



BELGIAN TRADING STATION AT LUEBO.

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD.

AFRICA.

DR. SNYDER.

The missionary's life is made up of lights and shadows, and the rapidity with which they follow each other is sometimes startling. One may be rejoicing to-day and weeping to-morrow. It was only a short time ago (December 22) when we were rejoiced with Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard over their little daughter. She was an attractive little thing, and was the means of bringing us all into warmer and tenderer Christian relationship. Now we are called to mourn her loss. She died very suddenly, after being sick only one week. One evening her mother took her in her arms to soothe her before laying her down to sleep, but in ten minutes, with hardly a warning, she fell asleep to wake no more in this life. She was with us at the station just two months, having been here long enough to greatly treasure herself to us. It was a terrible blow to Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard, and we feared the effects upon them, dread-
ing a fever.

You will rejoice with us when I tell you that we hope to baptize three adults and four of the station children next Sabbath, March 10, on profession of their faith. It will be a day long to be remembered. *The first converts at Luebo!* To God be all the praise! The prayers of God's people at home have prevailed. David, Dick, and Polly out of our household, Lukenda and Nsusa out of Mr. Sheppard's household, and Nagoli and Meyoiya from the Bakete. These are they who have come out on the Lord's side. We hope to begin work at Kensenga with these new converts at once. For some time these station children have joined with us in family worship, and their prayers seemed very sincere. We did not teach them to pray. God did.

All are fairly well now. My wife ought to go home for a rest, but we cannot see how we are to accomplish it just now. Life out here is one long, terrible strain. I have finished the translation of the first three chapters of the Gospel of Matthew.

LUEBO, AFRICA, March 8, 1895.

LETTER FROM REV. W. H. SHEPPARD.

Dr. Snyder and wife are great workers. They love the natives, and the natives love them. Mrs. Snyder has overworked herself, being the only lady at the station after the death of Mrs. Adamson. It has told on her. She has just passed through a spell of hematuric fever, and at one time we despaired of her life. I am glad to say she is now up. Dr. Snyder has done good work in translating hymns and the Scriptures, as well as in preaching. Our work among the Bakete is slow, though we are not discouraged. On Sunday we expect to baptize seven persons. They are all Bakuba boys and girls except two. One of the latter is a Bakonga boy, and the other a Bakete. The Roman Catholics are ahead of us. They have a chain of stations from Lulaburg to Lusambo. We feel very small and weak among all these people, and in a short time Dr. and Mrs. Snyder will need a change, and without new helpers our work will still go on slowly. We have established a training home for the little children, and call it "Pantops," for the Academy at Charlottesville, Va.

LUEBO, AFRICA, March 8, 1895.