A Harvest Song
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

--

FOOCHOW MISSION

A. B. G. F. M.

ROMANIZED PRESS, FOOCHOW COLLEGE,
1902.
OFFICERS OF THE MISSION.

H. N. KINNEAR, M. D. Treasurer.
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Rev. W. L. Beard, Ing Hok Station.
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APPOINTMENTS FOR 1901.

FOOCHOW CITY STATION:—Rev. and Mrs. L. P. Peet, Foochow College and Printing Press. Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Hinman, In charge Evangelistic Work. Dr. K. C. Woodhull, Woman's Hospital; also Woman's Hospital at Ing Hok Station. Miss Hannah C. Woodhull, Bible Woman's Training School. Miss Jean H. Brown, Girls' School and Kindergarten. Miss Martha Wiley, Foochow College. Miss Chittenden, Foochow College and Day Schools. Dr. Minnie Stryker, Woman's Hospital.

PONASANG STATION:—Rev. and Mrs. Beard, Rev. and Mrs. Gardner†, Evangelistic Work, Theological Seminary and Day Schools. Dr. and Mrs. H. N. Kinneer, Ponasang Hospital. Misses Garretson and Newton Ponasang Girls' College. Rev. and Mrs. Hodous.*

PAGODA ANCHORAGE STATION:—Rev. and Mrs. Hubbard† Evangelistic Work. Rev. and Mrs. Hartwell, Evangelistic Work. Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Whitney, Evangelistic and Medical Work and Day Schools. Miss Hartwell, Woman's Work and Day Schools. Miss Borts, Girls' Boarding School.

ING HOK STATION:—Rev. and Mrs. Edward H. Smith.* Dr. Emily D. Smith.*


*Arrived Dec. 19th.
†Absent part of the year.
ANNUAL REPORT

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FOOCHOW MISSION, A. B. C. F. M.

FOR THE YEAR 1901.

If it were possible to prepare an annual report which would give all of the facts, a perfect understanding of what a year had seen accomplished, an adequate conception of the tremendous importance of it all, and a good knowledge of what lies before us to do, it would be a source of great satisfaction to those upon whom falls this duty; but the fact that only a small part of what has been done can be condensed into the space that can be used, and that at best, only an incomplete view of the work can be given to the reader, constantly confronts the writer. The personal reports are filled with much interesting matter which space forbids printing with anything like fullness; but it is hoped that enough information is given to enable our supporters and friends to direct their prayers intelligently, and to give to the work with a new joy and confidence. The prayers of the world have not in vain been centered upon China during the last two years. A new era is dawning in this great land; and the influence which it may exert in the twentieth century world is not yet comprehended even by her best friends. What the character of that influence shall be depends more upon how vigorously the various branches of mission work are prosecuted, than it does upon the number
of thousands of dollars worth of foreign goods China may be induced to buy, or upon the number of modern guns with which her defenses may be supplied.

The year (1901.) was one when some reorganization was necessary, when some broken threads had to be caught up again; but we have abundant reason to praise God for the fact that it was not broken by any of the anxieties or troubles of the one that preceded it, and that it was filled with so many evidences of loving favor.

PERSONNEL:—Never before, within one year has the personnel of the mission so greatly changed. As these changes have nearly all been in the direction of adding to our working force, we could well wish that this part of our history might repeat itself.

As early in the year as January, we had the pleasure of again seeing the face of Dr. Bliss; and after being away so long it was, no doubt, a great pleasure to him to see China once more. At the same time, Miss Josephine Walker came to the land of her birth as a mission worker. Her knowledge of the language, not forgotten during the years of her stay in America, will give her a distinct advantage in mastering it which is enjoyed only by those who are born here. In February, Miss Chittenden rejoined us after a furlough in America which had given her new health and inspiration. This same month also marked the return of Dr. and Mrs. Whitney, who at once resumed residence and important work at Pagoda Anchorage station, while Mr. Hubbard and family left us to enjoy a well earned vacation in the home-land. In April, we welcomed a new worker for whom we had long been waiting, Dr. Minnie E. Stryker, to be associated with Dr. Woodhull in the Woman's Hospital at the City station. Early in August Miss Newton arrived; and we
were glad to have her in our midst again, safe after the danger incident to a typhoon that prevented the steamer from entering port during the two days of its fury. As summer neared its close, we were pleased again to have Mr. Gardner and his family rejoin our ranks after their long absence in America; and just before the year closed, the arrival of five new recruits, Rev. and Mrs. L. Hodous, Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Smith, and Dr. Emily. D. Smith gave us abundant reason for the note of praise and thanksgiving that filled its last days.

