PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

CENTRAL CHINA MISSION

SOOCHOW STATION REPORT

Year Ending June 30th, 1926
THE CENTRAL CHINA MISSION

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U. S. A.

1926

SOOCHOW STATION REPORT

SHANGHAI
Printed at the Presbyterian Mission Press
1926
Entrance to Stone Road, on which Buswell Memorial Chapel, Soochow, is located.
PERSONNEL OF STATION

Rev. O. C. Crawford, D.D. (1900) Member of China Council; Mission Executive Secretary; City and Country evangelistic work.

Mrs. Crawford. Charge of Kindergarten and Whitsell J. Means Girls' School; Supervisor of Tooker Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Ralph M. White. (1913) Principal, Vincent Miller Academy; Station Treasurer.

Mrs. White. Teaching in Vincent Miller Academy; Station Secretary.

Miss Carrie R. Doherty. (1923) Evangelistic work.
SOOCHOW STATION

Report for Year Ending June 30th, 1926

PERSONNEL.

Great was our joy in welcoming Dr. and Mrs. Crawford on their return from furlough last August. It seemed as if once more the various departments of our Station work might have more adequate supervision. However, we were soon disillusioned. Shortly after the return of Dr. and Mrs. Crawford, it became known that Mr. and Mrs. Throop would have to return to America immediately on account of Mrs. Throop's health. This left us again with only five members.

The Station records its hearty appreciation of the work done by Mr. and Mrs. Throop. Mr. Throop had made for himself a large place not only in the Station but also throughout the entire community. His work in the Institutional Center brought him in contact with some of the most influential men of the city. The farewell meetings held for him, the presents given him and the expressions of good will all testify to the high esteem in which he was held.

EVANGELISTIC.

Our Chinese staff has remained practically the same as last year. Owing to our badly depleted foreign force it has been difficult to keep up the regular service in the city and give anything like adequate supervision to the country field. We have greatly appreciated the help of evangelist Shen Pin Sen, who though belonging to the Southern Presbyterian Church, was appointed by the Executive Committee of the Presbytery to work with us for six months. He has filled up many gaps in our services, which would have been difficult to fill otherwise, and has rendered good service both in connection with the regular church services and also at the Institutional Center. He has now gone back to work with his own church.
In this connection it is worth noting again that our church and the Southern church is working in close co-operation in many ways, especially along evangelistic lines. Steps are being taken for fuller co-operation through the Presbytery.

A number of monthly conferences between the evangelistic workers of the two churches have been held during the year. The fourth annual Conference of the same churches was held at the China New Year time. This is a conference not only of the evangelistic workers, but the church members and inquirers are also included. Its aim is fellowship, prayer, Bible study, and quickening of the spiritual life. The sessions this year were especially helpful. One special feature was the helpful contribution made by members of the local churches. The devotional services conducted by Rev. J. W. Lowrie of the China Council were most helpful and stimulating.

One out-growth of this has been the formation of a laymen's movement. Its officers and committees are all laymen. A laymen’s conference is to be held in the spring at which the question of the layman’s responsibility and contribution toward an indigenous and a self-supporting and self-governing church will be discussed and emphasized.

The Chu brothers, as usual, have rendered most efficient service in the city. One is the Pastor of the independent church, the other is the superintendent of the work at the Institutional Center. There is a great demand for the services of these men. It would be difficult to find more willing or efficient men than they are.

Since Mr. Throop’s return to America, Mr. Crawford has taken over all his work. This includes full co-operation in the work of the Institutional Center, and in all the activities of all the city evangelistic work. He has spent a great deal of time in connection with the Institutional Center, teaching practically every night in the week, either in English classes or Bible classes in Chinese. Mr. White has also given one night a week in connection with this work.

The work of the Institutional Center includes in part a game room, a reading room, which is used by a thousand or twelve hundred people every month, a half day school for
girls, an English night school, a free popular educational school for the poorer people, a free clinic, Bible classes, and meetings for both men and women.

The newest addition to the work of the Center is a fine bath house. It is the finest institution of its kind in the City, and is very popular. It was built for men and a small room for women has also been fitted up in the main building. It is our hope to enlarge the women's department at some future time. In order to provide good water for use in the bath house, it was necessary to sink a deep well. In addition to providing water for the bath house this well also provides a good supply of clean free water for those neighbors who will come for it.

Some of the outside activities of the Center consist in teaching classes and holding meetings in a beggars' refuge and holding of evangelistic meetings and conducting a day school among the poorer people in a district near the Center. Evangelistic meetings are held three times a week in the Buswell Memorial Chapel. This building seats between 300 and 400 and is practically filled at each preaching service. In the same building we also have moving picture shows. These shows were never very popular while using foreign films, but within the last few months we have been using films made in China with Chinese actors and actresses and Chinese settings. These films are becoming increasingly popular. An attempt is made to introduce religious and educational phases with these films and we hope to make this department of greater value than it is at present.

