Annual Report

Tengchowfu Station

American Presbyterian Mission

Shantung, China

1917-1918

Presbyterian Mission Press, Shanghai
ANNUAL REPORT

TENGCHOWFU STATION

PANORAMA OF TENGCHOWFU CITY.

American Presbyterian Mission

Shantung, China

1917-18.
PERSONNEL.

The Tengchow station welcomed the return of Mrs. Calvin Wight from her furlough last August. This gave the station a working force of nine, Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Irwin, Mrs. Calvin Wight, Miss M. A. Frame, Rev. O. Braskamp, Miss C. J. Braskamp, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Lanning, and Dr. M. J. Hinkhouse. We must not forget our station baby, Elisabeth Lanning, who gives us much pleasure.

During the past year we as members of the station have all enjoyed good health and are grateful to the Heavenly Father for this blessing.

Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Seymour, for so many years members of our station, have been transferred to Tsining by the China Council. We wish them all success in their future work. We note with pleasure the appointment of Dr. Calvin E. Buswell, M.D., and his fiancée (Miss Adah K. Boxell) to the Shantung Mission, with the view of their assignment to Tengchow.

On May 6th, Miss Margaret A. Frame left for her furlough, having been on the field seven and one half years. Before her departure many Chinese friends presented her with beautiful banners and gifts as an appreciation of her services.

We present the following brief synopsis of the activities in the various departments of our missionary work.

CITY WORK: PASTORAL AND EVANGELISTIC.

Mr. Irwin reports that there has been a steady increase in the membership of our city church. About 36 were received into the church on confession of faith and 14 children were baptized during the past year. Contributions as reported to presbytery last fall were $274. The attendance at the morning services has been very large, so that the seating capacity of the church is insufficient to accommodate more
than the students from the various schools and the church members. The church evangelist, Mr. Men Bing Nieu has given faithful service. He expects to enter the Theological College in the fall.

**Sunday Schools.**—In four places, Sunday school services are held, owing to the lack of room in the city church. The Sunday school at the church is divided into two departments: namely, the primary department which is composed of the outside children and day school pupils. Mrs. Irwin reports the average attendance of this department for the year is 255. The advanced department is composed of church-members, students, and non-Christians. The average attendance is 192. Two Sunday school teachers' meetings are held weekly for study and explanation of the lesson. Also regular Sunday services are held in two of the day schools. These schools have been opened to reach the non-Christian women and children who live too far from the church. In the east suburb Sunday school the attendance has averaged 30 and in our south-side Sunday school the highest attendance has been 106 pupils and 23 women. Boarding School girls and women from the Bible Training School assist in teaching. The Graded and International Lessons are used and have given splendid satisfaction. The students of the Girls' High School meet in the High School building and are also divided into two departments. One of our leading young men was a delegate to the Sunday school conference at Peitaiho last summer and on his return has introduced many helpful methods in the Sunday schools of both the city and country.

**Weekly Prayer Meetings.**—Our men's prayer-meetings have been better attended and a greater interest has been aroused since Pastor Ding's meetings. The women's weekly prayer-meetings are worthy of note with an average attendance of 20. Also the students of the Bible Training School and the Girls' High School attend. This year the women's missionary society has supported a Bible-woman who has opened a Bible-school in one of the country villages. The women's prayer-meeting in the south-side day school has been well attended.
The first part of the afternoon is a general service after which the women are divided into classes and receive instruction in the gospels of Mark and John.

Women's Classes.—These were opened during the first weeks of the foreign year. In four of our girls' schools women came daily to study. After the close of these classes the work was followed up, each Bible-woman going to certain homes to assist the women to continue the study. Our classes were composed of Christian and non-Christian women. During the Chinese New Year a special class more centrally located was opened for the women and all the leading women of the church assisted those who came daily to study. During the Chinese New Year the foreign ladies with the assistance of the Bible-women made a special effort to entertain the non-Christian women who called in their homes. Tracts were given and a better acquaintance was formed. House-to-house visitation has been done in the city and neighboring villages by the missionary ladies, Bible-women, High School girls, and women of the Bible Training School. Men's Bible classes were held at Dung Da Tsi and at the water city street chapel under the direction of our city evangelist.

Volunteer Workers' Class.