The furloughs of the older missionaries had been prolonged by the troubles of 1900 and the subsequent uncertainties; and it was a great joy to have them back and ready to help in the work again. For the new workers we had been asking, in some cases, for a long time, and they came as answers to many prayers. We anticipate for each one of them a long and useful life on the mission field. They come at what now seems the best time there ever was to commence a life of mission work—opportunities every where, open doors inviting on every hand, and many of the old obstacles less formidable than they were only a few years ago. May God richly bless and largely use these new workers!

Evangelistic Work.

In reading the personal reports of this branch of our work, one cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that while each missionary has much more work now in hand than he can do well, still we are only touching the mountains of work that cover our field like its granite hills. The tables of statistics show a
good amount of progress; but it is noted that the accession of new members is not altogether a true index of our progress. In the churches which have become self-supporting during the last few years there has been difficulty in impressing the importance of being careful in the teaching and receiving of new members; and the best evidence of growth here is found in the fact that these churches have not added largely to their membership. We feel that throughout the field there has been a good deal of this kind of development, a real advance in the fitness of the churches to carry responsibility and to manage their own affairs.

CITY STATION:—The churches of this station, both in the city and on the plain north of it, have made progress in many ways. There has been a healthy growth in numbers of members, an increasing willingness on the part of the churches to support their own work, good numbers of learners and freedom from any serious or unusual troubles.

The Peace Street Church, in connection with the college, reports a membership of one hundred and eighty-four (184), of whom thirty-four (34) were received during the year, while thirteen (13) were removed by death. The young preacher who was called to this church after the death of its beloved pastor Ling, has filled an exacting place very acceptably. The church asked that he be ordained, but it seemed best to defer this important step for a time.

The chapel opened and supported by the Men’s Missionary Society at the West Gate, was considered as in connection with this station, the missionary visiting it at times and encouraging the work so far as possible. The death, from plague, of the promising young preacher at this chapel, was a loss felt, not only by this station, but by the entire mission.
Monthly meetings of the preachers of this station proved helpful and stimulating. A communion service was held at each of the eleven chapels every two or three months and new members were received at nearly every such service, the total number of admissions being sixty-four.

The churches at Imperial Loft Street and at Water Gate have done much in the way of enlarging and refitting their chapels, meeting most of the expense themselves; but in spite of the enlargement made at the former place, the seating capacity of the room is still taxed at the Sunday services. Another chapel in the city is greatly hampered by the want of suitable quarters in which to accommodate its growing audiences.

A few years ago the work in the city seemed less promising than that in the country, the people being less approachable; but this seems to be changing now, and we can confidently expect that all of these city chapels will soon become self-supporting churches. Of the chapels in the country places there is less to report; but the conditions are looked upon as encouraging.

Ponasang Station:—This station makes the most satisfactory report that it has yet been able to give. This is not to say that the statistics are so much better than ever before, but there has been a healthier state of the churches and a more normal growth. The group of self-supporting churches in this station have, for a few years back, presented problems for solution. The past year has witnessed great improvement in the care these churches have taken in instructing and receiving new members, and in meeting the various questions connected with self-government. The hard times following the troubles of 1900
made it impossible for some of the churches to support their work as fully as before; but with the opening of the new year (1902) they assumed the old burdens again. One church was especially tried during the year, having first lost ten members by death from plague, then the pastor was called to the Diong-loh field, and shortly after, the church and all of its contents were burned. As they had spent over $300. in making repairs and buying furniture only three years ago, this was a real trial; and as the same fire burned out several members of the church, it was not easy to recover from the loss. However, the church is rallying bravely and will, in the near future, erect a new building. It has been especially pleasing to have the people who live near the first church (Geu-Cio Dong) coming in greater numbers and asking admission to membership.

