The West China Missionary News

February

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCE IN WEST CHINA

1924

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This issue of the NEWS is largely given over to the
reports and other records of the West China Christian
Educational Union. This it will be noted completes
the seventeenth year of its life and it
EDUCATIONAL must be a matter of satisfaction to all
PROGRESS- that it still shows all the marks of a
sturdy youth. Among such character­
istics are its ability to give and take in the way of
"kicks" and criticisms, adapt itself to circumstances and
still go on growing. In this latter regard this year again
shows a commendable increase, the total number of
pupils registered being 19915 an increase of 2000, over
the previous year. This, however, does not even then
show all the work being done by Christian schools for
education in West China. There are according to
Advisory Board statistics almost two thousand pupils
in schools not registered in the Union. The constant
hope is naturally that all schools should register and
cooperate to the utmost for mutual advantage and
advance. Why not?

One of the former criticisms of the Union was that
the individual schools and their teachers were not kept
informed as to the Union's doings. Of this we heard
little this year. This is doubtless due to the fact that

The Educational Quarterly is now

established, ably edited by Mr. S. H.

CRITICISMS

Fang B.A., and is sent free to all

AND REMEDIES

schools registered. Another possi­

ble even more persistent protest has been that the Union

has been too much an Office Institution, and that there

has not been enough effort put forth in the way of carry­

ing its benefits out to the public through district in­

stitutes and conventions. This defect is doubtless

largely due to the unrest of recent years, to the limited

nature of the budget and also to the changing personnel

of the secretarial office. However, few years have

passed without some good work being done in this

regard, and arrangements are being made to see that it

is more fully emphasised in the future. Some have gone

still further and have alleged that the Union has become

simply an examining machine and that it should be

swept away. It is doubtful, however, whether this latter

opinion is widely prevalent. Probably the more general

attitude is that examinations should be modified, and

that doubtless the Union stands ready to do whenever

and wherever better methods can be advanced.

Possibly the most difficulty duty devolving upon

the union during the coming year will be the initiation

of the so called "Six-Six" System throughout our

schools. Our present system divides

THE "SIX-SIX" SYSTEM.

the seventeen educational years as

follows: Four years in Lower Primary,

three years of Higher Primary, four

years of Middle (or High) School and six years of

University. The new system will shorten the educa­
tional period to sixteen years and will rearrange it as

six years of Primary, six years of Middle school and

four years of University work. There is naturally con­
siderable difference of opinion as to whether the new

system is really better than the old, or at least sufficient­ly

superior to justify new adjustments and expenses in

buildings, text books, training of teachers etc which the

change will compel. The chief arguments for the new

system seem to be that it is somewhat more flexible,

allowing more for vocational and other optional classes
during the last two years of primary and last three years of middle schools; that children will not leave school after four years as formerly thinking they have completed a primary or middle school course as the case may be, but once started will be inclined to complete six years in that grade; and that especially the first six years will be given in his own village without leaving home and at least an additional year in middle school in his own county, leaving only four years of more expensive university work for which he will have to go a distance from home. To this, so far as we here in the west are concerned, it should be added that the Educational Commission which surveyed the work of China recently has also advised this system, and that the government and other schools in various parts of the country are adopting it, so that there does not seem much option on our part but to follow their lead, unless we wish to work out of harmony with the majority.

Though the Union is thus adopting the new course, it by no means follows that it urges that the whole program be attempted at once. Possibly outside of preparing pupils for an examination at the end of what has been the second year Higher Primary, GADUAL ADJUSTMENTS, no immediate step is necessary, and even that will not change until the school year 1924-25. Others will probably begin next autumn to keep over their graduates from what has been the Lower Primary for a fifth year. Still others will commence collecting their third year Higher Primary students as a first year Middle School class, while in some places the graduating class from the Middle School will be retained for a sixth year of the new system. Thus the change can be adopted gradually and will be in each case largely dictated by local conditions.

Many will hear with regret that Mr. D. S. Kern is, through the exigency of furlough and other circumstances, again resigning his duties as General-Secretary. He has done the Union some excellent service especially in his painstaking investigations of our statistics and other survey work, and all will wish him
the fullest rewards of furlough. To carry on the work thus left waiting, the Union has elected Mr. H. G. Brown. Mr. Brown has had the best of post graduate and other educational training, has had experience in the practical management of schools here upon the field and has for some years been Dean of the Faculty of Education in the Union University. So he comes well qualified for his new duties and all will wish him heartiest success. While thus congratulating our educational workers we would take the opportunity of congratulating all West China and Dr. Spencer Lewis himself on the attainment, on the 10th of January, of his seventieth birthday. Forty and more years of his life have been given to China and he is till "going strong" with duties connected with the Language School and Faculty of Religion of the University.

Mingled with these felicitations are strange feelings of sorrow this autumn, for death has been unusually busy in our midst. Messrs. Whiteside and Watt, Misses Wheeler and Eaton and others have left great gaps in our ranks. Now we chronicle the passing of Mr. James Webster of the C.I.M. Mr. Webster came to China in 1902 and has been for many years identified with Kiungchow, where the work was greatly enriched by his faithfulness and good fellowship. The News extends sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Webster and her mission.
West China Educational Union

SUMMARY

of

Registration and Examinations 1923.

1. REGISTERED SCHOOLS.

Kindergartens 4
Lower Primary 327
Higher Primary 60
Junior Middle Schools 14
Senior Middle Schools 6

Totals 410

2. STUDENTS IN REGISTERED SCHOOLS.

Kindergartens 280
Lower Primary 16248
Higher Primary 2345
Middle Schools 1042

19915

3. EXAMINATION CANDIDATES.

Lower Primary 1252
Higher Primary 538
Jun. Middle School 317
Sen. Middle School 151

258

4. CANDIDATES IN ALL SUBJECTS.

<table>
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<th>Diplomas</th>
<th>stars</th>
<th>failures</th>
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<td>541</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>1148</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.P.</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.M.S.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>212</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.M.S.</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
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830 760 210 1900
REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WEST CHINA CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL UNION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1923

D. S. KERN, B.A., B.D.

Owing to the resignation of Dr. Wallace as General Secretary of the Educational Union during the past year I was requested by the Executive, inasmuch as I had been Acting General Secretary during the furlough of Dr. Wallace, to take up the work of General Secretary. Dr. Wallace handed over to me the work of the Educational Union on July 19. This was in the midst of examining of papers and recording of results. Two weeks later the recording of results and issuing of reports on examinations was completed and the office closed for the summer vacation.

Although the office opened again on the first of September it was not until after I had moved out to the University house that I was able to give my attention to the work of the Union. Consequently at the time of writing this report for you I have had less than three months of work with the Educational Union. My report must therefore be brief. I shall comment briefly on some of the office reports, the work of compiling a new registry book of students who have graduated from the Union, and some of the recommendations of the Executive to the Board of Education.

Dr. Wallace has requested that that article of his which appeared in the West China Missionary News for September be considered as his report to the Board of Education. I have therefore much pleasure in presenting that report to you as his report of his work up to the time he handed over to me the responsibility of the work of General Secretary.

We are glad to be able to report to you the following registration of schools and pupils in the Educational Union for the past year.
The West China Missionary News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Mission Schools Registered in the Union</th>
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<td>Total of Mission Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kind</td>
<td>Mission Schools Registered in the Union</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Primary</td>
<td>533 327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Primary</td>
<td>67 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>20 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>632 410</td>
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*Note:—Taken from the Advisory Board report.

A study of the ages of the Lower Primary and Higher Primary graduates for the past eight years shows that the average Lower Primary pupil is 12 to 13 years of age (Chinese reckoning at the time of graduation from the Lower Primary, and that the Higher Primary pupil is 16 years of age at the time of graduation from the Higher Primary. A study of the ages of Preliminary and Final Middle School Candidates for 1923 shows that the majority of middle school Preliminary students are 18 years of age and Final students 20 years of age at graduation.

The full details concerning the ages of Lower and Higher Primary graduates are given in the table which you will find at the end of this report.

The table concerning the years spent by students in Lower Primary schools shows that about 30% of the graduates are in our Lower Primary schools for two year or less. The next table reveals the sad fact that of our first year Lower Primary students only about 8% remain in school until graduation. Only about 20% of all 2nd year students and 46% of all 3rd year students remain to graduate from the schools, while less than 80% of the 4th year students try the examinations.
Last year Dr. Wallace prepared a special form for reporting facts about the schools. This form was based on and made similar to that used in the survey made by the Educational Commission in 1921. I have had the information from these reports tabulated and a summary made of it for your benefit. It is to be found at the end of this report. In the first place you will notice that only about 20%, that is 1/5, of all Lower Primary pupils come from Christian homes. This means that our constituency is mainly non-Christian. It also means that herein lies a great opportunity for the church for evangelistic work. The influence of our Christian schools would be much greater if the pupils could be kept longer in school but when 1/3 of the 1st year remain only a year or less in school and 1/3 of the 2nd grade leave at the end of that year, the influence of the school is not what it might otherwise have been. Nevertheless we are thankful for so great an opportunity of sending the Glad Tidings into so many non-Christian homes. We are gratified to find that so many of the teachers in our schools are Christian, and while we wish that all our Lower Primary teachers were Christians yet we are thankful to find that less than 10% are reported as non-Christian. Who can estimate then the influence of so many Christian teachers upon the hundreds, nay, thousands of students in our Junior Primary schools!

The report of teachers’ salaries is extremely interesting. Of the 410 teachers concerning whom reports were given, 326 or 80% received between 72 and 120 dollars per year, or from six to ten dollars per month. About 50% of the teachers get between 6 and 8 1/2 dollars per month.

The report on Normal training is most distressing. 334 out of 486, or nearly 70% of the Lower Primary teachers are reported as being without any Normal school training, while only 21% of the teachers have had Normal training in Mission schools. Can the Missions do nothing to remedy this state of affairs? Must we continue year after year in having our schools manned with untrained teachers? When we turn to the report on the academic training of our teachers we are indeed gratified to find that 67% or 2/3 of them are graduates of Mission schools, and that less than 20% are the old style “Gweh Wen” teachers. I imagine that if an investigation had been made ten years ago we would have found these ratios reversed. If we cannot put normal trained teachers in all of our schools the next best thing is to get Mission school graduates. This seems to be what most are now doing.
Examination of the tables on H. P. and M. S. students shows that 36% of the H. P., and 43% of the M. S. students come from Christian homes, while 28.7% of the H. P. students and 61.5% of the M. S. students are reported as being members of the church. We also find that 74.4% of the H. P. teachers and 70.2% of the M. S. teachers are members of the church. We are thankful that so large a percentage of both students and teachers are Christian. We find that the average salary for H. P. teachers is 121-150 dollars per year, while the salary for M. S. teachers is 181-240 dollars per year. Concerning Normal training we again find the same sad story. The majority are without Normal training. This however is to some extent off set by the fact that the majority of teachers in our H. P. and M. Schools are graduates of our own Mission schools.