Due to the generous gift from the Milton Stewart Fund as arranged by Rev. J. H. Blackstone, we were able to conduct a Bible-class of about 50 selected Christian workers representing 30 out-stations from parts of seven counties. They were carefully trained for local voluntary church work and class leading. Very thorough preparations were made for the class by a careful survey of the entire field during the fall months. We aimed to receive two or three leading Christians from each station to come to the city for a month's Bible instruction and training. Besides, preparatory Bible classes were conducted in the strategic centers of our field for one or two weeks. Shortly before convening the class, messengers were sent with letters to notify each man the exact time they were to come
and the opening day of the class. Each man before entering the class signed a pledge promising that he would remain a month for study and later return home to do local voluntary work for the church. Aim of the class—First to bring these selected Christians together for prayer, witness, Bible-study, and planning the future work of training local leaders. Second—To train them to conduct Sabbath services and weekly prayer-meetings and how they could best assist the local evangelist. For the morning prayers a different leader was appointed from their number to take the meeting and every morning six men were asked to pray for a definite object. Daily Dr. Jowett’s prayer-book “Yet Another Day” was used. The two foreign pastors and three native evangelists taught the following: Old and New Testament Questions, Shorter and Larger Catechisms, Teachings for Early Converts, Ten Commandments, Church Government and Discipline, Christ’s Miracles and Parables, Exposition of Matthew and Acts. During the free hours the men enjoyed the reading room in which were secular and religious papers. Evenings were devoted to addresses and discussions on such subjects as Comparative Religions, Home, Overthrow of Heathen Customs, Hygiene and Sanitation. One evening they enjoyed a temperance lecture; 26 men said they were total abstainers, 16 did not smoke. Sunday afternoons were spent in practical evangelistic work in near-by villages. Interesting reports were given on their return. A few days before the close of the class a blank slip of paper was handed to each member. On one side they were to write the benefits they had received and on the other what they purpose to do at home. The returns were most gratifying. Some of which were: “I now know better how to pray and sing”; “Before I did not know how to lead a meeting”; “I plan to lead my whole family to Christ”; “I plan to teach Sunday school lessons.” The delegates returning home felt they were well repaid for the time spent and each one realized now more than ever before that he had a vital part in the direct evangelistic work of the church and that his prayer and spiritual life had been strengthened.
GIRLS’ BOARDING SCHOOL EXERCISE.

TENT PREACHING.

RED-CROSS KNITTING.
REV. DING LI MEI'S MEETING.
Special Days.—The special days during the year such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, Parents' Day, Prayer Day for schools and colleges, Prayer Day for all China, and Red Cross Day have all been observed. The Sunday schools do their part for the Christmas and Easter programs all of which adds to the spreading of the gospel in this city and surrounding country.

Revival Meetings.—The meetings led by Rev. Ding Li Mei were among the important events of the past year. We were privileged to have him with us for three weeks. Preparatory to his coming prayer circles were formed in different centers for men, women, and students, and messages were sent to the country evangelists and Bible-women inviting them to come to the city for these meetings. We believe that the success of these meetings was due largely to the prayerful preparation. Pastor Ding held two or three services each day for ten days. Large attentive audiences filled the city church. Our Baptist friends met with us. Many of the better class of the city attended the daily services. During Pastor Ding's stay these prayer circles continued in the morning, evening, and the noon hour. Some met for prayer in the church tower, others in the homes, and still others in the schools. As a result of these meetings there has been a cleansing of the Church; many have been inspired to better service and nobler living. Pledge cards were signed by 26 who desired to become Christians and the work has been followed up as far as possible. Special meetings were held for the gentry, business men, and also government students; the latter came in uniforms, with horns, flags, and drums. Also a special meeting was held for the girls of the government schools and the women of the city. At each of these meetings suitable religious books and tracts were distributed. Conferences were held with all evangelists and Bible-women from both city and country followed by prayer meetings which were marked by special manifestation of the Spirit's power.

Water City.—The Water City church has not prospered as we would like to have had it but we hope for the better.
Four were received on confession of faith. In two places men's weekly prayer-meetings were held—one at the North Suburb and one at the Bible Depot. Women's prayer-meetings attendance was between 15 and 20. The highest Sunday school attendance was 150. The work on the five islands which is connected with the Water City church is encouraging. There are 50 church members and in four places services are held. Five schools have an enrollment of 183 pupils. Two evangelists devote part of their time on the islands and in the neighboring villages. Mr. Chang, one of the evangelists, plans to enter the Theological College in the fall.