PAGODA STATION reports many signs of progress. One day-school teacher who has held regular Sunday services in the school room, has gathered a group of thirty or forty professed inquirers, and from them and one church member there, has raised over two hundred dollars toward building a church, and obtained promises of about six hundred days’ work. That such a thing as this is possible is proof enough, if any proof is needed, that at least this part of China is ready for the Gospel. At a place where one of our missionaries had his life threatened only a few years ago, and which has been visited very irregularly since, there are a few inquirers who have rented a place for a chapel and parsonage, and have been furnished a preacher-teacher. At another place where there was only a day-school two years ago, the people have rented a house for chapel and helper’s quarters and put them in good repair. At the end of the
year this place had an organized church of six members, seven more who have passed their first examination for membership, ten real inquirers, a C. E. Society started, and they are making plans to buy land for a church site. The great wants in this, as in the other stations, are for more trained men and more money with which to support these men until the young churches can do so.

ING-HOK STATION:—A year of wholesome growth and rich blessings was given this Switzerland of the Foochow mission. If we were to ask the native workers what they considered the greatest blessing of the year, they would unite in saying that it was the arrival of the missionaries for whom they have so long been praying. The joy which they expressed in receiving these new workers presages on their part hearty co-operation and sympathetic helpfulness. The opportunities were never before so good in this part of our field; large and attentive audiences of honest country people have greeted not only the missionary while on his tours, but the preachers and evangelists, in some instances listening quietly to three or four addresses in succession, and staying late at night to hear just the plain doctrine of man lost in sin and salvation through Jesus Christ. In one place where the work has been unfruitful during the last eight years or so, the church has taken on new life, eleven persons have united with the church on confession of faith, and large audiences crowd the chapel every Sunday. At the district city, where the mission house is located, the Woodin Memorial church is filled each Sunday with a congregation which consists more largely of business men and those from the better classes than has heretofore been the case. At one of the most distant chapels there are one hun-
dred and forty persons reported as learners. Two years ago no women could be induced to attend church at this place; but now there are six women members, and ten who attend church as the result of the station class. These few facts are selected from among the many, to show the magnificent fields of privilege that lie before your workers in this station.

SHAOWU STATION:—When the missionaries returned to this field after the long break occasioned by the troubles of 1900, they found many things that were not satisfactory; but there was such a large number of faithful and earnest Christians that, with the help and encouragement of the foreign workers, the work as a whole, had taken on a most encouraging aspect before the end of the year. During the last of 1900 and the first of 1901 there was more than the usual amount of persecution of Christians, but it is to be hoped that some good came out of it, some new strength of faith to the tried and some better conception of what it means to be a Christian in this land, to those who had become learners from mixed motives. The touring that was done extended to many places where were promising openings; but the time and strength of the missionary were not sufficient to enable him to see all parts of this large field. There have been many encouraging things here as well as in the other parts of the field. As an example of this, we need only refer to the believer at the district city of Tai-ning who was formerly a vegetarian, geomancer, etc. but has discontinued all of his heathen (and profitable) practices, has taken to peddling to support himself and family, and is now the leader of the little Christian community of that place, returning home each Sunday to conduct the weekly services.
COLPORTEURS:—Besides several of the chapel keepers who sell Bibles, books and tracts, and converse with the buyers with more or less success, the mission has a number of men who spend their time traveling about the field with bundles of books, talking to those whom they meet and selling books as opportunity offers. It is difficult to persuade the most competent men to do this, both because it is hard work and because it is considered beneath the dignity of a scholar to go about selling anything; but we now have a group of valuable men doing this kind of work. At Ponasang there is one man doing most efficient evangelistic work in this way, though he might earn two or three times as much wages if he worked at his trade. In the Diong-loh and Ing-hok fields these men have been of special use and have won several persons to Christ during the past year. Their success in selling Bibles etc., varies greatly, but it is no index of their success as evangelists. The enormous demand for the Bible and translations of all kinds of western books which has sprung up within the last two years, has been felt in this province to an extent which has made it absolutely impossible at times to supply the demand; and the faith which believes that God’s Word will not return unto Him void, sees great results from this in the near future.

