Hill Murray Institute for the Blind

Ancient Pagoda.

Superintendent's Report

1936
THE HILL MURRAY INSTITUTE
FOR THE BLIND

PALICHIUANG, PEKING, N. CHINA

Founder  REV. W. HILL MURRAY
Superintendent  REV. W. CANNER

HOME BOARD

Chairman,  Rev. William Simpson, M.A.,
63 St. Vincent Crescent, Glasgow, C.3
Vice-Chairman  Alex. Orr, Esq., J.P.,
101 Wellington Street, Glasgow, C.2.
Secretary  John Grant, B.L., J.P.,
113 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.
Treasurer  Robert Macfarlane, C.A., J.P.,
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David Wight, Esq.  D. S. MacNaughton, Esq.

Rev. G. A. Frank Knight, D.D., F.R.S.E.

PEKING COMMITTEE

Chairman  ...  The Rt. Rev. Frank L. Norris, D.D.
Superintendent  ...  Rev. W. Canner.
Treasurer  ...  A. J. D. Britland
And others.

LADIES’ AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

Glasgow

Hon. President  Lady Campbell of Succoth, Garscube, Glasgow.
Vice-President  Miss S. J. Riddell, 6 Park Circus Place, Glasgow, C.3
Secretary  ...  Miss A. B. MacLachlan, "Hale Carr," Noddleburn Largs.
Treasurer  ...  Mrs. Graham Dow, "Fairmount," Leducamoch Road, Bearsden.

Mrs. Cowan.  Mrs. Gordon Davidson.
Mrs. Douglas.  Mrs. MacLachlan.
Mrs. J. W. R. Murray  Mrs. Mauchan.
Mrs. W. W. Naismith.

Edinburgh

President  ...  Mrs. Annie Cormack, 10 Buckingham Terrace.
Vice-President  Mrs. J. Somerville, "View Park," Bonnyrigg.
Treasurer  ...  Mrs. M’Killop Young, 9 Woodburn Terrace.
Secretary  ...  Miss Gordon, 13 Riselaw Crescent, Edinburgh, 10

Miss Munro.  Miss D. Murray.
Miss M. B. Niven.  Mrs. Wolfendale.
Mrs. Whitaker.  Mrs. Band.
THE HILL MURRAY INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

Foreword

by

Rev WM. SIMPSON M.A.

It is exactly fifty years since Rev. W. Hill Murray began his work at Peking for the "Chinese Blind." When his death occurred in 1911 Mrs. Murray undertook it until 1919. Then came an interval of a year or two when the work was suspended, but since then it has been carried on by a strong committee in Peking and in Scotland, the Rev. W. Canner being Superintendent. He had been, up to the time of his appointment, a missionary in China since 1907. Under his care the spiritual aspect of the work is guaranteed, for his supreme aim is to make the Institute a Christian Mission. While the boys and girls are trained in different occupations by which they make their livelihood and have a helpful interest operative in their darkened lives, the Institute keeps ever before it the winning of the souls of those under its care to Jesus Christ. This spiritual atmosphere is felt strongly in the work. The day opens and closes with prayer as they gather together for it, and Bible Study and Church attendance engender the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, making the whole work of the place to be done in a happy and conscientious fashion. The numbers are not great, but could be enlarged, if sufficient funds came in from God's people for the upkeep of entrants. When we look at the photographs of some of the young people, as seen in some recent reports, we can only thank God that such good and blessed work is being done for these unfortunate and poor and handicapped children. What a boon this Institute must be, embracing such lives in its care! Surely the Lord has blessed and will continue to bless this work and labour of love. Surely He will put it into many hearts to give of their means to help
this beneficent Institute. There are many and greater calls, no doubt, for Missionary work abroad, but this smaller one in China may well say: "Bless me, even me also, O my Father." And our Heavenly Father will bless it and He will bless them that recognise its need, for has not the Lord said: "Whosoever shall give to one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Will the friends who read this Report let others know of the good work and elicit their interest? Let us pray earnestly for God's continued blessing to rest upon the Institute, and let us help on the work by our contribution to its Funds in this its year of Jubilee. Fifty years' service is no mean achievement and may well justify its continuance and success under God.
Summary of Annual Report

FROM THE

Rev W Canner, Superintendent of the Hill Murray Institute for the Blind of Peking.

