thought of reprinting it; and "Christie's Old Organ." The latter was published many years ago but the edition now issued is an entirely new translation for which the Society is indebted to Mrs. E. R. Miller of Tokyo.

The tracts printed during the year include thirty separate editions, twenty-nine of which were reprints. The only new one issued, "The Only Way," is by the Rev. Robert Atchison and has for several years had a large circulation, being printed privately by him. Now the Society has taken it up, it is hoped that its usefulness will be much increased.

During the year the Society also bought from other publishers 11,381 Books, 6,937 Tracts and 115,149 Cards and Pictures, these being required for stock and to fill orders received.
GENERAL WORK.

The following letters which have been received will, it is hoped, be of interest:

From Rev. C. O. P. Cambridge, Hamamatsu.

No. 1.

Having seen a little of the value of the work which the Society is doing I beg to enclose a small subscription of Yen 10 with many thanksgivings to God for His blessing on the work and workers.

No. 2.

I am but a very recent worker in this country and many can speak from much wider range of experience. Some individual cases within the range of my own work occur to me in which the Holy Spirit has made use of your tracts amongst other means for drawing and enlightening souls. In one case a schoolmaster was induced by thoughts gathered from a tract on Eternal Life to search the Bible along that particular line. He is now a baptized member of the church—other influences were at work, but the tract helped.

In another case a tract given to the father of a family attracted the attention of one of his lads who committed its words to memory and has been coming to me for instruction now for six months. Again, other influences were at work, but the tract helped.

Other workers of much longer experience than mine have spoken to me of the helpfulness of tracts in this country. May God give His Spirit both to the writers and the circulators of them that their testimony may be increasingly powerful!

From Miss Ada B. Chandler, Sapporo

Many thanks for the promptness with which you fill my orders. Can you not arrange something for children as nice as your tracts
for older people? There are such crowds of them everywhere. The older people always receive the tracts with the greatest politeness and carefully take them away with them to read again. It is very rarely that one is thrown down. Please arrange something for the children.

The following particulars have also reached us:—

"The God Who Makes the Seaweed."

Several years ago on a little coasting steamer I met an old fisherwoman to whom I gave a tract called, "The God who Makes the Seaweed." She seemed much interested in it and asked me many questions before we parted.

Some months later an evangelist went to preach at a fishing village on the West Coast and an old woman came up to him and said, "Is your God, the God you worship, the God who makes the seaweed?" At first, he did not understand what she meant; but when she showed him the tract, he said, "Yes, yes, he is." "Well," said she, "since I received this tract, my son and I have worshipped the 'God who Makes the Seaweed'; but how to do it we did not know, so each morning after washing our hands and faces we go out and worship the 'God who Makes the Seaweed. You must please come and stay the night with us and teach us how to worship Him." The evangelist accepted her invitation, and afterwards visited the village frequently; and, in course of time, not only the old woman and her son, but also a number of the other villagers became Christians.

The above account was received from a lady missionary who ordered a parcel of tracts not long ago, leaving the selection to us. On opening the parcel, she was overjoyed to find several hundred copies of the above tract among those sent.
GENERAL WORK.

"The Story of Naaman."

One of the inns on the West Coast where missionaries often spent a night or two in the course of their travels up and down the country, used to be kept by an old man. Both he and his wife were strong Buddhists, and for many years they both always obstinately refused either to receive any tracts or hear anything whatever about Christianity from any of their missionary guests. At length, however, one very cold morning, a missionary lady, who was lodging there and had been praying much for the old man and his wife, having selected from the tracts she had with her a copy of "The Story of Naaman" as likely to interest the old man who was an old samurai, went downstairs and sat with him over the charcoal fire. After some time, she went back to her room, but the tract she had been looking at, she intentionally left lying where she had been sitting. The same evening, on her return from a meeting, the landlord met her on the threshold saying, "You left your book lying here this morning. I have been reading it with the greatest interest. Do you need it, or may I buy it?" The lady most thankfully allowed him to keep it, and presented him with a New Testament the next time she passed that way. This and the tract, he read and studied much, and was deeply convicted of sin; more than once inquiring, while the tears poured down his cheeks, "Can God really forgive such a great sinner as I am?" He really learned to pray, and at length found peace and joy in believing.

How a Tract Saved a Lady's Life.

Last Spring we spent a couple of weeks at Karuizawa, some 3,000 feet above sea level. The railway goes up through twenty-six tunnels and from the plain in which the little village stands, the great
volcano "Asama" can be clearly seen. One afternoon I planned to take our little boy and go by train to the station about halfway down the tunnels to meet a fellow missionary who was coming up from Tokyo to recruit after an operation. I had some tracts with me which I gave away to our fellow passengers in the train, and very soon we reached the little station of Kumanotaira where we got out to wait for the down train from Tokyo. Just before the train we had come in steamed off, a Japanese lady jumped out, and coming to where I was sitting, asked if I was a Christian. On my replying that I was, she burst into tears, and then as best she could for her sobs, she told me her story.