We find then, to sum up, that only 23% of our L. and H. P. and M. S. pupils come from Christian homes and that 841 pupils or 30% of our H. P. and M. S. pupils are members of the church. Less than 12% of the 782 teachers in our L. and H. P. and M. Schools are non-Christian; while 565 of the 782 or about 73% are church members. Approximately 20% of our teachers have had Normal training in our Mission Normal schools, 10% in government schools while 70% of all our L. and H. P. and M. S. teachers are without Normal training. 64% of all our L. and H. P. and M. S. teachers are Mission school graduates, 15% are government school graduates while 20% are the old style "Gweh Wen" teachers. Surely we have every reason in spite of the sad lack of Normal trained teachers, to be proud of our Educational work, and every reason to believe that it is and will continue to be one of the great factors in the evangelization of West China.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the table showing the number of diplomas issued by the Educational Union from the time it began to function up to the present. Since the Union began to issue diplomas it has issued 4512 L. P., 1790 H. P. and 313 M. S. diplomas. If it appears to be the case only some 50 to 60% of the those who try the examinations obtain a diploma, it means that we have had about 600 M. S. Final students, 3000 H. P. students and about 8000 L. P., or about 11000 students in all who have tried our examinations and have gone out all over West China from the environment of our Christian schools better men and women because of the Christian education they have received. Who can estimate the
far reaching influence of our Christian schools and how great a
factor these men and women will be in the making of this
nation! How great is our opportunity and how great our
responsibility! I append herewith the names of all of the M. S.
graduates who have obtained their diplomas from the
Educational Union except the names of the first four whose
record seems to have been lost. As one glances over that list
of students one sees names of students who are now in the
University preparing for their life work in education, medicine,
or the ministry and the names of others who are already carrying
on the work of our church, directing the work of our schools and
helping in the care and healing of the sick. True some have
failed. We could not expect otherwise. But I believe it will
be found that the majority have been true to the cause they
have espoused and are doing their part to bring gladness and
joy to the hearts and lives of many of their countrymen.

THE COMPILATION OF THE NEW REGISTER.

A few years ago when the number of candidates and
graduates was much smaller than at present it was fairly easy
to look up the record of any of the M. S. or H. P. graduates.
But as year after year has passed by and the number of
candidates has been greatly increased it has become more and
more difficult to search out the records of these students. In a
few years more if our number of candidates for examinations
keep on increasing it will be an exceedingly difficult task to
search out the records of our students. This Fall I decided
that there ought to be one book in which the names and marks
of all M. S. Final graduates should be recorded, and likewise for
the M. S. Preliminary graduates. Further I decided that the
names and marks of all other candidates for Final examination
should be recorded in another book, and likewise the names and
marks of all Preliminary candidates. Each of these four books
will have an index, thus making it an easy matter to locate the
record of anyone of these candidates and graduates. The work
of sorting out and listing the names of graduates has already
taken much time and weeks will be required before it is finished.
But once it is finished the matter of finding the record of any
student will be very easy and hours and hours of work will be
saved to the office in the future in supplying the information so
often required concerning the standing of various students.
Furthermore it will now be possible with very little work, upon
The West China Missionary News

receipt of the names of the students of any M. S. to send to that school the records of all their students showing those who have their diplomas and those who need to prepare certain subjects in which they have previously failed. When one realized that during the last six years only 62% of the students who tried in all subjects received their diplomas, one can realize how important and necessary this follow-up work is. This is one thing the office can do to help the principals of the M. S. to make their schools more efficient.

During the Fall an investigation was made of the 3rd and 4th year M.S. students then registered in a certain school. This revealed the fact that 18% were without any record in the Educational Union, 55% had one or more stars in their M.S. Preliminary examination and only 27% had completed their M.S. Preliminary work. It seems to me that each Fall, possibly in October, the office should ask each Jun. and Sen. M.S. to send in the names of all students registering and that this office should then send to them a statement showing the standing in the Educational Union of each of their students. Such action would enable all students who are starred in one or more subjects to prepare the subject matter necessary in order to take off these subjects at the following June examination.

6-6-4 System.

The big problem that the Board is asked to discuss this year is the question as to whether we shall introduce the 6-6-4 system into the schools of the Union or not and if we decide to do so how we shall proceed in the matter. In 1922 the Board of Education voted in favor of its adoption and authorized the Executive committee, if it found such a course necessary, to introduce the new system last September. It was not found necessary to adopt it last September. The Executive now recommends that it be adopted in the Primary and Junior M.S. of the Union in September of 1924. At least three of the Missions at their annual meetings have already voted in favor of its adoption. Dr. Wallace writing from Shanghai on Nov. the 2nd says, "In general the situation here seems to be that all the better government schools and most of the Mission schools at least in this part of China have already made the change to the 6-6 course". The Commercial Press has already issued some of the textbooks necessary for the new course.

The Executive has recommended to the Board the general curriculum for the Primary and Junior Middle schools of our
Union, leaving the question of Senior middle school curriculum for future consideration. If this recommendation is adopted by the Board the various Standing Committees will then be asked to consider what changes will be necessary in the syllabi. Inasmuch as the adjustment to the new course can be made, so it would appear, without any serious changes being made in the syllabi there should be no serious difficulty in adopting the new system in September 1924, if the Board of Education wishes so to do.

If the new 6-6-4 system is adopted some changes will be necessary in the registration fees of the schools. The Executive in anticipation of this has prepared a recommendation dealing with the matter of registration and examination fees.

The question of the Chinese Secretary for the Educational Union is still before us. So far, we have not been able to secure a full time Chinese Secretary nor do we see any prospect of securing one in the immediate future. We have accordingly done the best we could with part time from the Principal of the Normal School and from one of the University 6th year students in Education.

Once again the question of the General Secretary for the Union is brought before you. The resignation of Dr. Wallace since the last Board meeting necessitated action being taken by the Executive to fill his place. Inasmuch as I had been acting General Secretary during the furlough of Dr. Wallace the Executive asked me to take the work of the General Secretary for the balance of the year. As I leave on furlough next spring it becomes necessary to secure someone else for General Secretary. The Executive appointed a committee to meet with a similar committee appointed by the Senate of the University. The recommendation of this joint committee is before you.

In closing I wish to express my appreciation of the hearty co-operation of the various members of the Executive and of the Board with me in this work. I appreciate very much your help in the work I have had to do for the Union. My connection with the work of Education in West China through being a member of the Executive committee during the past six years is something I will always look back upon with great pleasure. My two years, during the furlough of Dr. Wallace, and this year as General Secretary will be long remembered as three years of most pleasant work. I never expect to find any other work that will be more congenial or will give me more pleasure to do than has the work of the General Secretary of the Edu-
cational Union. I pray that the work of the Union may prosper and grow and that through our many schools and their teachers the Kingdom of Love may be established in many more thousands of the young lives here in West China.

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY REPORT.

DR. JOSEPH BEECH, President.

It is familiar to all of us resident in Szechuen that the past year has been a year when progress has been difficult. It has consisted very largely of military operations that have consumed the strength of the people and diverted their minds from constructive programs. Roads have been more or less controlled by robbers, and travel difficult, and in some places impossible. Everyone has felt the pressure of financial embarrassment, and but for the prevailing optimistic psychology of the people the year might better be looked upon as a year of despair rather than a year of hope. Nevertheless, insofar as this report relates itself to the life of the University, it is not a message of despair, but a message of hope and progress. For peace, progress and order, and an uninterrupted routine of worship, work and play have marked the life of the University this year.

UNIVERSITY LIFE.

The relations between the teachers and students have never been more cordial than during the past year. The students have placed loyalty to their teachers and their Alma Mater first in their dealings with the student associations of the city. They did not participate in the Japanese Boycott because such movements had been marked by demonstrations of lawlessness in other places, and they were not prepared to jeopardize the good name of their university by participation in a movement that might bring discredit upon it. Such acts, showing strength of courage and conscientious conviction, give ground for the hope recently expressed by prominent business men and officials
that Christian education offers the best remedy for China's present evil.

In this connection it is desirable to call attention to the fact that for much of the constructive, forward-going and staple body of opinion that prevails among our students, and also for the highest standards of scholarship that we are able to maintain, we are dependent to a very large degree upon that proportion of our student body that has come from mission high schools. In our report last year we appealed for a larger number of Christian high schools, and we repeat that request again this year in order that the University may be furnished with a student body that will make its Christian teaching and influence far more potent, and in order that the missions themselves may reap due rewards from their extensive system of primary education.

The Religious life is mainly under the guidance of the mission colleges, but mention should be made of a series of special meetings conducted for about two weeks by Dr. Chen Wei Ping of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During these meetings thirty-two of our students expressed a desire to become Christians and a few offered themselves for Christian service. That the call to Christian service has not been ignored was manifested by the fact that among those graduating last June, all of the Senior graduates have entered mission service, six graduates of the Junior Division, seven graduates of the Bible School and twenty-one of the Normal School also entered into Christian service.

The Physical life and health of the students cannot be given the attention deserved until we have a physical Director giving his entire time to this work, but despite the absence of this much-needed addition to our staff, real progress in athletics and in the health of the students has been made during the year. Organized games and drill have been more generally observed than heretofore. Inter-scholastic foot-ball games are frequently held, and in these the record of victories for our students becomes almost monotonous. University Athletic Day Meet was participated in by a very large share of the students, and while no world's records were broken, we are inclined to believe that West China records were made, or maintained. The health of the students has never been so well attended to as during the past year, for we now have Dr. Humphreys as University physician, giving his first attention to the health of the student body.
During the year the University students have organized a University Lyceum and Social Club and under their auspices a number of lectures have been given, and not a few more are scheduled the coming half year.

Enrollment.

In former reports we have emphasized the fact that there can be no very rapid increase in our student body until we have more mission middle schools in operation. Government schools as at present conducted furnish us with but few students qualified to pursue the best grade of work. Forty-three students from government schools tried our entrance examination last year; one passed without conditions, and only sixteen were admitted. This year, altho the standard of scholarship was slightly better, the average of those who passed was about the same as the year before. The total enrollment last year, as recorded in our catalogue for all schools, including the Dewey and Goucher schools and the Summer schools, was eight hundred and twenty-nine. The University last year reported for the entire year one hundred and forty-six students in the Junior and Senior Divisions. This autumn the enrollment lacks but one of being two hundred. There has also been a slight gain in the Middle School, but there is a falling-off in the Bible School and Normal School, so that the total enrollment will not be far in excess of last year. But the gain in the University Departments of over fifty in one year is significant.