It has been a remarkably successful year on the whole as far as work is concerned. In one respect it has been different from any previous year; for the first time in our history there has been a somewhat large exodus of fully trained workers. Seven of them went out to seek work elsewhere in January; at the same time one other lad, who had been accepted on probation had proved most unsatisfactory was sent home. Later in the year one girl was withdrawn because her people were moving to Central China; one lad who had finished his school course passed out to continue his study at home under a Chinese music master; and one worker was dismissed for gross misbehaviour.

We have had a very great number of visitors during the year. Among these we were glad to welcome the Rev and Mrs. Arthur Taylor from Glasgow. It was very nice to see a member of the home Board at the Institute; it made us feel that we were indeed in real living contact with that Board. The last time such a thing happened was when Dr. Webster paid us a visit many years ago. I trust that the visit will mean increased interest in the work on the part of those at home.

The shop in the city has once again been of great benefit to the work here. A very large proportion of the material sold during the year has been purchased from the shop. Specimens of our work are always to be seen there. It keeps us well advertised for our part of the business appears prominently. We are so up to date that we are to have a share in the wireless advertisement.

The Union Church in the city once again gave us a valuable donation to the work. We were again granted the privilege of pleading the cause of the Institute from the pulpit one Sunday evening.

The Chaplain of the British Embassy nobly gave his time and services to help things along. He kindly allowed me to speak on the work in the Embassy Chapel; he also opened a subscription list, his personal attention to which produced most satisfactory results.
LAND AND BUILDINGS.

We have a lot of younger boys due for workshop experience this coming term. This means that more workshop space will have to be found to accommodate them.

Concerning those in Residence.—We began the year with 67 on the roll; of these 11 left during the year. Four new pupils were admitted; so that our present number is exactly 60.

Of the present number, 23 boys and 12 girls have been doing the school course, and 14 boys and 11 girls have been earning their living either in workshop or school.

Nine boys and 5 girls finished the normal school course at the end of the year; these will now pass into the workshop as full time apprentices.

One girl, I hope, will continue on a higher school course, Her father hopes that she may eventually enter some University.

Some of those attending school rather tended to look on lessons as an opportunity for slacking. This is not altogether a matter for surprise as most of them, when they come to us have no idea what a book is, while arithmetic is a quite unheard of mystery without much obvious use. However, since we tightened up our terminal examinations things have improved considerably. They have begun to realise that education really means something, at any rate to us, and that life will only move smoothly if work is done as it should be.

STAFF

Foreign:—The Superintendent.
The Superintendent’s wife (honorary).
Miss Young, who comes out once a week to teach singing and give lessons on the piano.

Chinese:—One Compound Manager, under the Superintendent
One Male Teacher
One Male part-time Teacher, who spends the rest of his time helping in the production of Braille literature for library use.
One Male Supervisor in the shoe shop.
One Male Teacher of Chinese music; once a week
One Male Blind Teacher who also helps in the production of Braille books.
One Matron in the girls’ school.
One Blind Female Teacher who also assists the matron.

WORKSHOPS.

I began to wonder at the beginning of the year after so many of our skilled workers had departed, what was going to happen in regard to filling orders, and keeping the shop in the city supplied with stock. I had pledged to produce a somewhat ambitious amount of money on sales when we made up the
budget for the year and I had some uneasy feelings that, under the circumstances, it was going to be difficult to fulfil that pledge.

I am glad to say that my doubts proved to be without justification. As a matter of fact we took some six hundred dollars more in sales that I had originally estimated.

Carpenters Shop.—We began the year with two blind workers in the shop, one was on the pay roll, the other was not. The one with the greater experience left us; and I immediately put the other on the pay roll as he had been showing signs of improvement. I had always thought that the one who left did very creditable work for a blind carpenter and I wondered what was going to happen to our chair-frame making with only one worker to cope with it, and he a somewhat uncertain quantity. I have been amazed at the strides this lad has made with his work. As a skilled worker the lad who left cannot touch him. The work he turns out is accurate, and it is beautifully done. When I was showing some of his finished work to visitors a short time ago, they simply could not believe that a blind lad had done it.