COUNTRY EVANGELISTIC WORK.

The work during the year has shown a steady growth both in the organized and unorganized fields. Many new centers have been opened and a number of new schools have been added to the list. Mr. Irwin reports 21 admitted into the church from his country field. Mrs. Wight, Miss Frame, and Miss Braskamp have visited nearly all the out-stations, held Bible classes in the most important centers and good results have been obtained. Mr. Braskamp reports 168 examined, 67 accessions, and 22 children baptized. Last year 50 out-stations were reported and this year a few new centers have opened. During the winter months evening classes have been held in three centers where they study the 600 character series. Each evangelist was required to make a complete map of his field designating the important market centers, schools, and chapels. They also prepare a quarterly report telling of their experiences. For the more extensive work we are gradually looking not only to our evangelists but to our voluntary Christian workers. In many places the amount of opposition and persecution the Chinese have to endure cannot be overestimated. In front of them is a wall of adamant, constructed by the powers of evil. This must be laid in ruins. There are vast regions that are practically untouched because of the scarcity of laborers.
Tent Preaching.—Mr. Braska has experienced that tent preaching is one of the best methods for a general spread of the gospel. With three evangelists, four colporteurs, and a number of voluntary workers tent preaching was carried on for two months opening new centers. This method also inspires the lukewarm Christians and inquirers to a renewed purpose and activity in the Christian life. The faithful colporteurs take advantage of selling scripture portions and distributing suitable evangelistic literature to those interested. Large charts of songs and verses of scripture are hung in the tent. Outside of the tent are hoisted American and Chinese flags. Wherever there is a boys' school the pupils help in the singing. The gospel is presented daily to from five to eight hundred people at the large fairs in the strategic centers. The meetings are held from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. with slight intermissions. Rainy days are some of the best days for tent preaching. Women as well as men come into the tent to hear the gospel message. Every evening the village people assemble for two or three hours in the well-lighted tent when the people of the outside villages have returned home. We find that tent preaching has many advantages over street preaching. First—The audience is not so transitory. People will stand for hours to hear the gospel. Second—There are no interruptions caused by passing carts, animals, and the noisy boy. Third—The tent is considerably larger than the average country chapel, having a standing capacity of 150 and it receives a cordial welcome wherever it goes and good attention is given to the preaching. Christians have generally given their help without remuneration and in many cases paid their own expenses.

Colporteurs.—No other workers travel so widely or meet so many people, hence it is not strange that they lead many inquirers into the Church. We have both paid and voluntary workers doing colportage work in our field which is a territory covering parts of seven counties a distance of 77 miles north to south and 82 miles from east to west. One man sold 870 portions in one month during the first month of the Chinese New Year. The colporteur's sales have been well above the
average. Many of them are effective preachers and exceed­ingly helpful in opening new out-stations. Combined with preaching is the dissemination of the printed Word. During the past year over 40,000 portions have been sold besides many Old and New Testaments and hymn books.

**Country Sunday Schools.**—In all of our day schools and wherever we have chapels, Sunday schools are conducted either by the teacher or evangelist. The Christians also attend and receive a great deal of benefit from the study and explanation of the lesson. Our aim is to keep before the young people the challenge of Christian living and service and all that it involves. The Westminster and Graded Bible Lessons are being taught. The Sunday school Home Study Lessons are being taught in some of the Christian homes where there is no Sunday school or day school. There is a good attendance and a great interest in this phase of work.

**EDUCATIONAL WORK.**

The Tengchow station has under its care the following schools:—The Women's Bible Training School, the Boys' Boarding School, the Girls' Boarding School, and 69 Primary Schools.

**Women's Bible Training School.**—This school is under the direction of Mrs. Lanning. Mrs. Chang, who is the head teacher, is a woman of good judgment and experience. The main purpose of this school is two-fold: First—To prepare the women for Bible-women’s work. Second—To give an elementary course for a few who desire it. The spiritual life of the school is good. All the women are professing Christians who teach Sunday school classes, lead prayer-meetings, and during vacations they are sent out two by two to hold classes in the country. They have done efficient work and we are happy to say that a promising class of three women graduated last year on which occasion Pastor Ding who was in the city gave a very inspiring address. The graduates are now engaged in our evangelistic day schools.
VOLUNTEER WORKERS' CLASS.