Graduation and Scholarship.

The academic procession of last June, rich in scholastic colors from three continents, lead by the Governor's military band of about fifty pieces, started with banners and much noise from the Hart College for the Administration Building. At about the same time, with much louder music from the skies, a drenching rain poured down, with the result that the West China University is probably entitled to the banner for the swiftest academic procession on record. The only thing that didn't run were the scholastic colors—they held fast. Degrees were conferred on six graduates, one in Arts, three in Science, two in Medicine. Graduate diplomas were given to seventeen graduates from the Junior Division, six in Arts, eight in Science, two in Education and one in Religion. Thirty-seven students were graduated from the Middle School, twenty-two from the
Normal School, and eight from the Bible School, a total in all University schools of eighty-nine, the largest number we have yet graduated. Our last Commencement may mark a period of transition in our history. During the previous year the University was incorporated under the Board of Regents of the State of New York, and it is expected that future degrees will be issued under the seal of the State of New York instead of under the authority of the University Senate, as heretofore.

The Scholarship of the University has had the seal of other institutions of high standing placed upon it in a manner that affords satisfaction to all connected with the University. Mr. S. H. Fang studied in England and was admitted to advance work at Columbia University; Mr. Donald Fay matriculated and graduated from Rochester Seminary with the degree of B. D. on equal standing with American college graduates, and he was admitted to work in the University of Chicago the same as graduates of American colleges also. Mr. Lincoln Dsang secured the degree of B. D. from Garrett Biblical Institute and the Degree of M.A. from Northwestern University in as short a time as it could have been possible for graduates of American universities to complete the course, in fact it was shorter by a half year than the average graduate from American colleges. Mr. T. P. Chang was admitted without qualification for the Degree of M. A. at Leland Stanford University in California, and in one year secured his degree from the University of Arizona, to which university he transferred on account of ill health. These are simply sign-posts, but they tell what the scholarship of the University is in unmistakable terms.

Staff.

Visitors to our campus marvel at the material development of this university, but the creation of the teaching forces is ever more significant than its material equipment. The rapid creation of a harmoniously working faculty with high ideals, able to cooperate, to give and to take, and to do the team work that is necessary for progress—the most difficult of university tasks—has been realized here in a very marked degree. In 1908 our combined efforts brought together nine foreign missionaries from three countries and four missions, the faculty nucleus of the University which the Mission Board had that year agreed to establish. Our 1923-24 catalogue lists;
Missionary members of the faculty - Men 35

“ “ “ Women 15

Chinese Graduates or advance students teaching in our University proper 11

Total listed under University Faculty 61

Many of these serve only part time, and some are on furlough, but making consideration for this, there has been a marvel of achievement in bringing so large a company, diverse in nationality, denomination affiliation, and training, who work together with a single heart and mind for a common goal, which our constitution describes as "the hastening of the Kingdom of God by means of higher education".

Buildings.

It has been remarked that buildings grow on this campus. At all events it is true that they have never ceased to rise since the first temporary little structure was built in 1908. Within the year under review the combination dormitory-gymnasium-dining-hall of the Canadian Methodist Mission has been completed and occupied. This completes three units of the Hart College quadrangle. The Atherton Memorial Biology and Preventive Medicine Building, which was in the first stages of construction when the Board met last year, is now about completed. It is the largest building on the campus. The northern section of the building is now occupied by the Department of physiology, Biochemistry and Anatomy and the University’s clinic. During the coming vacation the Departments of Biology and chemistry will occupy the southern half of the building. The Library Building, which stands opposite the Administration Building, and will be of the same dimensions and pattern, has the brickwork completed nearly to the eaves. One additional residence has been completed by the Canadian Mission, and there are at the present time the following buildings under construction,—the Middle School Dormitory of the Canadian Mission, the Friends College Building, two permanent houses on the Middle School site, and two temporary houses on the Middle School site. These, with the Library and Biology buildings, make a total of eight college buildings and residences under construction at one time.

Women’s College.

It now seems assured that the doors of this university will swing open to women on equals terms with men, in the autumn
of 1924. This fact should mark an important epoch in the history of West China. It has never been done before, and I venture to think that the future citizens of Szechuen will point with pride to the year 1924, when women were admitted on equal standing with men to the West China Union University.

The women's Society of the Methodist Episcopal church has appointed Miss Alice Brethorst to the University for work in connection with the education of women. The Women's Society of the Canadian Methodist Mission assure us that they too will appoint one of their workers for this purpose to the University at their coming annual meeting, and we have reasonable hope that the Baptist Mission will do likewise. We ask this Board of Education to join with the University in making this important advance in the autumn of 1924. While no large sums of money have been voted for the erection of buildings, it is expected that sufficient will be contributed to make a beginning in temporary buildings after the manner in which the work for men was begun a little over a decade ago.

Summer Schools.

A Summer Bible School was made possible summer before last by a gift of $500 from the Rev. Dr. H. Blackstone of Los Angeles. A like sum was sent forward for the Bible School last summer, and a like sum promised for the coming summer. Unfortunately unsettled political conditions made it seem inadvisable to hold the Bible School last summer. The summer Normal School was held as heretofore, but with a greatly reduced attendance, Summer before last our enrollment in summer schools was one hundred and sixty-eight. We hope to make the summer school a much more prominent feature than heretofore, and we ask the cooperation of this Board in urging upon all church workers and school workers that they awake to the importance and advantage of the summer schools and attend in far greater numbers.

The University Book Club, and Court.

The University has linked itself with the foreign community in the City of Chengtu in a helpful manner through the organization of a University Book Club. Through this club the foreign members of the community combine together and annually purchase about fifty of the most popular books published. These books are placed in the Library for the benefit of the club
members, but they become the property of the Library, and are circulated through it. It is hoped to extend this service to foreigners in other parts of the province later on, and we shall be delighted if the Chinese reading public can be induced to join with us in a like organization for the purchase of the best Chinese books and their wide circulation among the people of Chengtu.

The University Court, the organization of which awaits the approval of the Board of Governors, is to consist of a group of the leading Chinese educationalists, a few prominent officials, and outstanding friends of the University, organized together to advance the interests of the University, to link it more closely with Chinese life, and to hasten the day when this University will be regarded as an indigenous institution. We shall be happy indeed when the day arrives in which the people of this city and province shall point to this university as their university. Our great concern as we look forward to that day is to make sure that its Christian character and Christianing influence shall in no sense be lost.

The closing word of this report may fittingly be one of thanksgiving. China as a whole, and Szechuen in particular, has been torn by dissention and discord, but peace and progress have reigned on this campus, and the record of the year has been all that we hoped for and well in advance of previous years. If you will lift up your eyes and look about you as you assemble here in the year 1921 for your annual meeting you too will have occasion for joining in that thanksgiving, for what you see should assure you that the founding of this University was of Divine inspiration, and that it promises to be determinative in the formation of a new and Christian civilization for the people of this great province.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY. 1923.

H. G. Brown M.A., B.D. Dean.

The Faculty of Education wishes again this year to report its work under three headings, namely: University work in Education, University Normal School and the University Summer
Normal. Mr. H. G. Brown, dean of the faculty, will report on the first topic, Mr. Fang Shu Shuen, the Principal of the Normal School will deal with the second, while Mr. Tao Li Yong, a student of the Senior Division of the University in the Faculty of Education who carried considerable responsibility for the Summer Normal will report on the last topic.

I. UNIVERSITY WORK IN EDUCATION.

Organization of Courses: In both Senior and Junior Divisions, the work has been organized on the credit system. In the Senior Division, the requirement for graduation is sixty credits of which six shall be in the Chinese language, nine in English, six in Arts, four in religion and twenty-one in Education. In the Junior Division, sixty-three credits are required, of which nine shall be taken in Chinese language, seven in Arts, eight in Science, eight in religion, and fourteen in Education. This allows fourteen hours for optional work in the Senior Division and seventeen in the Junior Division.

Three courses that are being given this year should perhaps be reported. Mr. Sawdon is giving a course on Secondary School problems, and is supervising practice teaching in the Middle School. Mr. Yang P'ei Shin of the Higher Normal (Women's) School of the city is giving a course on Chinese Education. Mr. Dickinson is giving a course in Agriculture for Secondary Schools. Our hope is to prepare some men who will be able to do splendid work for our mission Middle Schools which are increasing so rapidly in number of late.

There is need for a considerable increase in our work in education. Students in the Junior Division who take Education have not quite enough subject matter to be teachers of Middle School grade. We hope in the near future to arrange for a special year of work in Education for students who are proposing to teach Middle School.

Teachers: To make allowance for furloughs, and to increase the scope of our work in Education as we hope to do, it will be necessary for us to increase our staff. We look forward during the next few years to have four additions to our staff, Mr. Dudley of the M.E.M., Mr. Clark of the A.B.F.M.A., Miss Martin of the C.M.S., and Mr. Soper of the C.M.M.

Students: We have had increase of students registered in Education. Thirty students are registered in Education, while all students in Religion, Arts and Science take courses in Education. Our hope is that the position of teachers in the various
missions may be bettered so that students will feel it worth their while to take professional preparation. If they were organized in some such way as is the missionary force of our churches, they could prepare themselves and give much better service than it is possible for them to do at present.

II. The University Normal School.

1. Course of Study: The new course differs from the old in several places. First: Grade of students: Under the old course, graduates of Higher Primary were admitted. This was unsatisfactory. The students did not have enough subject matter, and so were unable to give their attention to educational method. They were too young to go out as teachers. The new course admits only students who have completed three years of the Middle School course. Last year, some of the students did not have this standing.

Second: Under the new course, the student can go on to the University without any handicap.

Third: The University recognizes the work of the Normal School in Education as the equivalent of six credits, so that students who graduate from the Normal with high standing in both academic and professional subjects can enter the second year of the University.

Fourth: Our course is altogether in harmony with the new system which emphasizes giving vocational courses in the Middle School grades of work. Graduates of the Normal school, are prepared to teach well, and at the same time, are prepared to go on to the University.

