

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 26, 1935

Father Barron's Thanks for Your \$200.

"Catholic Mission, Tenshudo, Anchu, Korea.
- December 29, 1934.

"Dear Father Cavanaugh:

"Never before has a pleasant surprise given me more genuine happiness than your encouraging letter and the substantial gift enclosed. I felt like turning seventeen handsprings and doing a square dance with my Assistant. Surely you cannot realize adequately what a tremendous burden this generous and timely gift has taken off me.

"As you undoubtedly know, one of our greatest difficulties in the work of evangelization is making contact with the people, due primarily to their customs and then to their preconceived notion that our religion is nothing more than a western cult, recently born, whereas their worship, taking root in the dim past, cannot be computed by time or generation.

"To overcome this obstacle, I established a little dispensary in the hope that working through the body I might gain entrance into their soul. From the beginning it proved a phenomenal success. The charity of our work amazed them and a few prudent remarks on the salient points of the Catholic doctrine opened before them a vista of life hitherto only deemed of and never thought attainable.

"The mystical as well as the practical phase of our religion gripped them, and when astonishment gave way to profound thought and a fuller realization of a personal, living God, their hope in the hereafter was strengthened and faith began to take possession of them.

"The sick are most susceptible to religious instruction. Besides, it gives us an opportunity of catching many before they turn toes upward. About 30 have been baptized this year just before dying. If it were not for the hospital we never would have heard about them.

"You may be interested in knowing how the hospital functions. We have a native doctor in daily attendance who treats about 25 patients daily. A nominal charge of 25 yen entitles them to a thorough physical examination, minor operations and a three-day supply of medicine. If medicine for a longer period is required, they pay the wholesale price for it. The poor are given all treatment absolutely free.

"This system is proving satisfactory, as it is defraying the doctor's salary, the cost of medicine amounting to forty or fifty yen a month. What are the results?

"We have today more than 200 preparing to receive Baptism. As most of these are adults, there will be four or five hundred baptized, since the children are subject to Baptism with their parents. Is the hospital worth while? I'll let you answer.

"Your most generous gift has permitted me to draw up plans for a permanent hospital which shall be begun next spring. You can understand what your cooperation has meant to this struggling mission and to the dissemination of the Faith along these frontiers. Words utterly fail to express my sentiments of gratitude. I shall be most thankful if you can in some way at some convenient time make known my deep appreciation to the students at Notre Dame. They are real apostles behind the lines. Assure Father O'hare of our continued remembrance in masses and prayers. The Christians likewise are praying for you all.

"As ever and always,
(Signed) L. R. Barron."