She was the wife of a business man and had been led to the Lord some six months before. Her married life had been a very unhappy one, and her becoming a Christian did not lessen her difficulties. For some time, however, she found comfort and relief when at night she read her Testament. She was specially impressed with I Peter iii. 1, "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives." But she felt that her life was such a poor feeble one that it was not likely to win anybody. This thought so discouraged her that she gave up reading her Bible, and weak in body as she was, the temptation took possession of her to put an end to her life. With this in view, she took some money; and, telling her family she was going to see a friend, she set out and travelled some 450 miles by rail to a little village near the foot of Mount Asama, intending to throw herself into the crater of that volcano. The people at the hotel where she stayed were, however, suspicious and questioned her as to her movements, and she found too that no woman is allowed to climb the mountain alone. Being thus unable to carry out her first intention, she next planned to kill herself on the railway, and was on her way to do so when I gave her the tract. Though knowing quite well the sin of all this, she had become strangely hard, so that she could not even weep; but the little tract came to her as a direct message from God the Lord, and the thought of His love and grace in sending it to her
in such an out of the way place, just when she was in the very act of doing what she knew to be wrong, melted her heart.

We took her back to Karuizawa with us that night, and the next morning I went to Tokyo with her, and left her there in the loving care of my fellow worker Mrs. G., who set off as soon as possible to the home of the lady’s own parents, about eighteen miles away. They were overjoyed to hear that their daughter had been found, and the mother returned with Mrs. G. and spent the night at her house. It was decided that it was best for the lady to remain at Mrs. G.’s house for a few days. Just at that time some special meetings were being held, and these together with the helpful fellowship she found in that Christian home were a great blessing to her. Some of her relatives did not want her to return to her husband, but she knew that it was her duty as a Christian woman to go back to him, so after first sending a beautifully humble letter of apology she did so.

SPECIAL WORK.

I.—At Kumamoto.

To commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the death of Kato Kiyomasa, the great Kumamoto benefactor, festivities were held in that city for fifty days from March 20th last. These attracted large numbers of people from far and near and arrangements were made by the Christians for special Gospel services to be carried on continuously as long as the festivities lasted. In response to our appeal the Religious Tract Society most kindly made us a special grant of £25.—.— for special tract distribution in this and other places.

Owing to the fact that large numbers of tracts were supplied from other sources, many of them being purchased from us, the demand on the special fund was not nearly so large as we anticipated;
but we nevertheless had the pleasure of forwarding 50 Books and 44,800 Tracts. These were much appreciated. The Society's warm thanks are due to the Rev. S. Painter for his kindness in taking charge of the work.

**IN OTHER PLACES.**

In May a series of special services was held in Tokushima to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of Protestant Missions and in response to an appeal the Society sent a supply of tracts for use in connection with these.

Books and Tracts were also sent out for distribution at the Church Missionary Society's preaching-place in Tokyo.

The special fund also enabled us to grant a number of books and tracts for use among the lepers.

The following letter shows how greatly this grant was appreciated:

*From Mrs. J. K. McCauley, Tokyo.*

Thank you so much for the generous contribution of books for the work among the lepers. Of the tracts, 250 are already in the hands of lepers at the Government Leper Hospital out near Hachioji. On Monday the 27th we had our first Christian meeting at that place. Two missionaries and one Japanese pastor each gave a nice talk, and we had several hymns, Otsuka San Junior, the musician, taking his violin. It was very nice, 250 patients as well as all the servants and attendant nurses were present at the meeting. The assistant doctor and his wife are Christians and a servant who was for many years at our Meguro Leper Home, but these three are the only Christians.

We had forty lepers at Meguro supported by the government. These heard the Gospel daily for some months, but they have been taken to the new place so they may be as a little leaven in the whole; I fancy nearly all the lepers at this government hospital are street beggars, gathered up all over the country by policemen. They
are a problem for us, but not for God, and if we can give them a hope beyond this life; we shall lift them out of the horrible pit they are in and from which they at present see no way of escape. I took a number of Gospels with me as well as a package of Mr. Smith's beautiful books. These were given out with each box of cake and oranges, we had taken to give them a little treat. May God richly bless the Word which we have thus given them, and may these our afflicted and outcast brothers and sisters soon learn that God is love, and praise Him for bringing them into an environment where they may learn of Him!

The following table shows the number of books and tracts which this fund has enabled us to send out:—

**Literature Sent Out for Special Work during 1909.**

(Charged to the Special Fund.)