2. Students: Last year, twenty-eight students entered the Normal School. Of these nineteen got the Educational Union certificate of graduation from the Middle School, and ten got Government stamp on their diplomas. This year we have been more strict than formerly as to requirements, and our student body, all of whom have completed three years of Middle School, consists of twelve students only, of whom the greater number are from the M.E.M., The C.M.M., the Friends, the C.M.S. have not send any students. The Normal School is somewhat concerned about the support it is receiving, but much more so about the fact that the missions do not seem to think the work of the Primary School teacher is at all important or difficult.

3. Future of Mission Education in China: In the past ten years, Christian education has been of the greatest assistance to
the educational work of China. But during these ten years, Chinese Government education has been gradually developing. Is mission education as essential as in the past? What contribution has it for the new day? This is a question we would do well to study. The report of the Educational Commission says we have only fifty places in China doing Normal School work of any kind. It says, "In the three most advanced provinces in China, only two percent of the teachers in our Primary Schools have trained teachers". (See Report page 125). We will not speak of the other provinces. In comparison, the government is far in advance of us. The Government has 200 Normal Schools with an average attendance each of 150 students, and in 350 schools, short Normal courses are given to prepare teachers for country schools. In our Christian Educational work, we have large numbers of Primary and Middle Schools, and they are in important centres. Surely it is only reasonable that we should pay some attention to our teachers. If we do not, the future is far from bright for our educational efforts. (See Educational Report page 126). If we think lightly of our schools, we may well consider closing them altogether. If we realize at all their importance, we should see to it that we have a good teacher in every school.

III. THE UNIVERSITY SUMMER NORMAL SCHOOL.

Conditions during the Summer of 1923 were probably worse than they have been at any other time in this province. The country was infested with robbers, business was at a standstill and schools were closed. Summer Normal students were about the only folk in the land to leave their homes. We had forty-six students, of whom nine finished the requirements for graduation. We cannot but thank God for his care.

The Summer Normal Course requires attendance at two sessions of a month each. The theory of education is treated in such courses as Introduction, Educational Psychology, General Method, School and Society, and Educational Administration. Special methods were given for Arithmetic, Chinese, History, Geography and Drawing. Supplementary subject matter and training was given in music, handwork, and games. In the matters of methods, the student observed model classes, and had some opportunity each for a little practice at actual teaching.

Two features of the course this year deserve special mention: One was the work in organized games given by Mr. Earl
Willmott of Jenshow. This work was done systematically and each student went home with notes and with practice and experience in teaching about forty different games. The other was the systematic study of the Old Testament for morning worship. The book "Hebrew Life and Times" by Mr. Harold Hunting is an invaluable book for introducing students to the wealth of meaning in the Old Testament. The hope is that next year we may do the same with the New Testament. We are very grateful to Mr. Liu Tze Min for his work as principal of the school.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNION BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL.

E. R. M. Brecken M.A., B.D. Principal.

The Union Bible Training School grew out of the informal co-operation of the members of the staff of the University in training students sent up by the various missions in preparation for the work of the Christian Ministry. It is thus not an integral part of the union institutions, but has developed in response to a need, and will gradually disappear as the need ceases. That need is the professional training of men who do not conform to the educational standards of the Educational Union, and are thus disqualified from entering the department of religion in the University. It is thus an attempt to meet the needs of irregular students until the time when there will be a sufficient number of regular students to supply the department in its regular course.

For a number of years, teaching was given in Biblical and Theological subjects only, students being entered in classes of the Middle School for general subjects. However, the growth of the Middle School together with the unsuitability of grouping the older men of the Bible School with the younger students, soon made it necessary to organize classes in general subjects.
under the direction of the Bible School. Later, the introduction of Vocational Course made it possible to register the School as a Vocational School of Middle School grade, which is its present standing in the Educational Union. The School undertakes to provide all the general subjects required on the Vocational Course, and on completing these, with vocational substitutes for the others, the diploma of the Union is awarded. Several students have already done this, although most of them find it difficult to meet the requirements in mathematics and science. It is only fair to these to say, that they are men of mature minds in other respects, and at the end of their course have covered a wide field of cultural knowledge far beyond Middle School grade, though not in conformity with recognized academic standards. The field covered is a four years' course identical in scope with that of the Department of Religion in the University, only adapted in teaching method to students of lower grade.

As indicated, this School, unlike others in the Union group, has set itself to the task of self-elimination. The standard of entrance, which has been that of the Junior Middle School, is being raised in 1924 to that of the Senior Middle School. This will enable us to greatly reduce the number of general subjects required, and carry students on into the Junior College. The next move will be to raise the standard of Theological entrance to that of University matriculation, when the Bible School will automatically become absorbed by the Faculty of Religion. The effect of this process is a steadily decreasing registration. Two years ago, the total registration was 54, last year it was 44, and this year it has fallen to 31. Last year we had a graduating class of eight, while this year there will not be more than four. Since this is accompanied by a corresponding increase of students in the department of Religion in the University, we may hope that the double process will continue until the Bible School will have fulfilled its function by making itself unnecessary. This does not mean that the need for training irregular candidates will have passed away; but such training will have to be done elsewhere than under the direction of the University Senate, and the Faculty of Religion will be able to devote all its energies to the adequate training of a Christian Ministry based upon the cultural outlook of a University curriculum.
UNION NORMAL SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN.
1922-'23.

Miss B. L. Foster, B.A. Principal.

During the year '22-'23 we have had a total of 38 students, the largest enrolment since the institution began its work eight years ago. Of these, nine were taking the second year of Normal work, three were Middle School graduates, ten had had one or two years of Middle School and the rest had Higher Primary standing.

The Kindergarten department graduated its first class-four in number in June. Three of these graduates have opened Kindergartens this Fall, one in Chengtu, one in Penghsien and one in Junghsien, while the fourth remains at the Normal as Miss Loree’s assistant. As about forty children attended our Kindergarten last year, ample opportunity was afforded for practice teaching.

The Lower Primary and first year Higher Primary Practice School showed a gratifying enrolment of almost one hundred. One feature of our work in this department we feel has been of special help to our students i.e. the training in the management of an ungraded school. In addition to her teaching throughout the year, each student was required to do two week’s test teaching during the Spring term and those who were likely to be appointed to rural schools were placed in charge of ungraded rooms for this period.

The close of the session ’22-'23 brought a decided change of policy. The requirements for entrance have been raised; all candidates must have at least two years of Middle School and the course is completed in one year instead of two. We are glad to report that, inspite of the demand for higher qualifications, we have entered upon the year ’23-'24 with 21 students enrolled and four are Middle School graduates.

During the past eight years 131 students have passed through this Normal School. Of these several have married but the majority are teaching either in Boarding Schools or in the rural districts. A former graduate, Miss Liu, is one of the
two missionary teachers who volunteered last Spring for work among the Tribes people and in August went to Lifan to open a much-needed school in that place.

So our graduates scatter, some far, some near, but wherever they are, we trust they will all bear faithful witness for Christ, Whose they are and Whom they serve.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 1923.

The 17th Annual meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Senate room of the Union University on Monday, January 7th, 1924.

Devotional Exercises were led by the President, S. H. Fang.

1 Members of the Board of Education were reported as follows:

- C.M.M: F. J. Reed, H. G. Brown, S. Hsiao, H. C. Li
- M.E.M: Miss Collier, R. Brewer, Miss Chiao, Y. W Cho
- C.M.S: H. H. Taylor, Miss Jones, K. T. Wu, S. S. Wu
- W.M.S: Miss Loree, Miss Steele
- W.F.M.S: Miss Hansing, Miss Ellison
- Woman's Normal: Miss Argetsinger
- Men's Normal: S. H. Fang
- Union University: J. L. Stewart, L. H. Liu
- Ex-officio: D. S. Kern, Miss Bassett, H. T. Hwa
- Co-opted: Dr. Beech, T. D. Liu, Miss A. Brethorst

2 Address by the President.
3 Hours of sessions were fixed as from 9-12 and 2-4.
4 Dr. Beech and Mr. T. S. Liu were co-opted.
5 Resolved, That the Nominating Committee consist of the President, Secretary and two others to be named by the President.
6 Report of the General Secretary was received.
7 Report of the Union University was received.
8 Report of the Woman's Normal School was received.
9 Report of the Men's Normal School was received.
10 Resolved, That H. Y. T'ien, H. G. Brown, C. L. Foster, R. Brewer, and Miss Jones be a committee to consider the requirements for entrance to Normal school and to report to a later session.
11 The President nominated H. Y. T'ien and J. L. Stewart as the other two members of the Nominating Committee.
12 The report of the Union Bible School was received.
13 The report of the Registration of Schools and Examinations was received.
14 The question of a representative to attend the Advisory Council at Shanghai was referred to the Nominating Committee. A telegram from Dr. Wallace was read saying: "Educational Association can allow up to $300. Mexican delegate Advisory Council". This was in reply to a letter from the General Secretary, D. S. Kern, asking what they would allow.
15 Resolved, To recommend that our Constitution be amended in respect to the composition of the Board of Education by adding the words, "and the President of the Union University", the words to follow immediately after the words "Secretary of the Educational Union", and that this come into effect at the next Board meeting.
16 Resolved, That E. W. Sawdon, J. L. Stewart, L. H. Liu, H. Y. T'ien be a committee to investigate the matter of who the first four graduates of M.S. were and to add their names to the list being published.
17 Resolved, That the Secretaries write to the various superintendents of the various schools re the best time for Examinations and report their replies to the Executive who shall then set the date for the June Examinations.
18 Resolved, That schools which have been unable to obtain the textbooks in M.S. Geography required be permitted to use the books which they have begun studying this past Fall, but that they be required to follow the syllabus hereafter.
19 Resolved, That in case of students failing to pass in Preliminary Examination in any of the following subjects, a pass in the Final examination be regarded as covering the Preliminary in

Chinese Language
English
Algebra
Drawing

and that in all other subjects a student must pass the Preliminary before obtaining his Final Diploma. Further that opportunity be provided at the June Examination for students to take such preliminary subjects as they have failed in or have not taken heretofore.

20 Resolved, That we co-opt Miss Alice Brethorst as a member of the Board

21 Resolved, That we appoint H. G. Brown as General Secretary of the Educational Union when D. S. Kern goes on furlough.

22 Resolved, That we receive the report of the Committee re assistance for the Faculty of Education (Report herewith). That while Mr. Brown remains Dean of the Faculty of Education we ask

(1) That the W.F.M.S. release Miss Brethorst to give some time to the Faculty of Education
(2) That the M.E.M. appoint Liu Sao Tze, after his graduation in June, to the Faculty of Education for Normal school work
(3) That Mr. Brown continue for this next term as superintendent of Practice Teaching and after this term two students, graduating in 1925 take over most of the supervision of Practice Teaching.
(4) That the C.M.S. give the services of Miss Martin or Miss Mannett to Practice Teaching work in the Normal School
(5) That in order to make provision for Mr. Brown's work in Sunday School and Religious Education we ask Mr. Simkin to undertake this work.
(6) That Miss Brethorst give some assistance in the other classes for which Mr. Brown is responsible.

