

# New Woman's University of Japan Founded by the Dowager Empress



PEERESSES SCHOOL, FOUNDED BY THE EMPRESS OF JAPAN.



PRESIDENT J. NARUSE.



COLLEGE GIRLS OF AMERICA AND JAPAN.

(Copyright, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

**T**OKIO—(Special Correspondence of the Bee.)—I write of the Japanese girl of today; not of Yum Yum, Miss Chrysanthemum or Miss Cherryblossom, the dainty plaything of the past, but of the live, wide awake, up-to-date, pushing maiden of 1909. You may see her acting as cashier in the big stores; she sells you your tickets in the offices of the railway stations; she aids in the management of the hotels at which you stay; and, if you become ill, she administers your medicines as the trained nurse of the hospital. She is fast taking taking her place in the ranks of every industry, and as a stenographer and typewriter is now found in many of the native factories, banks and other financial establishments.

**Three Million School Girls.**

There are more than 6,000,000 children in the public schools of Japan, and at least 3,000,000 of them are girls. They are required to wear a school uniform, and morning and afternoon the streets are filled with this female educational army, going along singly or hand in hand, with their books wrapped up in bundles, on their way to and from school. The girls wear shirts of dark red or plum color, above which show out the upper parts of their kimonos, that take the place of our school waists. Most of them carry paper umbrellas and many walk on wooden shoes. When it rains they have sandals about three inches high, and as they hold up their skirts they show a bit of bare skin above their white foot mittens.

**These girls are of all ages, from little tots of 5, who are going to the kindergarten, up to young women of 18 or more, on their way to the high schools, normal schools and academies. The compulsory school age is from 6 to 14, during which the girls have until now been compelled to attend for a period of four years. This time has been extended to six years, and the tendency is to make it still longer. The school hours begin at 8 and last until 2, and there is a recess of fifteen minutes at the close of each hour for the children to go out in the open and exercise. Every school has its gymnasium and every girl is required to spend three hours each week in athletic exercises under the direction of well trained instructors. The result has already been a great improvement**

in the physique of the children, and it will result in making the uncorrected Japanese girl one of the best developed of her sex. The studies of the elementary schools are just the same as those of the United States, save that morals and the Japanese language are added. In most of the schools English is taught, and in not a few, cooking, sewing and other branches of domestic science.

**Girls' High Schools.**

Japan has now a large number of girls' high schools, although as a rule the most of the children drop out at the end of the ordinary grades. In the high schools advanced mathematics such as algebra and geometry are taught and also botany, physics, chemistry, biology and hygiene. They have a special training in the Japanese language and composition and also in morals.

**Where Peereses Are Educated.**

I have recently visited many of these schools and within the last week I have gone through the great school established by the empress for the daughters of the peers and princes of Japan. This was opened fifteen years ago and it now has 600 pupils. The school is under the direct supervision of the imperial household and is not in any way connected with the educational department which manages the other schools. It is remarkable in that it is made up largely of the daughters of the highest classes, and in that it includes several princesses belonging to branches of the royal family. It girls may be said to belong to the topmost layer of the upper crust of the creme de la creme of Japan.

**In the Schoolrooms.**

The classrooms are not unlike those of the United States, with desks and chairs, save that all the chairs are cushioned with green. We visit one class and listen to a lecture on physics. About fifty girls are taking notes in Japanese script, and they hardly look up as we enter. We go to the laboratories, where they are studying chemistry, and on into music rooms, in some of which are taught foreign playing and singing, and in others the music of Japan. In the latter the girls play upon the gogo, a sort of horizontal harp or guitar which rests on a low bench. The instrument is about five feet long, a foot wide and it has a half dozen or more catgut strings. In another room we hear the girls reciting English, and in another see them studying French under a Japanese major, who has learned the language in Paris. Every pupil is required to study either French or English, and the professor tells us that most of them choose the latter. He says that the school has three divisions known as the primary, middle and graduate sections. The girls enter the primary school at the age of 4 and remain there until 12. During this time they are required to study four or five hours a day, and Saturday from three to four hours. The middle section requires five years, and after graduating there the students may enter the graduate section, which is a sort of master-of-arts department. In this department there are courses in Japanese literature and art as well as in the several sciences and languages. Most girls graduate at about 20, but only about one-half of those who enter remain for graduation. So far the school has had more than 2,000 graduates.

**Fashionable Accomplishments.**

The Peereses' school is by far the most fashionable and aristocratic of the empire, and a large part of its purpose is to fit the girls to take their places in society both at court and at home. Many of them become the wives of generals, statesmen and diplomats, and they have to uphold the position of their people. They all learn to draw and paint and they do so most beautifully. They are taught sewing and embroidery and some of them do good work in sculpture. The Japanese are naturally artistic, and even the small girls write and sketch with great facility.

