

dance held at the Geisha School in the autumn for a few days, beginning on an unfixed date. It is performed by a limited number of strictly choice girls of high accomplishment, and always draws a full house after having been awaited with the keenest interest.

**O. KOMAI'S DAMASCENE WORK FACTORY** in Furumonzen is very well known for its producing the best damascene wares and it is undoubtedly the right place to inspect the method how they are manufactured. The Japanese name for the damascene work is '*Zōgan*,' literally meaning 'elephant inlaid.' The name is derived from the fact that the damascene was originally inlaid with some colored ivory, the earliest specimen of which is still preserved in the *Shōsō-in* (Imperial Treasure Hall) at Nara. In later years, gold and silver wires have taken place of ivory. The oldest *Zōgan* inlaid with metal wires is supposed to be a sword called '*Shichi-yō-ken*,' or Seven Stars Sword, produced in the 7th century and now kept in the Hōryūji temple near Nara. The process of the modern damascene work is as under:—(1) Double-hatch lines are cut on the steel ground. (2) The design drawn on paper is copied with a fine pin on the steel ground. (3) Gold or silver wires are hammered in on the design already copied. (4) Lacquer is pasted over the surface of the steel ground and baked on fire some thirty times; then rub and polish the lacquer off by the point of a steel stick. Another finish is to oxidize the steel ground by chemical action instead of lacquering over. Sometimes, the wired part is engraved in order to let the design look effective.