BOYS' SELF-HELP DEPARTMENT.
for women and girls in the country. Our field is in dire need of Bible-women and it is in this school that they will get the training and preparation to equip them as valuable workers to meet the needs of the city and country.

BOYS' BOARDING SCHOOL.

This school has had during the past year a total enrollment of 125 with an average attendance of 90 each term. Mr. Lanning says the attendance this spring did not decrease in spite of the hard times and the rise in tuition. The work of the school has been very satisfactory during the whole year; especially during this spring term there has been a decided improvement in the work of the students. The Y. M. C. A. has been very active throughout the year. One delegate was sent to the conference at Tsinaufu and they plan to send two this year. Our school, in keeping with all the work of the station, was greatly blessed by the work of Pastor Ding Li Mei. Four volunteered for the ministry as a result of those meetings. The school stands in much need of material equipment, even more so than last year, because the heavy rains of last summer caved in about 15 gien of dormitory roofs. The playground has been enlarged at the expense of the garden space of one of the foreign houses, so that we now have a much more suitable place for calisthenics, though it is too small for such favorite games as football and baseball. The self-help department supported four boys throughout last year and has a total of 13 to find work for this year. We have introduced industrial training as a means of providing work for students who wish to help themselves. Last winter a class of seven graduated. The orations were interspersed by choice selections of music in English and Chinese by the school chorus. Many of the gentry and official class of the city attended the graduating exercises and showed their interest and appreciation by their applause. Four of the graduates are in school taking post-graduate work—preparatory to entering college this fall. Two are teaching and one is in business.
GIRLS' BOARDING SCHOOL.

This school had an attendance during the fall term of 98 pupils and during the spring term of 106. The school funds were sufficient only to open for a half year and it was a serious question,—What shall we do? Close the school for a half year? or send half of the pupils home? But we trust the five loaves and two fishes that the pupils bring will be blessed to the feeding of not only 100 but 5,000. Surely the Lord's hand is not shortened. On the whole the work of the school has been good and we feel that God has greatly blessed us. On December 14th, a class of 14 girls graduated on which occasion Pastor Ding Li Mei gave an address to a large and appreciative audience in our city church. This day commemorated the 50th anniversary of the school since Dr. Mills opened it at Dung Da Tsi, the seventh year of the Chinese Republic, and the seventh year since the school was moved to the East Suburb. It was anticipated that these graduates might continue their study and take up the long-planned-for Normal Course, but owing to the great demand for teachers it was impossible. Consequently they are now employed as teachers in Tengchow and Chefoo fields. A number of our girls are teaching and are in evangelistic work in Manchuria. Many of the girls assist in the evangelistic work during vacations and the reports they bring are very encouraging. Many of them teach in Sunday schools and their Missionary Society pays part of the salary of a Bible-woman. The Christian Endeavor Society which is strong is doing much towards the religious life of the school. During the Girls' Literary Society they do hand work, the profits of which go to the Missionary Society. The girls have taken a great interest in working for the Red Cross making triangular bandages, mufflers, sweaters, and wristlets. The amount done has been limited by the amount of material obtainable. Contributions from the girls have been used for buying New Testaments for the men at the front. The annual sports day of all the girls' schools in the city is always an eventful and happy day. This year part of the program was
given in the auditorium of the school. The addresses by the
girls of the high school and graceful motion songs by the day
school girls were much appreciated. Following the indoor
program pretty drills were given to music on the tennis court.
The large and appreciative audience of women enjoyed the
day and we feel that we have been brought into closer relation­ship with the women of the city as well as having aroused a
greater interest in the education of girls.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

We are happy to report that in the past year there has been
a decided increase in the number of day schools and that they
have reached a higher standard. This is due partly because
the Chinese government school authorities have been closing
up more of the old type schools and are enforcing their new
school regulations. In the city and suburbs we have two
primary schools for boys with 70 pupils and 5 primary schools
for girls with 147 pupils. In the country 52 schools for boys
with 1,165 pupils and 10 schools for girls with 122 pupils.
This gives us a total of 54 boys' primary schools with 1,235
pupils and 15 girls' primary schools with 269 pupils. Total,
69 schools with 1,504 pupils. Our school-inspector is unable
to properly superintend so many schools and we need more
funds to employ another helper in this important work.