**An Important Branch of the Teaching is**

Japanese etiquette. The professor at the head of this department is an old man of the Samurai class, who is said to be the best of his kind in Japan. I watched him put about twenty young women through the proper evolutions necessary to the reception of a guest. The girls had to bend just so, keeping their backs perfectly straight as they bowed, and then getting down on their knees and spreading their hands out on the mats while they bent their heads to the floor. Their actions were wonderfully graceful, but the old gray-haired professor was not satisfied unless each motion was in accord with the rules and not a hair's breadth out of the way.

**Higher Education for Women.**

I was taken through the buildings by Miss Hirano, the professor of ethics, a charming woman who spoke English perfectly. We went through classroom after classroom, each filled with bright looking students either reciting or listening to lectures. In one hall there were a hundred seniors taking down the notes of a lecture on sociology, and in others we listened to classes being taught literature, psychology and ethics. There are three courses in the university—preparatory, university and post-graduate. The university proper has three departments. One is devoted to domestic science, another to Japanese literature and another to English literature. The department of domestic science covers such things as ethics, psychology, pedagogy, physiology, economics, law and science, and art, as well as physics, chemistry and the other natural sciences. The other two departments are still broader and there are many elective courses of study.

**The Work Done seems to me thorough.**

I spent some time in the chemical laboratories watching the girls analyzing substances of various kinds. They have a half dozen or more large rooms, well equipped with such appliances, and they are doing some original work. In one room, for instance, I was shown some thousands of bottles comprising analyses made by these girls of all the foods of Japan, vegetable and animal. Who knows but that the Mme. Curie of the next generation may not have a yellow skin and slant eyes!

**In the Dormitories.**

The dormitories of this university are especially interesting. There are twenty-seven of them, divided up into little rooms, each of which is occupied by from two to four students. Some of the dormitories are purely Japanese. In these the girls sleep on the floor, lying on futons or mats during the day time. They rest their necks on Japanese pillows, mere blocks of wood, about the size of a brick, with a roll of soft tissue paper on top. The floors of all the dormitories are covered with mats about an inch thick, so white and clean that one would not fear to set off of them.

**Other dormitories have mattresses on low shelves, so arranged that the beds are covered with boards during the day time. Then they serve as tables and desks. The girls take care of their own rooms and do all the housework, one servant only being in the employ of each dormitory. Every establishment has also a matron in charge.**

**The work of the students is required in order to make the expenses as low as possible, and I doubt if there is anywhere else in the world that one can get a good education at such a low price as here. The annual tuition is just under \$4, and it is payable in three installments. There is an additional fee of less than \$3 for school expenses, and an extra charge for those who study music of 25 cents per month for the use of an organ and 50 cents for using the piano. Including board and expenses a girl can go to school here a whole year for about \$10.**

**FRANK G. CARPENTER.**

## Music and Musical Notes

**I**N THIS column last Sunday there was a sketch of some events in the life of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy up to his 31st year. Continuing therefrom after a contemplation of his birthday, which was last Wednesday, the 100th anniversary—we find him in Rome, where he is having an enjoyable time, "his looking-glass still full of visiting cards," and new acquaintances every evening. Here he met Horace Vernet, the famous French painter of military subjects, and Thorwaldsen, the celebrated Danish sculptor. Mendelssohn did not love antiquity for its own sake, he said of a certain place: "The sea lay between the islands, and the rocks covered with vegetation, but over it there just as they do now." ("The then" refers to the time of Brutus and Cicero). He says: "The outline of the Alban hills remain unchanged. There they can scribble no names and compose no inscriptions—and to these I cling." The "Walpurgis-night" is dated this period, 1831, the composer being 22 years old. The Italian and Scotch symphonies are also on the way towards development and perfecting.

Berlioz, Benedict and Donizetti amongst others now cross the young master's path and are frequently mentioned. Sketch making and organ playing take up much time and we find him in Munich again, playing his G minor concerto, his Symphony in G major and his "Midsummer Night's Dream" overture are also heard at this concert.

Christmas of this year he spends in Paris, and seems to have spent much time with Chopin, Meyerbeer, Liszt, Ole Bull and others.

But there were three shadows on this period of otherwise deep enjoyment in the pleasures of Parisian life in good society—first, the rejection of his Requiem Symphony; second, the death of his great friend, Edward Ritz, and, third, the death of Goethe. He was received everywhere in Paris with applause and hearty accord, but he left no lasting impression and never again visited there.