23 Resolved, To accept the report of the Nominating Committee as follows:—
Resolved, That Mr. Liu be our representative to the Advisory Council to Shanghai and that Mr. T'ien be his alternate.

25 The report of the special committee on Normal School work was received. (Report given herewith).

26 The following report was read and accepted;—

Whereas a very large percentage of our teachers in Primary schools have no Normal training, and whereas we cannot hope to change this condition suddenly, but must surely take some action immediately to change this situation,

(1) Resolved, That we recommend to the University that they plan for a considerable development of Summer School work.

(2) Resolved, That we recommend to the Missions that they send students from centers within four or five days of Chengtu, to the University Summer Normal School and that either as Missions or in union between different Missions, they attempt to hold Summer Normal Schools at such centers as Chungking, Pooning, Junghsien.

27 A report read by Miss Steele as follows was accepted;—

Whereas it is agreed that one of the most urgent needs of our educational work is the higher education of women, and as the University has agreed to open its doors to women students in the Autumn of 1924; and

Whereas if our students are to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the University it is necessary to furnish teachers, either whole or part time, on the University staff, and to make provision for the housing and chaperoning of these students,

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That we urge all the missions engaged in work for women and girls, to cooperate
as far as possible in providing the needed funds and teachers, that it may be possible for women students to enter the University in the Fall of 1924.

And, **BE IT RESOLVED, That we send a copy** of this Resolution to the Annual Meetings of the Missions interested.

28 **Resolved, That we ask** the Executive to take such steps as may be necessary and possible to hold institutes for our teachers during this coming year.

29 **Resolved, That Religious Instruction continue as a required subject in Course of Study.**

30 **Resolved, That steps be taken through the foreign communities in Chungking and Chengtu to emphasize the need of increased income for the Educational Union and ask that collections taken in foreign services on Educational Sunday be given to the work of the Educational Union.**

31 **Resolved, That we ask our Educational workers everywhere to make arrangements where possible to conduct Educational services once a year.**

32 **Resolved, That the matter of Memory Work in Primary Scripture classes be referred to the Standing Committee on Religious Instruction.**

33 **Resolved, That the matter of inviting Mr. T'ien to be travelling Secretary for the Educational Union be referred to the Executive with power.**

34 **Resolved, That we accept and adopt the Executive report on the Middle School Curriculum as follows:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Arithmetic,</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>Algebra and Geometry</td>
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<td>History,</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>Civics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Music, Fine Arts
Drawing
Household Arts
Practical Arts
Physical Ed.

VIII Electives 6

180

NOTE: A Credit is presumed to be approximately one hour per week of work.

35 Resolved, That the matter of marks and conditions for obtaining diplomas be referred to the Executive which shall report its findings to the next Board meeting.

36 Resolved, That we recommend that schools begin to change to the new Course in the Fall of 1924 and that we give an examination at the end of the Higher Primary 2nd year to such schools as wish it.

37 Resolved, That all unfinished business be referred to the Executive with power.

38 Resolved, That the Minutes be referred to the Executive Committee.

39 Resolved, That a vote of thanks be given to the Senate of the Union University and to the ladies of the community for their hospitality.

ADJOURNMENT.

HINTS ON WORKING THE SIX-SIX SYSTEM

D. S. KERN B.A.,

In any discussion of the now 6-6-4 system of education the question is often asked, "How will the new system effect the country schools?" Inasmuch as the majority of our Lower Primary schools are country or village schools the question is a very important one. The majority of our L.P. schools which are in large centers or cities will probably find it fairly easy to
add on the extra two years. In fact in many places it only means transferring the 1st two years of the H.P. to the L.P. school. L.P. schools in other large centers or where there is no H.P. work will probably be found to have two or three teachers so that the addition of the other two years will merely mean the addition of one or two teachers to the staff.

I presume the great majority of our L.P. schools have only one teacher. It is evident that one teacher cannot carry six years of work. What are such schools then to do? I think there are four courses open to them.

(1) They may continue to teach only the first four years of the Primary work and then send their pupils to the Primary school in the central station. Just as they now send them to the H.P. school in the central station. This of course would mean that the Primary school in the central station would have to have a boarding department.

(2) One school in a large town might teach the full six years while the other schools near it might teach only four years and then send their pupils for the last two years to the school in the large town. Such a course would be possible in large towns where both the pastor and the principal of the school are strong able leaders.

(3) All schools which are now taught by only one teacher might add another teacher and then teach the full six years of primary work. But inasmuch as many of our schools have only three or four pupils in the 4th year such course of action is not feasible unless the number in the 4th year such a course of action is not feasible unless the number of students in the 4th year can be increased. It would seem to be the better policy in such schools as have only three or four pupils in their 4th year to send such pupils to one of the other larger schools and so help to increase its 5th and 6th years rather than increase the additional expenses of another teacher for perhaps only two or three pupils.

(4) A school might begin work at the beginning of the 3rd year instead of the 1st year and so do only the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th years of Primary work and consequently use only one teacher. Only about 8% of the 1st year pupils and 20% of the 2nd year pupils remain to graduate from the 4th year. Thus the 1st and 2nd years seem to produce but little for the higher years of work. However most places would object to such a policy.
It would be a great help if many schools would refuse to receive so many in the 1st and 2nd years but instead try to have the same number of pupils in each of the four other years. Such a policy would enable two teachers to teach the full six years without difficulty.

THE TEACHING OF PRIMARY ARITHMETIC.

LESSONS FROM THE UNION EXAMINATION.

BY L. H. HAMBLEY.

Believing that there are readers of the "News" who are directly concerned with the teaching of Junior Arithmetic, and anxious to see better work done, I would like to give a birds-eye-view of the results of this subject in the Union Examinations this year. Some may be worried by the low percentages taken by pupils in Arithmetic year by year while they do well in other subjects. We hope you will be anxious enough about it to try to do something. A general survey of the field will help us all to a better understanding of the difficulties.

The same examiner has marked all the papers in this subject of this grade since 1915, with the exception of 1920-21. The total number of papers examined in the seven years has been 6006. In 1915 there were only 376. In 1923 there were 1200. Each year has shown a steady increase. There has also been a decided upward grade in efficiency. With a view to trying to do something to improve the quality of work done, certain records are kept each year, making it possible to give comparisons of average percentages taken and the number of papers sent in by each examining center, etc.

One item kept on record each year is "the number of schools having all candidates pass," also "schools utterly unfit for examination." It is gratifying to see schools leave this last list, one by one. It is really distressing to see schools stay on it indefinitely. For instance, one examining center last year
sent in twenty-four papers and seventeen failed. This year that school sends in fifteen papers and fourteen fail to get a pass, the other pupil only getting C. Another school last year had sixteen fail out of twenty four. This year they had eighteen and eighteen failed, only two getting above thirty. Another, last year had fifteen fail out of twenty-seven, and this year seventeen out of nineteen.

Some districts have gotten off the "unfit for examination" list in splendid fashion, I could quote the Tzeliutsing district schools which a few years ago never had a pupil take A,—the majority always failed—but which now sends up more candidates than ever, and these two years they have had over one-third of all pupils take over ninety percent, nearly perfect marks. But you might say that seeing the Inspector, Mr. Yang, is a special friend of the examiner, he has ways of finding out what is required. So we will not quote Tzeliutsing district. Nor do we ever include Boarding schools in any of our comparisons.

We will give the history of a district which is in no way influenced by the examiner. That place has had no foreign missionary on the district for most of the time during the past two years. The progress made is due entirely to the present Inspector, Mr. Chang, and Mr. Jen who preceded him. Here is their record; in 1917 there were twenty-two who wrote from six schools; ten failed, and none got even a B. In 1918 there were thirty-five pupils from seven schools, and twenty one failed, and none got B. In 1919 about the same in number wrote, but eight took B. The change shows up in 1922. There were forty-four pupils and only three failed. In 1923 their total average percent is eighty one. Last year 33% of all pupils in that district took over ninety or nearly perfect marks. This year 36% of all their pupils took over ninety percent. Would it be possible for other districts to find out how they did it?

One list of city day schools of little girls had an average of 75. 7%. A branch of country Girls Schools, only visited once in several weeks by the missionary, and which never had a normal trained teacher till this year, sent up sixteen candidates who took an average of 74. 7%.

As a comparison with this there were fifty-six centers this year which had only sixty-six get a pass out of five hundred and fifty-seven pupils. Indeed, twenty-three centers with eighty-two candidates had none pass at all. Such papers are very hard to mark. They take twice the time that a good set of papers does. Surely the Union ought not to be bothered with
schools so absolutely unfit for examination. When you start out to mark a set of these papers you get your spectacles on, figuratively speaking. And you probe among the debris for one correct number or figure, and if you find anything at all you give marks all out of proportion to what a good set gets. Indeed often you give marks for merely attempting something, for putting down any figures at all. One chap tries to erase an example but leaves enough to prove that he was right and he gets marks. It is not fair to the good schools, for if they were marked as leniently they would all get over 100%.

I wonder if the Suifu girls school would tell other schools how their twenty girls took an average of 92.5%. One Kiang-ing school where the arithmetic was taught by a Chinese girl had twenty-one girls write and they had an average of 91%. There are others too. Looking over these figures you could not say that the questions should be easier; many schools would have had all take 100%. You would have to set two papers, one for poor schools, and one for good schools. Can not we do something to help the poor schools measure up?—Couldn’t we at least get to the place where students could write down a multiplication table? Let me give some actual cases from this year. The first is very common.

$$\begin{align*}
16 \times 4 &= 40 + 5 = 45 + 7 = 52 \text{ 斗} \\
7 \times 2 &= 14 + 8 = 22 \times 6 = 132 \div 5.
\end{align*}$$

How many marks would you give for the above? There are plenty of these and worse.

Another mistake is the teaching of compound rules at this early stage when the pupils are not capable of handling them. There are no compound rules on the Lower Primary Syllabus. Please ask your teachers to look it up. All you will find there are every day measurements of rice, cloth, stone &c all of which, in this land, use the commercial units and tens system.