Over and above things made for blind workers to use or work upon we have done a considerable amount of ordinary woodwork to order during the year. This together with our annual output of wooden toys, has more than paid the wages of these men.

Basket Weaving Shop.—Two of the fully trained workers left this shop, so that three only remained to carry on. I wondered what was going to happen when orders began to pour in, I often had anxious moments when pressed by customers, and the shop in the city but in due course most, if not all the wants were satisfied.

These three lads turned out as much work as the five had done in the previous year, and it was easily within their capabilities. It shows that what I had imagined to be the case was true, namely, that a certain amount of coercion had been exerted to keep the pace down.

Weaving Shops.—We have had a number of very valuable orders placed here during the year, and I am glad to say we have been able to fulfil them promptly. All this has been over and above the task of keeping up our normal stock and providing for the needs of the city shop. It is all the more amazing when it is remembered that we have had three less skilled workers in the shop for the best part of the year. The eight remaining weavers worked with a will, taking more interest in the output than they have ever shown before.

We have been trying our hand at coloured turkish towelling. I suggested how the desired effect might be obtained, they worked out the details, and the result was very satisfactory.

Shoe Shop.—This shop also lost a skilled worker in the
exodus, but I have not noticed any difficulty in keeping our large family shod. The skilled left to carry on receives some assistance from three school boys who spend part time daily in learning this class of work.

**Knitting Work.**—This now divides itself into two parts. To take the less important part first: most of the socks worn by the pupils are knitted in cotton; this work is largely done by school lads as the first stage in their handwork.

The more important part of the work has been carried on as usual by the girls. A steady flow of articles has been going out either to order or to stock the shop. Sales have been very satisfactory. and, judging by the number of orders placed with us, the customers have received satisfaction.

The work had a serious set back during the year on account of my wife’s serious illness. She was unable to give her help for quite a long time, so that of necessity we had to go slow until she was fit to take up the reins once again. I am glad to say that since her recovery normal work has once more been the order of the day.

**Recreation.**—Walking still holds first place by way of exercise. It seems to be the only exercise they do on their own which does not have periods of eclipse. It is very difficult to keep our blind folk interested in any one thing for any length of time, and this is especially noticeable during the efforts made from time to time to keep their interest fixed on games which they can perfectly well play by themselves.

The library has now been properly organised, and I think that it is really appreciated. We have put twelve large volumes into Braille during the year, and these, together with a few others which have been sent to us from England will prove a valuable addition to the volumes already to be found on our shelves.

Those learning to play the piano have made progress, and the singing class makes a very cheerful noise even if it finds difficulty at times in keeping to the tune.

The Chinese music class has made distinct progress. They all love Chinese music and most of them can be taught to play some instrument or other.

We had the usual Christmas entertainment which appeared to give much joy to all who took part in it. Two plays were got up and produced, one by boys, the other by girls. Both of them were concerned with the Christmas story. I may say that they selected their own themes and rehearsed in private; all we did was to supply material for costumes (largely old window curtains) and fit up a stage. They did the plays very well, enjoying every moment of them.

Of course the orchestra played a great part in the entertainment. I think the music master is to be congratulated on the progress the lads have made.
Medical.—We have been remarkably fortunate in keeping free from any epidemic. There was a lot of smallpox round about us in the Spring. Upon reporting this fact to our medical officer he came out at once and vaccinated some seventy of us most successfully.

A few of those in residence have visited the hospital from time to time, but there has been nothing of a serious nature.

We are once again very grateful to Dr. Chu and the staff at St. Vincent's Hospital for all the care and kindness they have shown to all who have been to them for treatment.

Chaplain's Department.—The difficulties of a Superintendent-cum-Chaplain are many. I can quite imagine that if two different persons held the posts a certain amount of friction

![Weaving Shop.](image)

and a lot of argument might result at times. The Superintendent must emphasise discipline and all round efficiency if we are to carry on with any hope of success. The Chaplain must be forbearing and persuasive if he is to lead his flock successfully. However we get round the difficulty to a large extent by emphasising the same theme in two departments, namely that we work as a body and not as mere individuals.