BIBLE WOMEN:—This class of workers has been in use wherever capable women could be had and given proper supervision; and their increasing success is evidence that training is giving us more efficient workers, and that the opportunities are better than ever before.

At the city station, Bible women have been under the superintendence of four of our ladies, who unite in praising
their ability and in testifying to their usefulness. The best of the women trained in the Woman's School find their highest sphere of usefulness in teaching the station classes for women; but as chapel evangelists and in doing house to house visiting they all succeed in increasing the attendance of women at the church services, and in winning souls for the Master.

In connection with Ponasang station there has been much house to house visiting done especially by Mrs. Pastor Ding; but there has been a lack of efficient workers. One most valuable woman has been too ill much of the time to do the work that she most enjoys.

It now seems evident that the work of the Bible women in house to house visiting is being more and more supplemented by that of teaching classes of women, where a number can be instructed with the same outlay of strength that would be required to make only one or two calls a day to instruct a few women who are in the midst of domestic interruptions.

**Educational Work.**

The reports of all of the members of the mission who are superintending the various forms of educational work in which the mission is engaged, are filled with the conviction that this department of missionary activity is indispensible to the success of the mission and that it is becoming increasingly effective.

DAY SCHOOLS have been carried on in each of the stations of the mission in about the same numbers as during the preceding year. One of the most pleasing features of this work is the increasing proportion of girls in attendance. Great progress has been made
in some of the schools in the use of the Romanized colloquial, the utility of which is impressing the Chinese more and more. It has been proven that the Romanized is rather a help than a hindrance in learning the character, so that even the non-Christian parents do not oppose it as they did. In one of the summer schools for women and girls, at which there were some more than twenty in attendance, none of the scholars wished to put any time on the Romanized, but the teacher was enthusiastic, and persisted in giving them a little instruction in it each morning. They soon found it so interesting that they studied it gladly; and at the end of two months some of them were able to write letters, a thing which they could not have done in Chinese characters after studying as many years.

Those in charge of these schools are often embarrassed by the incompetence of the teachers. The graduates and former scholars of the higher schools of the mission are, of course, our most efficient teachers; but it is necessary to use some persons who have not had this training. Partly as a result of this and partly because it is needful to give some instruction in methods of teaching, it has been found advantageous to hold teachers’ institutes. While this has been done in two stations with most satisfactory results, in those parts of the field where the schools are widely separated and the means of communication are poor, this will be much more difficult if not quite impossible; but there is no thought of being satisfied until our day schools have been brought up to a standard of efficiency that will persuade the most conservative of the Chinese that we are giving them the best schools that are within their reach. That this is within the
bounds of the possible is proven by the fact that most of
the best schools have a large and regular attendance of children
from heathen homes, in addition to the children from
the Christian families for whom the day schools were primari-
ly instituted. To one not familiar with the conditions exist-
ing here it might seem strange that the mission should give
so much prominence to this branch of its work; but the fact
is that, considering the outlay of money, and time and strength
of the missionary in charge of it, this is the
most profitable means of teaching the Truth that
we have at our command. These schools are the means of
giving the children born into Christian families a proper
knowledge of Christian truth, the only means of getting the
heathen children under the influence of the Truth and of
those who live it, and the most successful means
of getting Christian books into non-Christian
families; they are the centers of regular Sab-
bath services in places where the best prepared students are
found for the higher schools, and more than all, they are
the nuclei from which many of our churches are formed.