This early use of compound rules, and this peculiar way of writing the multiplication tables, all point to the use of the Kong Ho books. After all these years of marking papers in this subject the influence of those books can be spotted at once.
None but the very best trained teachers should be allowed to have them in their hands. If followed too closely they lead to poor teaching and slovenly work on the part of the pupil. Would that you could see the difference in the examination papers sent in. You would see at once what I mean by slovenly work and slovenly thinking. Surely neat work and clear thinking would help a child in all walks of life. This grade of papers shows up the slipshod, untidy work that is allowed day by day in the school room.

The Union has no intention of setting papers down to the level of these schools even if they do comprise about half of the candidates writing. It could not be done without great injustice to the other half. As it is now there is more than a three year gap between the Lower and the Higher Primary standard. We all want better work, do we not? The Union must stand for the highest ideals along every line. With your co-operation we have faith to believe that the next few years will produce much better results.

(Signed) LAURA H. HAMBLEY

Note. Miss Hambley has prepared two volumes of methods in Lower Primary Arithmetic, entitled 啓蒙算法上下冊. They can be secured from the Canadian Methodist Mission Press Chengtu. Their use is strongly recommended.

HOW AND WHEN TO PRUNE SHRUBS.

F. DICKINSON B. A.

Some people have the idea that all shrubs should be pruned into formal shapes or rounded up to form a globe shape too. Sometimes closely trimmed hedges or regularly sheared specimens are needed, in formal situations but usually ornamental shrubs are allowed to take their natural form and habit without any special pruning save that necessary to maintain good vigor.
and appearance. Diseased or broken branches should be removed.

Again many people think that ornamental shrubs need to be cut back heavily each year like some garden roses or bush fruits.

In garden roses and bush fruits the emphasis is laid only on the development of individual flowers and fruits. In hardy roses and in ornamental shrubs in general the greatest value is placed upon the effect of the plant as a whole. The plant is looked upon more as an individual with definite characteristics of form and foliage as well as flower and fruit. With this larger point of view we can say that if shrub are maintained normal in health and natural in form they will be satisfactory in flower and in fruit.

We have said that ornamental shrubs require very little pruning save that necessary for good vigor and appearance. The best way to maintain this healthy and natural condition is to practise a method of gradual renewal in addition to the usual removal of weak, injured or unsightly parts. This is done by pruning back a few of the old stems each season and gradually cutting out one or two entirely every year or two, at the same time keeping the rest of the plant thinned out a little to let in light and to encourage new growth either from the base or from low down on the old stems. This treatment affords a natural method of keeping the plant within bounds and maintaining it at a certain size.

Shrubs differ in their habit of growth but fundamentally their pruning is the same process. It should be more a process of thinning out than trimming back. It should be performed regularly every year with the realization that “a stitch in time saves nine” and that it is easier to prevent an injury or mistake than it is to remedy a mistake afterward.

One thing is essential in the planting of trees and shrubs, and that is that there should be a reason for the planting of any tree or shrub just the same as there should be a reason for the placing of furniture a certain way in a room or the hanging of pictures. All our plantings should be reasonable and serve a purpose and then they will fit into the surroundings and contribute to the attractiveness of the whole place.

Some shrubs are more satisfactory than others and herein lies the opportunity for the planter to select the best plant for the definite place.

Much annual butchering of shrubs would be unnecessary if small
planting spaces were planted sensibly with small growing shrubs rather than larger plants. In the same way we thoughtlessly plant too near to side walks and roads and then the plants grow and become a nuisance and must be continually cut back and trimmed off. Even if this butchering process is neatly done it is much better for the planter to exercise judgment and skill in selecting a suitable plant and placing it in a proper position than to make the mistake of choosing a coarse growing plant for a small planting space and then have the perennial job of trimming the pant to fit the space.

The time to prune depends upon the time the plant blooms.

(a) Early flowering plants bloom from buds formed on last summer's twigs. Examples of this group are, Golden Bell, Vanhoutte's Spiraea and Lilacs.

Such plants should be pruned immediately after bloom is past and before twig growth begins. This is called summer pruning altho' the actual time of performing this operation may be in May or June immediately after the plants are thro' flowering. If this pruning is delayed until winter and then last summer's twigs are pruned off before the flower buds appear in spring there will be no bloom until the plant has had a year to make new twig growth and flower buds.

(b) Late flowering plants first make twig growth and on this new wood of the season the flowers appear later in the season. Hydrangea, Rose of Sharon and Hibiscus are plants that belong to this group.

Such plants may be pruned at any time before growth starts in the spring without danger of removing flower buds because they do not bloom from buds already formed on the old wood.

Should an early flowering shrub become too large or too tall for its situation in spite of gradual renewal or thro' neglect it may be necessary to cut it back quite severely loosing thereby one season's bloom. If so the operation should be delayed as late as possible, pruning in late winter or early spring before the starting of growth, thus saving through the winter months the slender branches from too much exposure.

**Pruning of Hedges.**

Hedges need light in, order to maintain good foliage both at the bottom and the sides. Plants wary as to their ability to stand shade but in any given situation the bottom needs light as
Coupled with this need for light must go the fact that plants grow stronger at the top than at the bottom. We can provide for light by wider spacing and we can equalize the growth at the top and bottom by cutting heavily at the top and little at the bottom and on the sides.

Ordinarily a hedge should be trimmed to be wider than it is high.

Hedges in this part of China will stand two or three prunings during the year. The best time to make the first trimming is in the late spring or early summer after the new growth has been made. Cut the new growth back to 1 inch and then the new leaves remaining will set many additional buds all of which will branch out next year and tend to thicken up the foliage surface.

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES WILLIAM WEBSTER.

Our departed brother was born at New Castle on Tyne, England, on July 28th 1875, and was therefore in his 49th year.

The family emigrated to Australia and it was from that country that he came to China in 1902, prospectively for Tibetan work. Preparative to proceeding to Ta Tsien Lu he was designated to Kaiting for language study, but owing to a severe attack of dysentery the Tibetan program had to be abandoned and he settled in to Chinese work on the plain.

Owing to the exigencies of the work in Fu Shun hsien he was transferred to that centre, where he laboured till his furlough. The work in Fu Shun was a very difficult one. Owing to the large number of doubtful characters having associated themselves with the Church, for benefits to be obtained in the Law Courts and many other ulterior motives. So serious was the situation that Mr. James had to come up from Lu Cheo to help and advise the young missionaries. During the stay in this centre our friends Mr. and Mrs. Webster had congenial fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Joliffe with whom they had
much in common, not only in combating malpractises, but in Gospel effort, and in family sorrow. Both families suffering the loss of a child who now sleep side by side “till He come”.

When furlough became due Mrs. Webster was in very poor health. So much so that medical opinion was that she should not attempt to return to China. Owing to this cause their furlough was extended, and during this period our brother acted as Secretary for the Mission in Sydney, where he did effective service, and some thought that he should have continued in that post, but as soon as Mrs. Webster’s health would permit, they once more set their faces China wards.

Their second term of service has been given to the large and needy sphere of Kiung Cheo, where owing to present political turmoil, and the chronic lawless condition of the district, they have been “in dangers oft”. The work was bristling with problems and difficulties, and Mr. Webster has literally worn himself out in it.

His illness dates back some two or three years when he was stricken with what was finally diagnosed to be amoebic dysentery. A visit to Chefoo being arranged he went down to see his only daughter, and when at the coast he was so ill that the doctors despaired of his life; but he made a remarkable recovery largely owing to the capable nursing of his devoted wife, who cared for him night and day to the very end.

As soon as he felt his strength returning he began to plan for his return to Szechuan. This was opposed by all the procurable medical advice as well as the Directors of the Mission. Mr. Hoste himself strongly opposing it by saying that “he would only break down and need to return to the coast in less than two years”, but Mr. Webster was fully determined to return and said that “if he died in Szechuan he would blame no one”, and even to his last moments seemed to have no regrets for the course he had taken, and even said that “it had been worth while to come back for the single year of service he had been able to give, and for the tokens of blessings which he had seen. In short, it rather seemed as if he preferred to die in China than live at home.

It is very difficult to estimate the character of such a man, or the influence of the life which has now closed:

As a man he was full of “the milk of human kindness”, and was considerate in little things to a degree. He was buoyant and hopeful dogged and determined, and at the same time humourous and jocular. All of these traits of character
he maintained to the very last, a man of decided convictions, con-
vince him that a certain thing was right or another policy was
wrong, and nothing would move him. A man of simplicity of
life, he deprecated outward show, and spent little on his own
comfort. A man of decided religious convictions, he knew and
loved his Lord. He loved his Bible. He loathed modern doc-
trines and methods of conducting mission work. He hated
litigation in the Church with all the strength of his manhood.
He was a man of definite ideals. The life of a missionary was
no mere human appointment, but a definite Divine Call which
could not be forsaken. In this calling, he may not have been
successful as the world reckons successful; but he has been
faithful in that which has been committed to his care, and has
now heard the Master's "well done thou good and faithful servant
enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"

J. HUTSON.

CORRESPONDENCE

AN ADVISORY BOARD LETTER AND AMENDE
HONORABLE.

To the Editor of the Chinese Recorder,
Shanghai, China.

DEAR SIR:—

The Chinese Recorder for September 1923, page 545
contains an article entitled "Extraterritoriality and Missionar-
ies". This article has caused a great deal of indignation in
Szechuen, owing to the aspersions thrown on West China
missionaries—that they "flee from their stations when rumor of
war is thick in the air, and return when everything is qui
ted down." We feel it necessary to give a flat denial to such an
injurious report. The Church in West China may lack spiritu-
life, but the reason given for the same has no foundation in
fact; and while the West China missionaries have their faults, this is not one of them. There is a chronic state of disorder in Szechuen (not a yearly one) and if missionaries were to flee whenever trouble threatened they would never be at home, for the day when everything "has quieted down" has not dawned in this province for a number of years.

Since the Revolution, eleven years ago, we cannot recall a case when a Szechuen missionary has left his or her station in order to escape the troubles of their district. In fact it would be futile to attempt it as there is hardly any place which can be reckoned more safe than another. Their greatest safety lies in staying quietly in their stations, going about their work among the people who know them, and their danger would be only increased by travelling from one place to another.

We know the Church Missionary Society workers, who have suffered so heavily during the past year, were advised by the British Consul to vacate their stations on the great North road, as these stations lay in the direct line of advance of the Northern armies, but they declined to do so. The result is that Mr. Seward died of typhus fever contracted through nursing wounded soldiers at Teh Yang, and during his illness the military refused to allow medical aid to reach him, because of the rigidity of the siege. In Sintu Miss Mellody was fired at and robbed in the Mission premises. Messrs. Watt and Whiteside were murdered while on a trip through their district, and not while on one of these "recurring flights" from trouble. During the present year many foreigners in widely scattered places have had hair breadth escapes, have witnessed repulsive sights, listened to blood curdling stories, and passed through nerve racking experiences, but through it all they have remained at their posts.