In 1832, when he was 23, we find him back again in his beloved London where he writes his Capriccio brilliant in B. On 23, his teacher Zelter died in May. Prof. Zelter, conductor of the Singakademie, and Mendelssohn was defeated by 60 out of 226 votes for the position vacant.

In 1833 the Italian symphony was finished in response to an offer from the London Philharmonic society. The lower Rhine festival at Dusseldorf now claims the attention of this young composer, and so great was his success that the authorities made him an offer to undertake the entire musical arrangements of the town.

Back in London, and this time with his father who has a good deal of fun at the expense of Felix, on account of the absence of the sun and the presence of fog. We have a record of him at this time playing the organ at St. Paul's cathedral, Klingemann and other friends at the bellows, and the church empty.

When he returned to Dusseldorf he revolutionized things, and at first all went well, until he began to grow tired of the theatrical part of his work, which was irksome to him by nature. He gave this part up in 1834, not without having exerted a good influence, while in church music much progress was made. Chopin visited him here.

In the spring of the same year he was made a member of the Berlin academy of Fine Arts.

He always had a great desire to write a grand opera and it is in the vain attempt to get good libretto of a high morale, that we hear him say that he "will forsake opera and write oratorios."

The oratorio of "St. Paul" was begun accordingly in 1834.

In the closing months of this year (1835) Mendelssohn had further engagements difficult to contend with and gave up the whole thing, and came to Leipzig as conductor of the Gewandhaus concerts. He refers to coming to Leipzig thus: "When I

first came to Leipzig and thought I was in Paradise." And little wonder, for he had a splendid orchestra of devoted followers, a concert-master who was strictly en rapport, Herr David; a business manager and supporter in Herr Schlichter, who relieved him of every unpleasant task. He was made Phil. Dec. by the University of Leipzig in 1836.

Now came a very important visit to Frankfurt, where he conducted the Caecilien-Verein for Schelle, who is ill. Hiller was here and so was Rossini, who was with him in the company of Mendelssohn. But there was one of much more importance than either of these.

Cecile Charlotte Sophie Jeanrenaud, this was the name which was to go down into posterity as the beloved wife of Mendelssohn. He was madly in love with her, and even went away to Schweinfurt, the famous bathing resort, in order to test his affection for her. It was a success and in September they were betrothed. And on March 28, 1837, they were married. She was the daughter of a minister of the French Reformed church. And the man whose "wedding march" has made happy thousands of young hearts was married when he was 28, and when his wife was 18.

The next years, 1839 and 1840, were devoted largely to Leipzig, many concerts taking place, and some of moment indeed. The "Lobgesang," or hymn of praise, was written for the Festival in Commemoration of the Invention of Printing, held in Leipzig June, 1840.

After much deliberation he went to Berlin again as kapellmeister to the king of Prussia and began to work on a revival of Greek tragedies. In January, 1842 (he is now nearing his 33rd birthday), he tried a series of concerts at the king's command, but the orchestra was unimpassioned and the audience were cold. Nevertheless he completed his Scotch symphony. In this year he conducted again the Dusseldorf festival, went to London with his wife, was feasted and feted by the "Philharmonic" which he conducted; visited twice at Buckingham palace, where the late Queen Victoria and the prince consort showed their thorough appreciation of the composer.

In 1843 the Conservatorium at Leipzig, which was one of Mendelssohn's cherished ideas, actually materialized. It was called the "Musik School." Schumann was chosen by Mendelssohn as one of the teachers. One of the first who came to that school from Vienna, at the age of 12, was Joseph Joachim, and it was the beginning of a great friendship.

(A year ago last summer the present writer stood bareheaded among thousands of others in respect to the memory of the great Joseph Joachim, whose funeral procession was passing, and later in the week he stood with uncovered head at the grave of Mendelssohn. Truly "they rest from their labors and their works do follow them." What they have left for us today to carry on we must do regardless of the sneer of the materialist, the opposition of the ignorant, or the abuse of false accusers.)

In 1844 a most interesting sidelight is seen on Mendelssohn's disposition. He was to conduct the London Philharmonic for some concerts and he brought over amongst other things Schubert's Symphony in C, and Gade's in C-minor, as well as his own "Ruy Blas" overture. But the orchestra was so indifferent to the first two works that he was very angry and he declined to produce his own overture, which was not played in London until after his death.

In 1846 the work on "Elijah" was fast producing results and on August 26 the work was first presented in Birmingham, and after it was afterward largely revised and altered, and one notable alteration was the changing of the duet "Lift Thine Eyes" into the trio form in which we know it today.