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOLS:—The Girls' Day School at the
city station has had a most encouraging year, at the end of
which nine girls went to the Ponasang school. Their places
were more than filled by the new scholars at the opening
of the new year. It has been possible to secure regular at-
tendance at not only the day school sessions, but also at all
of the church services.

A similar, though smaller, girls' day school was held at
Ponasang, being taught by a former pupil of the Girls' College.
Bright little minds are being found and developed in these
schools preparatory to entering the boarding school, and after
this kind of work has been in operation a few years, we
DIONG-LOK LANDING, WITH MISS BORTS AND MISS HARTWELL IN THE GOSPEL SAMPan.
confidently expect to be able to report that it is a most profitable adjunct to the educational system.

In the Diong-loh field there were two of these schools; one at Ma-tau, opened by a girl who graduated from the Pagoda Anchorage school last year; and one at Uong-buo, which from its inception has been taught by a graduate of the Girls' College at Ponasang. The latter has from the first, been in a sense, a part of the Pagoda Anchorage preparatory school, and it is hoped that they will both become feeders to that school. Each of these schools is the only center of religious instruction in the village in which it is located, and we can but believe that the faithful work done by their teachers will, in good time, bear much fruit.

KINDERGARTEN:—This work, now for the first time reported by Miss Brown who came out to superintend it, has had a profitable year. The attendance has been thirty-eight, including six larger girls from the Girls' Day-school. Two of the little ones died of the plague during the summer. The importance of this kind of schools cannot be demonstrated to one not familiar with the home-life conditions into which most of the Chinese children are born. Aside from the good that the little ones themselves derive from it, the demonstration of what can, and so what should be done in teaching them self-control, unselfishness, and mutual helpfulness, is a perpetual lesson to both our Christian community and to the heathen about us. Some apparatus has been added to the outfit during the year, but the need of much more emphasizes the fact that this school should have an adequate appropriation. Four young women have been in training as assistants.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS:—The educational system of
the mission contemplates the establishment of intermediate schools at each of the stations in which this need is not already met by the intermediate or preparatory departments of the two colleges. During the year reported there have been three such schools conducted, the Boys’ School at Shaowu, and the Girls’ Schools at Pagoda Anchorage and at Shaowu. For want of a building the Boys’ School was not a boarding school. It was in charge of Miss Walker who gave it much of her time and a Chinese teacher, Mr. Walker helping when it was practicable for him to do so. This school should have at its head a foreigner who could give it much of his time, and it would very soon develop into Shaowu College. There is a strong demand for such a school in this field, as was proven in an unusual way during the year. When it became known among the boys that there was no prospect that the mission would have the money with which to provide a suitable building, they, with a little encouragement from the missionaries, circulated a subscription paper and raised over $1000 Mexicans, enough to make a successful start in the undertaking. There is a general appreciation in this field, of the advantages of an education, and an absence of prejudice against our methods of imparting it, that makes this a most promising opening for higher educational work.

THE SHAOWU GIRLS’ BOARDING SCHOOL was without a home at the opening of the year, but a fine site just inside of the North gate of the city was purchased, and the school dining room was built and used as a dormitory during the last term. An old native building which stood on the ground purchased, though without doors, windows or floors, was used for recitation and dining room. The girls are taught to sew and do house work while in the school, a gradual
improvement in the appearance of the school buildings and grounds being the result of their care.

The girls went without their Christmas dinner in order to be able to give $5.00 towards the new building for the Boys' School, for which the Chinese all subscribed so enthusiastically. Great interest was shown in the senior and junior societies of Christian Endeavor, and much good followed the observance of the quiet hour, nineteen of the girls having confessed Christ during the year.

One girl who had studied several years at the Ponasang Girls' School, finished the course and was given a diploma at the end of the year. As it was the first time that such an event has occurred at Shaowu it attracted much attention. An audience of two or three hundred people crowded the church, many of them patiently standing during the exercises; and the large number of literati present gave evidence of much appreciation and interest.