The Institutional Center is, to all intents and purposes, self-supporting. The only money coming from the Board is the salary of one of the secretaries. A large amount of money used in purchasing the building was subscribed by the local gentry. A part of the money used in connection with the bath house was also given by them. They have also supplied the funds for current expenses for several years. The campaign to raise $3,500.00 for current expenses for next year has just closed. In all, $4,500.00 was subscribed. This will leave a good margin on the running expenses for the next year, will
allow of some needed improvements, and will permit the payment of several hundred dollars borrowed on account of building the bath house. Not considering the amount subscribed for the building, a total of about $10,000 has been subscribed locally for this object during the last three or four years.

The Institutional Center numbers among its friends and supporters such men as the Tao Yin, the highest official in the city, the President and Vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chief of Police of the city and a number of the heads of local improvement societies. The list also includes a number of unofficial but very wealthy friends. This touch gives contact with some of the most influential men of the city. We covet the help of our readers in prayer that we may influence these men for good and bring some of them into the Kingdom. This is a most difficult task. Some of these men are among the most devoted idol worshipers and are bound by years of superstitious influence.

There has been no change either in the personnel or location of the country evangelists. They are working with but little assistance or supervision from the city. In spite of this it is encouraging to note that there are a number of inquirers in each of our main country stations. The care and training of inquirers and church members is still a problem.

Mr. Crawford has spent practically every other Sunday in the country holding communion services at the various centers. Some new members were taken into the church at nearly all of these services. He has also tried to supervise the entire country work but has not been able to do much except to hold the communion service, and help to examine inquirers.

Mr. Crawford has also acted as the Executive Secretary of the Mission. The work of that office has required much time and thought. Many hours were spent in correspondence with the members of the Mission, with the China Council and the Board. Much time was also spent as the Mission’s representative on many Committees and Boards.

He also acted several times as a member of the Ad Interim Committee of the China Council and represented the
Recovery follows treatment. Board presented by grateful father to Dr. Hsu of Tooker Memorial Hospital on recovery of very sick child.
Council on the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Mission Press which is now under the control of the Council.

**Women's Work.**—We are still mourning the loss of Miss Wilds. The Bible-women have been very faithful and have done some splendid work, but there is much they cannot undertake alone. Miss Doherty has continued to give part time to language study and has worked with the Bible-women both in the City and Country work. The Bible-women meet with Miss Doherty and our local pastor the beginning of each quarter. At this time a schedule is made out for visiting the country stations by the Bible-women. We now have three Bible-women. One gives full time to the City work. The other two alternate with City and Country work.

After years of effort a short term school was tried at Yong Tsong. This is a new and promising field. Two of the Bible-women went to stay at this village for one month. In the mornings and afternoons classes were held for the women and girls. There was an average attendance at these classes of about eighteen, mostly girls between the ages of fifteen and twenty. As a means of greater interest some of the time was devoted to teaching the women and girls how to knit and sew. They were also taught to read some characters. The rest of the time was devoted to Bible study, story telling and singing. Every evening the Bible-women held evangelistic meetings and the building used proved inadequate to the crowds which came out. It is yet too early to judge results of this school but it would seem to have been a very profitable undertaking.

Every Wednesday afternoon two of the Bible-women hold a service, mainly for children, at one of our chapels on the outskirts of Soochow. The average attendance of children has been about thirty. During the Chinese New Year holiday a week of special afternoon evangelistic services were held at this center. A weekly service is also held in another section of the city for the children of the "north-river" people. This is the poorest class of people in the city, all of them living in straw huts and on boats.
Sunday School and Church.—Sunday is a very busy day on our compound. At nine-thirty we have Sunday School. As there is no building large enough to take care of all our pupils four separate Sunday Schools are held in various buildings. Mrs. Crawford has a Sunday School for the tiny tots in the kindergarten building. A school for the girls, and the boys in the first and second grades, is held in the girls’ school building. The other boys have their Sunday School in the boys’ school building and the older folks meet in the church.

Following the Sunday School services we have church. Again because of an inadequate church building it is necessary to hold three separate services. One service is held for the girls and younger boys in the girls’ school building. There is also a service for the boys in the boys’ school. The older boys and girls attend the adult church services in our chapel.

At 2 p.m. a Sunday School for the street children is held in the chapel. At the same time a group meets for the purpose of learning to sing gospel songs and hymns. At three o’clock this group merges into the Christian Endeavor meeting.

Educational.

Kindergarten.—Last year on account of the unsettled conditions the kindergarten did not open. When Mrs. Crawford returned from furlough she arranged for opening the kindergarten. A new teacher must be found and the building cleaned, all of which delayed the opening. Because of the conditions and late opening the enrollment was only twelve but at the opening of the second term the number increased to twenty. The new teacher is very efficient. Also, she has joined the church since coming to us. We have had our yearly epidemic of measels as usual, only two or three of our pupils escaping.

Day Schools.—The Whitsell J. Means girls’ school under the supervision of Mrs. Crawford now has the largest enrollment in its history. There are 150 pupils, some in the first and second year classes being boys. Five teachers are necessary to carry on the work. This fine enrollment is made possible by the new building which is indeed a great comfort.
Last year as a result of a shortage of girl students a union was made of the students in the boys' and girls' primary schools. This union was continued in the Fall of 1925 but as it was not entirely satisfactory it was given up at the close of the Fall term. Since that time most of the primary boys work has been on the middle school compound. Last year for the first time a number of the boys graduating from the primary school entered the middle school.