MEDICAL WORK.

Owing to the absence of a foreign man physician the
hospital has remained closed. The dispensary work has been
carried on by Dr. Wang, who reports the following:—

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<th>First visits</th>
<th>...</th>
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<th>2,894</th>
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<tr>
<td>Return visits</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>7,329</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits to homes and out of city</td>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
<td>268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor operations and teeth extractions</td>
<td></td>
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<td>304</td>
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In one of our main out-stations, twenty miles from the city, Dr. Li for the past four years has done a good self-supporting medical work. He reports having seen 1,257 patients. Teeth extracted 159 and 34 minor operations. He has also an out-practice covering a large section of the country. He not only treats the sick but also preaches frequently in the chapel which is in connection with the branch dispensary and helps conduct the Sunday school and distributes hygiene and sanitation tracts to his patients.

Dr. Hinkhouse in connection with her second year language study has ordered supplies for the medical work, consulted with or assisted our or the Baptist Chinese doctor in such cases as needed, helped in a Chinese Sunday school, and had the medical care of the foreigners. Our own group has been blessed with good health. When Rev. Adams (Baptist) lay low with pneumonia, Dr. Gaston of Laichowfu responded to a wire. The week that these two physicians lived in the home, their ministry of love was known to all. This was during Pastor Ding’s meetings and the prayers of the people strengthened their hands mightily. Chinese and foreigners alike have not ceased to praise God for sparing this brother’s life and cite the case as wonderful goodness in answer to prayer.

As we review the past year, from what has been done we may gain fresh courage to do what remains to be done. Let our hearts be gladdened by the signs of promise. He who is our Divine pattern is able to prepare us for all, be with us in all, and bring us safely through all. We pray the coming years may see the banners of the Redeemer carried forward till all nations are subdued to the obedience of faith and while He is living for us in Heaven, may we be living for Him on earth.

NEW MISSIONARIES ASKED OF THE BOARD.

Woman evangelist—to fill vacancy.
Clerical man and wife.
Nurse.
Kindergartner.
NEW PROPERTY DESIRED.

Boys' High School:
- New Dormitory and Equipment ................................... Mex, $8,000
- Repairs on Old Building ........................................ 2,000
- Athletic Field .......................................................... 2,250
- Debt on Water City Church ........................................ 800
- New Church in City .................................................. 8,000

Teachers' Residences:
- For Boys' High School ........................................... $1,100
- For Girls' High School ............................................ 1,100
- Girls' High School Equipment .................................. 8,000
- Tengchow Residence, No. 6 ...................................... 1,300
- Land and Walls ....................................................... 4,000
- New Dispensary (Land and walls) ............................ 1,200
- Two Street Chapels ................................................ 6,600
- Memorial Chapel ..................................................... 2,000

CHINESE FORCE.

- Unordained Preachers .............................................. 18
- Bible-women .......................................................... 15
- Teachers, men 64, women 18 .................................... 82
- Colporteurs, paid 5, voluntary 11 ............................. 16

CHURCH STATISTICS.

- Out-stations .......................................................... 50
- Organized churches ................................................ 11
- Communicants ....................................................... 1,714
- Communicants received during the year (including Presbytery report) .................................................. 218
- Children baptized .................................................. 36
- Contributions for congregational expenses ................ Mex. $738
- Contributions for Home Missions ............................... $ 20

EDUCATIONAL.

- Women’s Bible Training School .............................. (total enrollment) 20 students.
- Tengchow Girls' Boarding School ........................... 122
- Tengchow Boys' Boarding School ............................. 125
- City Primary Schools [girls (5), pupils 147] [boys (2), pupils 70] total ................................ 217 pupils.
- Country Primary Schools [girls (10), pupils 122] [boys (52), pupils 1,165] total ................ 1,287

MEDICAL.

- One Hospital. Two Dispensaries. Hospital temporarily closed.
- Number of dispensary patients, first visits, city and country .................. 4,151
- Number of dispensary patients, return visits, city and country ................ 7,329
- Total number of dispensary patients .................................. 11,480