At the Pagoda Girls' School sixteen new girls were received at the opening of the school year, and a class of six graduated at its close. In this part of our field the custom of foot-binding has an especially strong hold. Although a large proportion of the population are farmers, no women work in the fields, and very few of them have natural feet. So we look upon the success of this school in persuading the girls to unbind their feet as of great value, and as a precursor of the great power for good that we hope to see it become in the near future, a power that shall make its influence felt over the people and customs of this entire region. It is interesting to know that the missionary society of this school is studying about
the Girls’ School at Ruk, and that it sent half of the proceeds of its needle work to buy cloth for the use of girls in that school.

Colleges.

FOOCHOW COLLEGE (For Young Men):—This institution has suffered for want of a proper number of foreign teachers, in as much as the place of Mr. Chan, formerly our teacher of Science, has not yet been filled. We feel that our most important need at the city station is a young man to teach the sciences and allied branches in this school, and are much pleased to know that the Board is looking for a proper man for this place.

It is noted that while it is only within recent years the official classes have shown any interest in this school, they are now sending their sons to us for instruction in increasing numbers. Men from this class can hardly be expected to be allowed to become preachers in any considerable numbers, but who can tell what a mighty influence for good some of them may exert in other positions after having been trained to think in Christian schools? Three students died of the plague during the year; but aside from this there was not an unusual amount of sickness in the school. The enrollment for the year was one hundred and fifty-three (153) and out of this number the college Y. M. C. A. has had a membership of fifty-eight (58) active and fifteen (15) associate members and has exerted a very helpful influence in the school. A junior C. E. Society interested many of the younger boys in reading the Bible, while the intermediate society for the younger pre-
paratory students, and the society connected with the church have kept the Truth constantly before every boy in the school. The Evangelistic Band of about thirty members, has been more thoroughly organized, and has given valuable service in helping in Sunday School and Christian Endeavor work at eleven centers in and near the city. Another group of twelve students take turns at preaching to the overflow meetings for women and children at Cowan Hall each Sunday, while still other students have given efficient assistance in the Sunday School and inquiry meetings at the church.

At the last Commencement eight promising students were graduated, with four from Ponasang Hospital who were given the medical diploma of the mission. Of the eight graduates one man was obliged to leave the College three years ago, but had kept up his studies and passed creditable examinations. This young man first filled a clerkship in the postal department of the Imperial Customs service; and his faithfulness and honesty so won the confidence of those in authority that he was this year appointed to the charge of an important customs station at the mouth of the river. Two of the graduates accepted positions in schools for the teaching of Western learning, stipulating that they be permitted to observe the Sabbath and to teach the Bible in those schools; and another, while doing other work, preaches each Sunday.

It is gratifying to report that the income of the school for the year, was $4146.83 Mexicans, which has not only wiped out a debt of $421.09 which existed at the beginning of the year, but leaves a balance of $117.84 on hand at the end of the year.
GIRLS' COLLEGE (Ponasang):—The excellent work of this school has been unbroken during the year. The new class numbered twenty-one, of whom four were graduates of Pagoda Anchorage Intermediate School, and the enrollment was sixty-nine, which is great enough for a building intended for forty girls! With the completion of the building for the Collegiate department and the division of the labor of teaching, we anticipate, in the immediate future a great stride forward for this institution. There is evidence of a growing appreciation, on the part of parents, of the value of education for the girls. This is proven by the fact that there are increasing numbers of girls in the day schools, a greater willingness to allow the girls to stay in the College long enough to complete the course, and to make sacrifices to this end. The statement that during the year twenty-eight of these girls have been led to profess a belief in and an acceptance of our Savior, eleven of them having been received into the church, is sufficient, no doubt, to account to you for the deep interest we take in the development of this school.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:—This institution has just finished its sixth year, graduating a class of six men. Only two classes have been under instruction during the year, none having been received in 1900. The entering class of this year consisted of four men, two of whom were graduates of the College. Mr. Gong, the efficient teacher of Chinese Classics died at the end of the year, and it will be very difficult to fill his place. His ability in his line of work was very exceptional; and during the three years of his service with us, he has given evidence of great spiritual growth. Mr. Ding Ming Uong, the efficient
first assistant, has enjoyed good health and been able to give uninterrupted service, only being absent while attending the national convention of the Y. M. C. A. at Nanking. The Association of missionaries and pastors has recommended that he be ordained for the work in the Seminary. The recent graduates of the school have all been called to work for the coming year, three of them to be entirely supported by the native Christians. The students of the Seminary have, during the year, regularly conducted services on Sunday at five places.