As the article in question is not a contributed one, but a translation and quotation from a Chinese journal, we feel, Sir, that you are responsible for its publication. We would therefore suggest that in future, before printing any article that throws aspersions on the character and work of any person or community, it would be well to take the trouble to verify the statements before giving them to the public.

Signed on behalf of the West China Missions Advisory Board.

J. Hutson, Chairman

Dec. 3rd 1923.

Adelaide Harrison,
Office of the Secretary,
Chengtu, Sze.
Miss Adelaide, Harrison,
West China Missions Advisory Board,
Chengtu, Szechuan.

DEAR MISS HARRISON:—

Your letter of December 3 referring to the unfortunate statement in an article in the "Chinese Recorder" for September, 1923, which speaks of missionaries fleeing from their stations, received. I published two letters dealing with this matter in the November issue, and also a comment by myself, in which I stated that the reverse of the statement was true. I am not trying to excuse the editorial lapse when I say that the editorial which the "Chinese Christian Advocate" published was not translated by me but by the editor of the "Chinese Christian Advocate" himself. Of course, the statement criticised should not have been allowed to go through. As a matter of fact I did not know what was at the basis of the statement and was very glad to publish a denial of it as soon as I got hold of it, and am, of course, very sorry for the incident. Just about ten days ago I managed to get an interview with the prominent evangelist to whom the statement is attributed. He says that he does not recollect making any such statement and does not believe it at any rate. His statement I have published in the "North China Daily News" of December 14, and am very glad to be able to publish this final refutation. Editors, of course, do not assume responsibility for statements in articles unless they write them themselves. That, of course, does not excuse us from failing to check up an obvious mistake when such is noted. I suppose it is due to the fact that I did not know what was back of this particular thing that it did not strike me as it should have done. I have talked with all those concerned in the making of the statement and the writing of it. As I stated in the issue of November, I am quite sure they had no intention of impugning the motives or bravery of the missionaries. I think I should probably have checked it up quicker had it not been for the fact that I have heard Chinese from entirely different sections of China criticising the fact that the missionaries do at times leave their stations. Now, please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying whether they should or should not leave their stations but am referring to a Chinese criticism of the same and I think I simply took this statement as another criticism, not knowing for the moment, that actually no missionaries had been retiring from their stations for either
greater or longer periods of time. As I said, I am very sorry for the oversight. I am, however, glad that I have gotten into great deal closer touch with West China than before. Is there not some way whereby your Missions Advisory Board can from time to time advise me, or rather advise the Recorder, as to the progress of conditions in West China? For several years I have been trying to get into close touch with West China. There are very strange rumours sometimes come to me from different sources, which I sometimes wish I could trace up.

I appreciate you letter, but unless you especially wish it, shall not publish any more letters on the subject, as one already published says practically the same as yours. I am, however, in the January Recorder making a brief reference to the matter again, which I hope may finally dispose of it.

Appreciating your courtesy and relying on your generosity and again assuring you that there was no intention to work any injustice against West China missionaries,

Yours sincerely,

Dec 24 1923
FRANK RAWLINSON

Dear Mr. Editor,

I want to wish you and all your readers a very Happy New Year although somewhat late in doing so. And may I through your “News” thank the many West China friends who sent us cards greetings for Xmas and New Year. We have very much appreciated the kind messages received from so many whom we have had the pleasure of meeting as they passed through Ichang, we may receive some of the other kind to keep us from getting “swelled head”. However, we can assure our friends that all the good thoughts expressed are fully reciprocated

Things are going on quietly in Ichang. General Yang Sen’s boat, Yang-Wei, alias Ta-fuh, is on the rocks above Wanhsien. Shutung was wrecked above Ts’in-t’an on her way down, reports fear a total loss. The Kwei-men & Tze-shui, are being run just now under the Robert Dollar Co. Ih-hsing and Chi-ch’wan are run by Gillespie and Co. Pa-kiang, Yung-kiang by a Chinese Co. Jardine Matheson’s boat King ho is also running, and the prospects are we shall have a good supply of Ichang-Chungking steamers running all winter. The water has been down to 1 ft 9 in, but has risen to 2 ft 5 in today.
To the many enquiries which come annually as to when the first steamer and the last steamer between these river ports sails, referring of course to the big steamers, I have always the one answer (readers please take note!) April 15th and November 15th. This is a pretty safe margin when writing to enquirers.

During the year just passed we entertained 107 adult and 36 child guests, enroute to and from the coast. This was 53 adults less than the year previous, but two more children. We note Szechwan is a good climate for "Olive blossoms!" With every good wish to you and your readers,

I am, dear Mr. Editor, (with no more s's to my name than I had last year,) just plain

H. J. Squire.

C.I.M. Ichang, January 4, 1924.

Dear Mr. Editor—

Please allow me to wholly associate myself with the views expressed by Mr. Edgar in his letter in your January issue. I am very glad the matter has thus been brought to the attention of the Missionaries, because I can scarcely believe that the general body of my fellow-workers in the West really sympathise with the retrograde step to which the Advisory Board felt compelled, when they omitted the Seventh-day Adventist Mission and its Missionaries and work from the lists published last year. In 1923 the names appeared, but owing to reports received from various Mission bodies, they were removed in 1923. Thus we have a company of earnest followers, of Christ, true Missionaries, seeking and saving the lost, and bringing them to the fold of Christ, treated as if they had no part nor lot in the work being done by the Missions of West China. Such an anomalous, shall I say such an intolerant, treatment of these fellow-labourers seems to me very unworthy of a body of Missionaries who bear the name of followers of Christ.

I do not in any way blame the Advisory Board. They could not but act on the documents which were before them. But I feel that the position is a reproach to the whole Missionary community, and must appear in no favourable light to our
Chinese brethren. And I hope that we shall find a way of rectifying this strange anomaly. Surely it cannot be that Christ would refuse recognition to these disciples of His. How then can other disciples dare to do it?

Leonard Wigham

Dear News,—

Through a 'slip', that not even the 'Printer's Devil' noticed, the heading announcing the Annual Meeting of the Szechwan Christian Council was made to read 'First'. It should be Second as the body of the report shows.

Will Missionary friends please make the correction on your printed copies, lest we be led astray in filing or making our reports.

Regretfully,

H. J. Openshaw.

HONORING OUR SEPTUAGENARIAN

University Senate Resolution

"Resolved, That the Senate express to Dr. Spencer Lewis its heartiest congratulations on the attainment of his 70th birthday; its appreciation of his strong Christian character and of the great service he has rendered to the Christian cause in China over these many years; its gratification that his lot is cast with us in our common work for the Master in West China and that we are permitted to share in the ripened experiences of such a long and devoted life, and our best wishes that he and Mrs. Lewis may be spared for many more years of happy and fruitful service in our midst."
NEWS NOTES.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY:

Mienchow—

For postal purposes this is Mienchow again, and not Mienyang, (compare Tacitus 'The city of Augustus which the ancients called London.') The political condition is wretched, but dispensary and evangelistic work are flourishing. Miss Armfield arrived some time ago, having been appointed to Chungpa. The Rev. and Mrs Munn are expected soon. Friends will deeply regret to hear that Rev. A. A. Phillips' long term in West China has come to a close. The home medical board has definitely decided that he is not to return. He has been for so many years here that Mienchow and his name seem inseparable. We know that he will continue to follow us in prayer and spirit...Mr. Caldwell has been appointed secretary of the mission...Special meetings were held on Nov, 10, 11th by the Rev. T. Borham at the Girls' School. Thirty-five girls gave in their names as desirous of following Christ.

Mienchuh—

Although the hospital is very far from finished, there are so many sufferers from gun shot wounds that Dr. Lechler is obliged to take in patients, a good portion of these are brigands. They day by day hear the story of the cross. Perhaps the memory of our murdered brethren may also bring the message home... We had a very busy Xmas, crowds of people so that many had to be content with the court yard...Mrs. R. C. Taylor is here for medical treatment and is progressing favorably...Jan Lechler has reached Glencairn Scotland in safety...Dr. Leckler was suddenly called away to attend Miss A. Edwards of Naghsien who is seriously ill with typhus...Mrs. Lechler was in consequence left to deal with a number of wounded men...During the Oct-Nov. visit to the C.M.S. district Bishop Cassels confirmed 57 people, 31 men and 26 women...The Rev. W. R. O. Taylor, son of the late Rev. W. Taylor of Wanhsien has been located by the C.M.S. to the West China diocese.
Chungkiang—

The principal event here is the death of the church warden, one of the richest men in the town. He was a most earnest Christian and great help to the cause. His father was a non-Christian and refused Christian burial... During Mrs. Taylor's absence Lionel and Kathleen are at Mienchow under Mrs. Howdens care... One man was baptised on Nov. 25th... Mrs. Chen the Bible woman has visited Shih-hsien and found the women most eager to listen.

Chongpa—

Mrs. Whiteside and Miss Martin are encouraged with their work.

Sintu—

Things are quieter but bad at the best. Property has not yet been bought for a foreigner's house at Hanchow.

Nganhsien—

The new hall has proved very valuable. A Bible School has been held for five days with an average attendance of from 80-90 each session, with over 30 coming in from the country. They were entertained free of charge but a free will offering was taken at the close of the school which including the foreigners gifts more than included the cost of the food. As the church members had contributed very largely to the church expenses and had had two big collections shortly before for harvest festival and Japanese earthquake this is a very healthy sign. Visits into the country districts have revealed much to encourage the worker, some in loneliness holding unto the truth. At Liu-ku-pin seven catechumens were received, and on another occasion, four adults and nine children were baptised. At Ngan-hsien itself nine catechumens have been received, eight women and one man and nine baptised.

C. I. M. East:

Paoning—

The Rev. H. G. Thompson has paid a visit to Tsongchie and was much encouraged by what he saw. This has been in days gone by a very barren and unfruitful field... The new
temporary class rooms have been completed of the boys school. Several boys desire to be received into the church but their parents are much opposed. Four students have just completed their two years course in the diocesan training College and have been admitted as assistant catechists.

Lan-pu—

Nine boarders in the boys school gave in their names as desirous of following the Lord. The colporteur has visited seven of the market towns of this county and had good sales of books despite soldiers hindrances. At Ta Chiao, they took possession of the mission house and chapel despite protests from evangelists and others.