Most of them are learning the valuable lesson; we should have far more trouble than we have if it were not so. They realise the close connection between bodily and spiritual life. and in spite of all shortcomings and spasmodic kicking against the idea of completely submerged self, they are trying to shape their lives on the pattern of the Master as they understand Him. There is no material advantage to be gained here by joining the Church; all are treated exactly the same, except that we look for a higher standard of work, perhaps, from pro-
fessed Christians. Yet, at the present moment applications have reached me from some twenty of the residents for baptism. After due instruction I hope to baptise at least some of them. Our present congregation includes 22 who have been members of the Church for some considerable time.

So the work goes on. There is little one can say about it beyond this. What we see and know from experience convinces us that the leaven is working in the lump and that in God's good time all will feel the effects of it.

Conclusion.—We have cause to be grateful to the British and Foreign Bible Society for a complete copy of the Braille Bible so far as it has been produced. This is exclusively for use in the Chapel, especially for private reading and meditation.

The new Chapel fund is gradually growing. We have had a very valuable donation given to us during the year. This makes the second gift from the same donor. We are grateful.

We have to thank all our friends once again for the great help given to us during the year. Their continued interest in our work is a source of encouragement and strength. We are grateful to them for all they do in many ways. In the knowledge of their faithful backing and help we press on in our efforts to help more sightless children so much in need of our assistance.

Mr. J. A. Slimmon 2 Belmont Crescent, Glasgow, W.2, who acted as Superintendent of the Institute in Peking in the absence of Rev. W. Canner, at home on furlough, and is intimately acquainted with the work and its needs, will count it a privilege to call on anyone who would like to hear more about this work.
REPORT OF THE
GLASGOW LADIES' AUXILIARY 1936.

OUR hearts were gladdened on receiving a letter from Mrs. Canner (wife of the Superintendent in Peking), on February 15th, 1936, giving us news of pupils supported by the help of our kind Glasgow friends.

It is very satisfying to hear how the girls improve during their time of training in the Institute. Shu-Hua, our first adopted child, entered the Hill Murray Institute in 1931, looking most dejected. To-day we hear she is steadily improving, does well in school work, splendid knitter, and will soon be able to support herself.

Ta En, adopted in 1932, was a very nervous, pathetic-looking little creature, who could hardly hold a Braille pen or knitting needle.

To-day she is very happy, all traces of nervousness gone.

Tien An, another little girl, was admitted in 1934. She was very small, and exceedingly poor. Already she knows numbers of Braille signs, and is altogether a very charming little person.

At the end of last year another girl called Yu Hua was admitted. She is about 14 years old, and was very awkward and clumsy and found regular life and lessons irksome. We now hear she is exceedingly happy and doing excellent work, and seems to fit in very well.

On February 3rd, 1936, a letter was read from Bishop Norris stating that owing to rate of exchange it will now take about £40 to guarantee a child for 5 years (training and upkeep) instead of £30. So on October 22nd, 1936, a drawing-room meeting was held in the comfortable hall of the Y W.C.A., Park Circus Place, again very kindly lent for the occasion, and our kind friend, Dr. Knight, gave a most stirring address on the work of the Rev. W. Hill Murray of his indomitable courage, which we shall not easily forget.

Dr. Cossar was in the chair, the Rev. J. Slimmon greatly assisted to make the afternoon a very pleasant one.

The ladies of the Auxiliary were very keen to be able to be in a position to adopt another of these little blind souls, as they had already collected £27.

We are glad to say our Glasgow friends contributed the sum of £17 6/6, and this added to our previous amount made it possible to guarantee enough money to take a 5th child and be responsible for her upkeep and training.

Since this meeting, other donations have been received, and we give God the praise for encouraging us in our efforts.

We welcomed our friend, Mrs. Naismith, into our circle this year, and are looking up to our Heavenly Father for guidance in everything concerning the work amongst the children in the Peking Institute.
REPORT OF THE
EDINBURGH LADIES’ AUXILIARY FOR YEAR, 1936.