WOMEN’S TRAINING CLASSES:—This interesting line of missionary effort may be said to bear much the same relation to the Bible Woman’s Training School that the preparatory schools bear to the colleges. Of the women who are brought under our influence in these schools, for they may properly be called such, a few have previously made some attempts to learn the Chinese characters, but usually with a very imperfect degree of success.

The reports of the classes are filled with interesting details of the progress some of the women have made, of the Learning to Think. new light that comes into their faces as they assimilate the Truth, and best of all of many souls born into the kingdom. It is unfortunate that we have no similar means by which the men can be as successfully taught; for some of them come into the churches with ideas that are quite as hazy as are those of the women. However these schools are training the women who will shape the home-life and control the influences that contribute to the formation of character of boys who will soon be men.

BIBLE WOMAN’S TRAINING SCHOOL:—The Bible Woman’s School at the city station, is the mother of all of
our work for the education of women. The year reported was a successful one in this school, from forty to forty-four women and about thirty children claiming the attention of those in charge. During the year eight of the women were received into the church, while another wished to be, but was advised to wait awhile. Like many of the schools this one suffered the loss of scholars during the scourge of plague that visited Foochow last summer. Some of the women lost children, from this and other causes, during the year; and it was a joy to those in charge of the school to see the Christian fortitude with which they bore these severe trials. Each year sees women from this school going out into Christian work as Bible women, or teachers of Woman’s Schools and Classes.

The Bible Woman’s Training School at Pagoda Anchorage also reports a successful year. It was held this year in the chapel and parsonage at the village of Yang Seng, and the refining influence of the pastor’s wife was not lost upon the women in attendance. Eighteen women were received as students at the beginning of the year; but owing to the lack of funds the number was reduced one half before its close. Two women, one being the wife of a preacher and the other a widow, who had studied at the Girls’ College before their marriage, after a course of Bible training here went to their homes to engage in active work for women and girls. The first quarterly meeting for the women of this station was held in connection with this school, and was a most successful occasion. Among the patent results of it, were the number of women who pledged themselves to do all they could to discourage the use of opium, wine and tobacco. Some of the women have since
persuaded their husbands to give up the use of tobacco. Another result, more remarkable, was that one old mother went home, unbound her feet, and within three months had led eight other women to do the same.

Medical Work.

PONASANG HOSPITAL makes its thirtieth report with the ending of this year. It was re-opened after China New Year with the same corps of workers that it had the previous year. Mr. Lau, the first assistant, has grown in capacity and ability to carry responsibility, and has thus been even more useful than before. About the usual number of patients came to the dispensary, and a rather larger number of in-patients are recorded for the time that the hospital was open.

There were a number of tablets expressing the gratitude of patients received and added to the decorations of the building.

The vote of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, giving permission to the mission to raise the funds to erect a permanent building for the hospital, to be known as the “Richard Salter Storrs Memorial,” reached the mission towards the end of the year; and it was considering the steps necessary to be taken to further this plan when it closed.

Soon afterwards the residence of the physician-in-charge was destroyed by fire, the Chinese mob that collected, as always occurs at fires, taking advantage of the opportunity to save all it could (for its own use), from the burning house, and incidentally looting the hospital, even the windows, shutters and doors
being torn away. As the old building was a very poor one, unfit to repair even before the looting, as the land does not belong to the mission, and as we were already planning for something more permanent, it was decided to be false economy to expend money in making repairs.