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kumamoto</td>
<td>... 50</td>
<td>44,800 44,850</td>
<td>16650 9371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokushima</td>
<td>... 6,400</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>4300 2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>... 2 43,900 43,902</td>
<td>10225 5180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leper Home</td>
<td>... 70 946 1,016</td>
<td>2314 1514</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>122 96,046 96,168</td>
<td>33489 18215</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Free Grants.

These are not quite so numerous as during the previous year. They include copies sent out to Japanese newspapers for review, also 25 Books and 1070 Tracts forwarded to London for use in the Church Missionary Society's Exhibition, 516 Tracts given to Miss L. J. Wirick for sending to soldiers in the country who became Christians while in the hospital suffering from wounds received in the late war; 2,300 sent to Miss E. R. Gillett for use among the railway men; and 7,500 given to the Salvation Army for placing in 2,500 Comfort Baskets. These baskets each contained a piece of soap, a packet of tooth powder, a towel, three tracts and some New Year Cake and were handed at New Year, some of them to extremely poor families in Tokyo, and the remainder to families in Osaka who had lost everything through the fire which devastated that city last August.

Two grants, amounting in all to 13,000 copies were also sent to Rev. H. R. Wansey for distribution among the pilgrims to Nikko. The following letters from Mr. Wansey refer to these:

No. 1.

Can you let us have another grant of tracts for the pilgrims and people visiting Nikko as you so kindly did last year? You have a tract I think "The True God" which has been blessed to a priest here and others, so if you could send us a lot of these, and any others you think would be especially suitable for Nikko, I should be most grateful.

No. 2.

Thank you very much indeed for the grant of 6,000 Gospel tracts which have safely arrived. We are making good use of them, and I trust they will bring God's light and salvation to many souls.
The 6,000 cheap tracts that you gave us as a free grant last November have already mostly been distributed, I am sure with good results, in establishing the Kingdom of God in this neighbourhood. A very seldom go out without tracts in my pocket, and their acceptance is hardly ever refused. Nikko having every day so many incomers for sight-seeing, temple-visiting, and worship is an especially good centre for tract distribution, open air preaching, and Bible selling.

Only two or three days ago, I suppose quite five hundred men from the country came to Nikko to worship at a certain shrine on the top of a steep hill. The priest there, after seeing them worship, took their money and handed each one a charm like a flag stuck to a little bamboo pole. It was a bitterly cold day. I was walking in from the country and met about 150 of these men returning, all with their paper flags sticking down their necks and waving over their shoulders or heads. I spoke to some of them and gave them some tracts, and thought that if ever there was an army of people as Slaves of Darkness and Error, here they were. They passed along in their scores with their flags flying, manifesting them to be under darkness, without light, without Christ, and without hope in the world. So long as such heathenism continues, how great the need for the distribution of such tracts as you publish!

From Rev. F. O. Bergstrom, Tokyo.

Last April, when we were carrying on a special evangelistic campaign at Mukojima, during the cherry blossom season, you kindly donated, I think it was 5,000 copies of tracts in addition to those I purchased from you. I ought to have written long since to thank you for this donation, which helped us to reach so many more people with “a word in season” (Isaiah 50:4)—a tract is carried to the home and read when sometimes spoken words are forgotten.

We distributed over 10,000 tracts in all, and sold over 400 copies of the New Testament during those eleven days, and yet I fear
not one out of every twenty that passed by got a tract. Some 40 persons came inside to be prayed with and led to Jesus, and some of them were among the sixteen converts whom we baptized in the latter part of May. We had a great crowd before us, attentively listening to the Gospel preaching every day from about 9 o'clock in the morning till about six o'clock in the evening.

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

As it is now close on thirty-six years since Tract Society work was first commenced in this country, it seems fitting that a few particulars of what has already been done should be laid before those who are interested in our work.

The American Tract Society of New York commenced the creation of Christian literature in this country in the year 1874. By 1880 they had formed two Tract Committees; one in Tokyo and the other in Osaka and they continued to work through these two Committees until May 1st, 1891.

In the meantime the Religious Tract Society of London had also commenced work, the Tokyo Corresponding Committee being formed in 1875.

On May 1st, 1891 the work of these three Committees was united under the Tract Societies' Committee for Japan with the late Rev. W. J. White as agent. In 1898 it was thought better to change the designation of the Committee to the Japan Book and Tract Society, under which name the work has since that date been carried on.
The following table shows the amount of literature which the Tract Societies have been instrumental in placing in the hands of the Japanese:

**TOTAL CIRCULATION UP TO DEC. 31ST, 1909.**

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<tr>
<td>Rel. Tract Soc. 1876-91</td>
<td>35,818</td>
<td>1,063,799</td>
<td>577,772</td>
<td>1,677,389</td>
<td>20,927,57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Tract Soc. North up to 1891</td>
<td>23,491</td>
<td>1,257,014</td>
<td>33,464</td>
<td>1,313,969</td>
<td>8,300,29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Tract Soc. South up to 1891</td>
<td>25,973</td>
<td>232,510</td>
<td></td>
<td>258,483</td>
<td>3,723,50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract Soc. Com. 1891-98...</td>
<td>85,282</td>
<td>2,553,323</td>
<td>611,236</td>
<td>3,249,841</td>
<td>32,951,36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan Book and Tract Soc. 1899-1909 ...</td>
<td>35,758</td>
<td>2,438,882</td>
<td>599,149</td>
<td>3,073,789</td>
<td>37,820,60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>142,440</td>
<td>4,272,833</td>
<td>643,333</td>
<td>5,058,606</td>
<td>80,541,87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>263,480</td>
<td>9,265,038</td>
<td>1,853,718</td>
<td>11,382,236</td>
<td>151,313,83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roughly speaking, it may be said that half the total circulation was effected during the first twenty-five years, and half during the last eleven, since the Japan Book and Tract Society was formed. Up to ten years ago a very large portion of the circulation consisted of free grants; whereas now but few grants are made, except for special purposes, as for instance during the late war, when through the kindness of the Religious Tract Society we were enabled to distribute large numbers of tracts among the wounded Japanese soldiers. The great bulk of the circulation now consists of sales either to missionaries or Japanese, and the Society is thankful to note that the sales to the latter are increasing.

Of our books, "Martin's Evidences of Christianity" in Kunten heads the list, 21,750 copies having been issued. Pilgrim's Progress comes next with 16,500 copies.

Of our tracts, one "The True God" has had a circulation of nearly 300,000; while two, "Conversation About Christ" and "A Talk About Salvation" both exceed 200,000 copies, and seventeen
CONCLUSION.

others are each well over the 100,000 mark. Seven tracts by Dr. Ibuka and a like number by the Rev. T. Miura have each averaged nearly 100,000. "The Two Hearts," a small tract by the Rev. W. P. Buncombe, first published about twelve years ago, has had since that time an average annual circulation of about 13,000 copies.

As to finances, the total amount received from abroad since the work was first commenced, if calculated at the present rate of exchange is about Yen 64,000 from the American Tract Society and Yen 116,000 from the Religious Tract Society; but during the past nine years we have been practically dependent on the assistance received from England.

CONCLUSION.

We trust the Lord's people may be encouraged by this brief report of what has been already accomplished, and may be stirred up to ever increasing efforts to spread abroad throughout the length and breadth of this land the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

Secretary,

GEORGE BRAITHWAITE,
5 Hikawa Cho, Akasaka, Tokyo.
Cash Account of the Japan Book and Tract Society
for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

Receipts.

Cash in Hands of Treasurer, Jan. 1st ... ... 656.74
" " Agent ... ... 289.80
American Tract Society, U.S. Gold $500.00... 946.54
Religious Tract Society, £416.16.9 ... ... 1,000.30
Donations:
  Rev. B. F. Buxton ... ... 30.16
  Rev. J. Hind ... ... 20.00
  Rev. C. O. P. Cambridge ... ... 10.00
  Miss E. Y. Dawbarn ... ... 10.00
  Mrs. G. M. Gillett ... ... 5.00
  Miscellaneous ... ... .88
  From Sales:
  Depot ... ... 3,004.60
  Correspondents ... ... 3,502.96
  Book Shops ... ... 1,122.94
  Kumamoto Fund ... ... 182.15
  Sundries Sold ... ... ... ... 8.09
  Bank Interest ... ... ... ... 45.64
Total Receipts: ... ... ... ... £13,946.28

Disbursements.

Printing Books and Tracts ... ... ... ... 2,344.68
Binding Expenses ... ... ... ... 279.62
Literary Expenses ... ... ... ... 818.75
Books, Tracts and Cards Purchased ... ... 3,603.11
Management Expenses ... ... ... ... 2,442.74
Depot Expenses:
  Rent and Taxes ... ... ... 763.66
  Assistants’ Salaries ... ... 814.00
  Stationery and Postage ... ... 395.89
  Freight and Packing ... ... 308.06
  Gas Rate ... ... 93.11
  Sundries ... ... 53.79
  Advertising ... ... 51.47
  Furniture ... ... 138.08
  Travelling ... ... 23.36
  Fire Insurance ... ... 95.00
  Enlarging Depot ... ... ... ... 183.70
  Cash in Hands of Treasurer, Dec. 31st ... ... 1,440.04
" " Agent ... ... 96.22
Total Disbursements: ... ... ... ... £13,946.28

Audited and found correct. (Signed) M. N. Wyckoff
" " H. M. Landis
Auditors.

Tokyo, February 11th, 1910.

N.B.—The Yen is equal to about 50 cents U.S. Gold, or 2/1.