In the winter of the same year Mendelssohn was greatly distressed by the illness and death of his faithful servant, Johann Krebs, "mein brave guter Diener." How-

ever, by the time his birthday came he had recovered much of his buoyancy of spirit, in spite of many trials and tribulations, court annoyances and professional strife. Mendelssohn had lost his father and his mother, both dying unexpectedly, the former quite suddenly and the latter after a few hours' illness. And now came the blow which broke the nervous system of the great man, the news of the sudden death of his favorite sister, Fanny. He developed a dread of public music and always censured himself for not deserving the happiness which his loving wife Cecile always gave him, and that was doubtless the effect of his illness.

In November he had a second attack of violent pain in the head and on Thursday, November 4, 1847, he passed to his other life.

There were four children born to the Mendelssohns—Marie, Paul, Carl and Felix. THOMAS J. KELLY.

**Musical Notes.**

Mr. David Bispham, who will appear in a recital at the Lyric theater February 23, has arranged for this occasion a typical Bispham program. This number he will give Edgar Allen Poe's poem "The Raven" set to music by Arthur Bergin. This number has taken well throughout the east. Coming as it does at a time when the "Raven" anniversary is being celebrated by the different literary and educational societies. The special engagement of Miss Alice Barbee, the young French-American soprano, for the Omaha concert only, is certainly an evidence that Mr. Bispham's program is an excellent entertainment. Besides the usual solo numbers there will be a group of duets that will be new to the audience.

Of great interest to music teachers, singers, students and school teachers is the lecture-lecture to be given by William H. Neidinger, one of the favorite American composers, at the First Congregational church, Thursday evening, February 18, under the auspices of the musical department of the Woman's club. In addition to being a composer, Neidinger is also a scholar and writer and has many beautiful theories and ideas about music, which he will present in his talk. "Music in Civilization." He will illustrate the ideas and ideals by singing a number of his songs to his own accompaniment. A short talk on children's music will also be included in the program. This promises to be one of the most interesting features, for no other man has written so much for children and no one has a deeper place in the heart of the child. His songs are used extensively in all kindergartens and schools.

**In the Gymnasium.**

During our stay we visit the gymnasium. Here 100 of these Japanese maidens are marching back and forth at the direction of the teacher. She raises her hands and they 300 bare arms come up in the air. She makes a motion and they fall again to their sides. The girls have dumb bells

## FIRST STORY OF THE TRAGEDY

Original issue of New York Herald containing Account of Lincoln's Assassination.

Mrs. Lena Hanson, 248 Burt street, is the proud possessor of one of the original copies of the New York Herald, telling of the assassination of President Lincoln.

She treasures the paper highly, for, although fac-similes of the paper have been printed, there are very few of the original issues in existence.

Mrs. Hanson found the paper in an old book among her husband's possessions.

The lead story contains the telegram from Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war, to Major Dix at New York, telling him of the assassination. The edition was printed after the death of President Lincoln at 7:22 the morning of April 15, 1865. The regular price of the Herald at that time was 16 cents. It was full of news of the war, nearly all of the news being that of the progress of the war. The extra was issued at 8:10 a. m.

A few years ago in Kansas City there was an old-time printer, still working at the cases, who was on the Herald and helped to "set up" this very edition. He said the Herald, in its anxiety to get a scoop on the story, pinned a dollar bill to every "take" of copy, hung on the hook and the more "takes" a printer set the more dollars he got. The "takes" were cut up very short as an additional facility.

There were fast printers in that shop about then," this old veteran said. "I never saw type thrown together as fast in my life as we boys stuck it on that story."

# A Significant Fact

No other medicine for woman's ills has any such professional endorsement as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has received, in the unqualified recommendation of each of its several ingredients by scores of leading medical men of all the schools of practice. Is such an endorsement not worthy of your consideration? Is it not a significant fact too that

## Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription

Is the only medicine sold through druggists, for woman's peculiar weaknesses and ills, the makers of which are not afraid to print its every ingredient on its outside wrapper? Is this not worthy of your consideration if you are a poor sick invalid woman?

The formula of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will bear the most critical examination of medical experts, for it contains no alcohol, narcotics, harmful, or habit-forming drugs, and no agent enters into it that is not highly recommended by the most advanced and leading medical teachers and authorities of their several schools of practice. These authorities recommend the ingredients of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for the cure of exactly the same ailments for which this world-famed medicine is advised.

A booklet of ingredients, with numerous authoritative professional endorsements by the leading medical authorities of this country, will be mailed free to any one sending name and address with request for same. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

It's foolish—often dangerous to accept a substitute of unknown composition in place of this time-tried medicine of known composition. Don't do it. Insist on getting what you ask for.