Shunching—

Bible schools for men and women have been held. Sixty men attended from twelve different markets, but owing to the state of the roads, only one woman from the country was able to attend. Thirteen women from the city attended. Good reports of the work come from Shuting, Tachuh, Liangshan and Wanshien. All places find the military a hindrance to the work. In Wanshien over 100,000 troops were billeted in the city and a levy of one millions dollars made. As it could not be had the soldiers took what they could get by wholesale looting actually pulling down houses for fuel. It was impossible to buy food in the city, to get even an egg one had to go out 20 li. Nevertheless some work for the Lord was begun. A larger number of hearers were present and one soldier was definitely converted. Another undid his coat and took off a rosary saying, I am going to trust Jesus, so do not need this.

Kweifu—

Miss E. L. Smith who has just returned from furlough is designated for work here. A man named Fan who has been the most influential leader in the “Six-Fold” religion is now regularly attending the services. The Evangelical Lutheran Mission has come to the city and four workers are here studying the language.

H.H.T.
Chungking.

The tragic death of Captain Brant on the last trip of the "Tze Sui" from Ichang has saddened Chungking not a little. As Captain Brant was the only foreigner on board the boat, the rumors concerning the circumstances surrounding his death are many and varied. One story told by a Chinese passenger is that on the trip down river a passenger, dressed in silks and furs, boarded the boat at Jungchow. He refused, however, to pay his fare, saying that he would do so when he reached his destination. Some of his belongings were held as fee. On the return trip a number of men got on at Jungchow, supposedly retainers of the above-mentioned gentleman, or robber chief. When the boat neared Fengtu, these men decided to "clean up" the compradore and others who had been instrumental in relieving their chief of his clothes. Captain Brant, hearing the confusion, came from his cabin with revolver in hand, and is said to have fired. Thereupon he, too, was shot at and killed. Whether this story be true or not, and there are many other conflicting reports, it is a sad truth that Captain Brant was killed and his body thrown overboard. The body was later recovered, and brought to Chungking.

During the last few days, the river has been falling rapidly. The Barry boats have stopped running, and of course, all of the larger steamers. It is said the "Kingwo" and the "Chi Chwan" are making their last trips down river at this time. The Kingwo left on the 12th, and the "Chi Chwan" is to leave on the 17th.

With much regret we learn that Mr. and Mrs. Warburton Davidson of Friends Institutes will not return to Chungking, but will go to Kuling instead.

Dr. and Mrs. McCartney have moved their residence to the other side of the river. Miss Butts, nurse, is expected within a few days to take charge of the hospital nursing, Mrs. Suhareva having left for Shanghai some time ago.

Christmas service in the foreign church across the river was largely attended. Mr. C. B. Rape delivered the sermon. A special musical program was much enjoyed.

Our last visitors going down river were Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Fisher en route to Tientsin where Mr. Fisher will resume his work in the Bible Society.

Mrs. P. Oleson of the C.I.M. has returned to Shanghai. Miss C. Brock, who was unable to get to her station in Kweichow, will remain in Chungking for language study.
On January 15, Mr. Olesen and Mr. Bosshardt, both of the C.I.M., made a second attempt to get thru to Tsunyi, Kweichow, word has not been received from them to date.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Missionary Association was held Tuesday evening January 15 at the W.F.M.S. The meeting was concerned largely with a discussion as to ways and means of suppressing opium. The Committee would welcome suggestions on this subject. After the business meeting, Misses Rouse and Tindale gave a very enjoyable musical program.

Miss Pearl McNeil, Miss Mabel MacLean and Dr. L. E. Sutton left on the "KingWo" January 12 for Peking and Shanghai.

The schools of the city have been closed, and will continue during the Chinese New Year.

During the week of January 20th, the various Missions and the Y.M.C.A. will combine in holding daily evangelistic meetings in various parts of the city.

E. H.

January 16, 1924.

C.M.M.—

Letters recently received from Canada tell of a successful operation undergone by Mrs. Soper and her gradual recovery. Mr. Soper expects to return to China shortly.

Misses Barnett, Foster, Massey and Thexton of the W.M.S. have gone on furlough. They will be joined at Luchow by Miss Morgan of the general board.

The members of the W.M.S. and General Board are at present in their annual council sessions. The former meet at Tzeliutsing and the latter at Luchow, their meeting to be followed after Chinese New Year by the annual conference.

The following quotation from a Canadian paper concerns the second son of Dr. and Mrs. James Endicott, for many years workers in our West China mission, Dr. Endicott as is well known being now our General Foreign Secretary:

"The University of Toronto is again singularly honored through one of her sons. The 1923 Rhodes Scholarship for Ontario has been awarded to N. J. Endicott '24 of Victoria College, who will take up residence in Oxford University during the autumn of 1924.

"Mr. Endicott has been very prominent in university affairs throughout his four years. He has always taken a great
interest in tennis, and this year won his way through to the semi-finals, thereby becoming a member of the Intercollegiate Tennis Team. In administrative and executive affairs, he heads or is member of a variety of organizations. He is president of the Men's Student Council of Victoria College, Editor-in-Chief of the Victoria Magazine, "Acta Victoriana." President of the Historical Club, Chairman of the Literary Organizations Committee of the Students' Council. Treasurer of the Victoria Dramatic Club, and a member of the Literary Committee of Hart House.

"The award was made from a choice of seven applicants. These are undergraduates of the various university in Ontario, two having applied from Queen's University and one from Western. The recipient of the Scholarship is entitled to three years in residence in Oxford university. He will receive the sum of Three Hundred Pounds yearly under terms of the scholarship with an additional bonus of fifty pounds since the war.

"Mr. Endicott is 21 years of age, has specialised in English and History" We would add that he was born at Chengtu, West China, and our congratulations. We regret to add that Mrs. Endicott's health is not as good as her many West China friends might wish and that she has again undergone an operation. We trust her recovery may be rapid and complete.

University Campus—

The first evening given under the auspices of the Saturday Night Club for 1924, was taken by Mr. D. L. Phelps. His subject "Driving the Wedge through the Hindenburg Lines" was splendidly illustrated with an unlimited number and variety of posters and many war souvenirs. Following the lecture a new Executive Committee was elected to plan a succeeding program.

Rev. Spencer Lewis D.D. was very happily entertained to dinner on his 70th. birthday by the members of the M.M. Mission. A great number of friends expressed their good wishes, congratulations, and thanks to Dr. Lewis.

Several people are missing from the campus—Dr. Wilford, Mr. Brown, Mr. Dickinson having gone to C.M.M. Council at Luchow; Miss Bassett, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Yates and Mr. Phelps to Baptist Council at Yachow.

Rev. D.S. Kern is at home again after an operation for appendicitis at the C.M.M. Hospital. Dr. J. L. Stewart and
Mr. G. B. Neumann are both around again after a few days of ill health.

Mr. Arnold Silcock has been shut in for some time with an injured knee.

The meeting of the Board of Education, brought Miss Jones of Mienchow and Mr. Reed of Penghsien to our midst.

Fowchow—

We are still on the job and have made our eighth flop from one side to the other in this warfare since last March. Fighting began across the little river on the morning of the 8th. They put over a few shells that afternoon one lit right back of the Middle School where we are living, and several others went over us. The next morning one lit right in front of our Higher Primary School but did not explode. Sunday night the 9th, at midnight they crossed the little river and the first army took to the Hills on their way to LanChwan. The steamers of the second army the Han Hua and the Yang Wei went up three or four days later.

Everybody is busy with X-mas these days. We are planning for practically every night and afternoon next week. We hope to reach many people with the Good Tidings.

R. S. L.

Luchow—

I left Luchow on Nov. 10th by the Chwantung for Kiangan to carry on an evangelistic magic lantern campaign through the northern district of my circuit, with the city of Lan-chi thrown in. Through the miscarriage of a letter to Mr. Ling I was delayed in Kiangan longer than I intended, but still I used the interim in preaching and selling books on the streets. Presently Mr. Ling, the 75 year old "boy preacher" arrived, and we started our campaign. Here is the aggregate of people:

Nov. 26-28, Kiangan. 2800 hear the gospel; Nov 29th-Dec 5th, Muh-teo-hao, 1150 people during four nights attend; Dec. 6th 10th 3000 attend at Lan-chi-hsien; Dec. 13-14 we spent at Lan-pa when 700 attended; Dec. 15-16 at Lo-tieh-chien with an attendance of 1000; Dec. 17-18 at Kwang-fu-ping with 500 hearers; Dec. 19-20 at Ta-pa-si with 1200; Dec 21st at Shih-fung-shan with 500; Dec. 22-25 Lan-chin with 1300; Dec 26-27 Sz-mien-shan with 600. Here Mr. Ling was forced to leave me. Dec. 28th spent in Kin-keo, some Christian
boys from Mr. Hockman's school, who had formed themselves into an evangelistic band came along and we stayed the night. Though it was cold and wet and cheerless about 300 came out for the services. The boys stayed at Kiangan but I left for Ta-to-keo where I stayed over Sunday. That night it was again very wet, but on Saturday night we had a meeting for the women and girls about forty attending, now I am again at Luchow after a 52 days trip.

E. G. TOYNE.

Sutting—

New Year greetings and good wishes. We are just back after a two months spent around Chang-ko and Tai-ping. That district is fairly peaceful. Our city here is also peaceful at present but there is fighting about Sanhwei and Chuhsien.

A.T.P.

F.F.M.A.—

Dr. W. H. Davidson has returned from England to the hospital at Suining. Mrs. Davidson is remaining at home with their son and daughter.

J. P. and D. R. Rodwell with their family have also returned from furlough. With them has come one new worker lady, R. Tebbutt. T. P. Chang also came back with them after a year in U.S.A. and a few months in England. He has begun teaching in the Friend's High School, Chungking.

MARGARET SAWDON.

BIRTHS.

JENSEN:—At Yachow, on Jan. 21st, to Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Jensen, a son, Louis.

LOVEGREN:—At Yachow, on Jan. 2nd, to L. A. and Mrs. Lovegren, A.B.F.M.S., a son, Norman Victor.

WILFORD:—At the Union University, Chengtu on Jan 14th, to Dr. E. C. and Mrs. Wilford; C.M.M., a daughter, Evelyn Patricia.

DEATHS.

GINOUVES:—At the French dispensary, Chengtu, on January, 10th, Andre Ginouves.

WEBSTER:—At the C.I.M. Chengtu, on Jan 10th, James William Webster of Kiuangchow, of dysentery, in his 49th year.

(Mrs. Webster desires to thank all who have sent flowers, and in other ways shown sympathy, at this time of trial and bereavement)