1936 has been a busy and, we are glad to say, a successful year for the Edinburgh Auxiliary. In co-operation with the St. Nicholas Home for the Blind in Moukden, we held two sales of work, mostly of Chinese goods, and a lantern lecture, all of which were largely attended and seemed to arouse a great deal of interest.

The first Sale was held in June, at the home of Miss Murray, one of our members of committee, at Duddingston. This was a Garden Sale, and was favoured by perfect weather so that the stalls and tea tables looked most attractive in the pretty garden of Belfield. The second Sale was in December, at the home of Mrs. Leitch, whose sister Miss Macintyre, is in charge of the St. Nicholas Home in Moukden. Though the weather was very inclement on this occasion, there was a very large attendance and the stalls were practically sold out.

The lecture was given in May by Mrs. Douglas Guthrie, who with Dr. Guthrie had just returned from a trip to China. Mrs. Guthrie was able, therefore, to give us a most interesting eyewitness’s account of conditions at present in Peking and Moukden. The lecture was accompanied by some very beautiful coloured lantern slides, and a Pathé film taken by Dr. Guthrie on the trip. Mrs. Douglas Robertson, who has lived for many years in Moukden, sang us some Chinese songs arranged for her by a Chinese member of the Moukden Mission.

As a result of these activities, we had the great pleasure of being able to send a larger cheque than usual to the Treasurer. This is particularly gratifying as our President has lately received a letter from Mrs. Canner in Peking, about Chi Hua, one of the special girls we support. Chi Hua is growing up and profiting very much from her life in the Institute, becoming more cheerful and willing every day though when she first came she was sulky and depressed about her blindness. Now the missionary from her home village has written to say he hopes the Institute can arrange to keep her indefinitely, as her mother has died, and no one else wishes to have her back. We hope very much to have the means to keep her in the future. Our other "children," Yu Ying, Ling Wen, and Shu Chen, are also doing well and giving abundant proof of the good these Christian schools are able to do, and the necessity of enlarging their scope as much as we possibly can.

S. E. GORDON.
List of Donations and Subscriptions
For Year ended 31st December, 1936

(a) Collected by R. Macfarlane, C.A., Treasurer.

Botterill, Miss B.,...£0 10 0
Brown, Miss J., 0 5 0
Daly, Mrs. N.,...0 10 0
Dudgeon, Miss,...0 10 0
Edinburgh Ladies’ Auxiliary, 38 0 0
Edwards, Miss E. G.,...0 10 0
Glasgow Ladies’ Auxiliary, 40 0 0
Goldie, Mrs.,...2 0 0
Haig, Miss M. L.,...1 0 0
Hill Murray Trust, 142 4 11
Jenkinson, Miss E. L.,...0 5 6
Meston, Mrs. W. Murray, 0 10 0
Mackarness, Mrs.,...0 3 6
Russell, Mrs. S. M.,...5 0 0
Sirvins Miss, 0 10 0
Spalding, J. C.,...0 10 0
Stuart, Mrs.,...0 10 0
Trustees of Mrs. I. Y. Manini, 7 15 0
Ure, W. P.,...1 0 0
Walker, Mrs. A., Douglas, 8 7 0
Lady Wilson, 1 0 0
Wishart, Miss, 0 10 6
Workman, W. S.,...0 10 0

£252 1 5

(b) Collected by Rev. J. A. Slimmon.

Details per separate sheet, 55 19 0

£308 0 5
LIST OF DONATIONS COLLECTED BY REV. J. A. SLIMMON
For Year Ended 31st December, 1936.

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£56 18 0

Less Postages and Incidentals, 0 19 0

Net Amount Received, £55 19 0
THE HILL MURRAY INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

Receipts and Payments Account for Year ended 31st December, 1936

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<td><strong>£946 8 1</strong></td>
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GLASGOW, 20th February, 1937.—We certify that the foregoing Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st December, 1936 is correctly stated.  (Sgd.) J. C. THOMSON PENDER & CO., C.A.