Day schools are being carried on in six of our out-stations. Three of these are supported by mission funds. The other three receive no direct support from the Mission. The school at Moh-Doh is very efficiently carried on by the evangelist in charge. The funds are provided by the income of a night school and English classes taught by Mr. Wo. One difficulty is common in all our country schools. They are being run in competition with Government or locally supported schools. This competition does not seem to be a wise policy and we are facing the question of withdrawing from the primary school work in country places.

Vincent Miller Academy.—Staff. A larger enrollment has necessitated additions to the teaching staff, particularly on the administrative side. The total teaching and administrative staff now numbers sixteen, not including the pastor, his brother and Mr. Crawford who are generously giving of their time for Bible instruction. The new teachers last Fall included three new college graduates. We also secured a well qualified teacher of Chinese for middle school department.

Mr. and Mrs. White have continued teaching in addition to other duties. Continuance of the grant from the Substitute Workers Fund allowed us to secure a foreign teacher during the Fall term. Two women teachers were here temporarily and in December we secured the services of Mr. Kelley Tucker, who is remaining for the rest of the year.

Enrollment.—The enrollment during the Fall term was the largest on record, reaching 204 for the Junior and Senior departments.
The Spring term shows a decrease to 150. The decrease is largely accounted for by very strict grading at the close of the term and the dropping of a large number of students for poor work, especially in the Junior middle school. We prefer to keep up a high standard of work rather than to have a large enrollment.

Finances.—Starting the school year on August 1, 1925, with a clean slate, we hoped to have no difficulty with finances. The increased enrollment, however, was not an unmixed blessing, since it necessitated the rental of a large Chinese house outside the school for dormitory purposes. Extra furniture was also bought, lights installed, etc., which increased running expenses. The salary list was also considerably higher this year and we ran very close on the board account. At the close of the term, the books showed a deficit of $1,537.17, largely incurred for new equipment, which was used just for the one term. If the enrollment had continued high this term, this should have been written off and we would have come out nearly even, but at present we face a deficit of about $1,800.00 at the end of July.

Work and Activities.—The class-room work is now much better organized than it ever has been and good work is being done throughout the course. More electives are offered in the new schedules. This calls for a larger teaching staff and more administrative work.

In athletics the usual games and competitions with other schools have been carried on.

The students have not had much connection with the Student Union this year and have kept very well within bounds. No time has been lost from school work on this account.

Beginning this term, the Middle School and Primary School teachers hold a weekly noonday prayer meeting which has been of much inspiration and help.

All members of the class, fourteen in number, which graduated from the Middle School in June, 1925, were Christians.
SOOCHOW STATION.

Students have carried on work in the Beggar Refuge. The Senior class has run a Popular Education School after school hours, this term. Ten of the older students teach in the Primary Sunday School and take turns in leading services for the younger boys.

Hayes Hall Campaign.—At the 33rd Anniversary of the founding of the school last November, the students, teachers and graduates organized a campaign for funds with which to build a new building. This building is to be named Hayes Hall in honor of the faithful services rendered by Dr. and Mrs. Hayes.

The Campaign has been energetically carried on and to date over $5,000 has been collected. It is hoped to have the building ready for use in September.

MEDICAL.

The Tooker Memorial Hospital, under the supervision of Mrs. Crawford and with Dr. Hsu as physician in charge has had a successful year. Dr. Hsu has a fine head nurse and a good druggist, both graduate nurses. There is also a very nice class of student nurses. During the smallpox epidemic free vaccination was offered for a certain period and many availed themselves of this opportunity. The doctor with one or more of her nurses has held free clinic at our Institutional Center. We would like to hold clinics in our outstations but with only one physician in the hospital this is not feasible. Very little follow up work outside the hospital has been possible since Miss Wilds left, as the Bible-woman’s full time is required for the work in the hospital. All the other ladies of the station are already so overburdened with work that they have no time to help here. We felt certain we would have someone to take over this work in the fall, but alas, we are doomed to another year of regretful waiting. It is most discouraging to Dr. Hsu.

Our Overseas Hospital supplies from the ladies of the various societies of the Synod of Tennessee are a source of great enjoyment to all the hospital staff as they enable them
to render better service to their patients. They furnish a fine

text too for telling of the Christian love and sympathy of these

friends in the homeland for their suffering sisters in this far

away land where comfort and loving service during illness are

practically unknown. We would like to take this opportunity

to thank all those who have had any part in the preparing and

sending of these supplies.

After the trying experiences of last year, during the

fighting in this section and caring for wounded soldiers, it is a

comfort to report that conditions are almost back to normal

again, though we still have a good many soldiers in our clinics.

Our clinics vary according to the time of year but average

about thirty a day. The record for the past year is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Patients</th>
<th>Maternity</th>
<th>Outcalls</th>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3,770 new patients</td>
<td>8,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,678 return visits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On behalf of the Station.

CARRIE R. DOHERTY.