For the present the work must wait; for if it is reopened at all in the old place, it will complicate the negotiations for the land which we wish to get; meantime we are putting forth every effort to obtain the money with which to buy the land, and to make a start on the Storrs Memorial as soon as it is obtained.

WOMAN'S HOSPITAL (Foochow City):—The impossibility of making an adequate record of any part of the work is accentuated here. Angels have, no doubt, recorded what has been done for the lightly esteemed women and children of China in this institution, and what of joy it may have brought into their lives; but we cannot see it all as it appears to their eyes. There have been evidences of gratitude given in many ways; but the untrained and often inactive minds of the women do not help them to be intelligently appreciative of something that brings so many new thoughts into their lives as does the medical work. However, in spite of those who think that a plaster jacket should be put on in a moment and cure in a day or so, or that a diseased hip-joint should be cured by a stay of a week in the hospital, there are many instances every year of patient waiting for a cure of earnest learning of the way of life, and of sincere gratitude, so many that no one who has knowledge of it all could ever question whether it pays. A school for the patients in which they are taught to read the Romanized colloquial has been a useful feature of the work. As we now have
the New Testament in Roman letter it is possible for the bright women, at least, to learn to read the Bible during the time that many kinds of sickness or operations would keep them in the hospital. Dr. Stryker, while obliged to give much of her time to the study of the language, has treated the eye cases in the hospital, and done valuable work for the mission by fitting glasses to many defective eyes. As the work of this hospital becomes more widely appreciated, and the number of patients increases, the building become increasingly inadequate and a better outfit is among the things that must be planned for in the near future.

SHAOWU EAST GATE HOSPITAL (For Men):—The members of the station returning early in the year found the hospital as well as the other buildings plundered and wrecked. The physician was compelled to give most of his time to superintending the inefficient workmen for which Shaowu is noted; but in spite of the lack of time and proper facilities, the patients came in numbers. In November the dispensary was opened again, but as the supply of instruments and medicines was still very deficient, efforts were made to keep the attendance down to those really needing special care. Notwithstanding this, the patients came in greater numbers than ever before. One student was under instruction during the entire year and another was taken on near its close. The former has been a very efficient helper, especially earnest in making use of the opportunities presented for evangelistic work; and there have been evidences of God's blessing upon this part of our efforts.

SHAOWU WOMAN'S HOSPITAL (North Gate):—Part of the work of the station has been to provide, at least part of a building for the woman's medical work, and as the year closed the building for the dispensary, waiting room and
drug room were well along. This will open a door at Shaowu that
will bring great opportunities, and we doubt not, great results.

PAGODA DISPENSARY:—The native assistant so long in charge of this work continues to be an efficient helper here under the supervision of Dr. Whitney. Good Results. Both the doctor and the assistant have done dispensing at various centers as time allowed, and the good results emphasize the need of more of this kind of work. It is hoped that in the near future a small mission house with a dispensary and hospital may be erected at the district city, Diong-loh, and so enable us to extend the influence of this work.

ING-HOK HOSPITAL:—This hospital for women has, during the year, been conducted as a dispensary by a graduate of the Woman’s Hospital at the city, Dr. Woodhull supervising it as far as practicable. With the arrival of Dr. Smith at the end of the year, this hospital takes on a new importance, and will soon become a powerful factor in developing the Christian community of that field. Appreciated. The people here are most friendly, and appreciate the medical work in a way that leads us to expect great success from it.

The Romanized Press.

The usefulness of this branch of our work has been increased during the year. Students in the College as well as women in the Woman’s School have been given an increased amount of work which has helped them to support themselves. A new cylinder press has greatly increased the capacity of the plant and improved the quality of its output. An edition of one thou-
sand. Hymn Books for Shaowu station, one of three thousand Hymn Books in Foochow colloquial and another of four thousand Romanized Primers were printed, with sundry other smaller jobs, making a total of 1,854,304 pages. An edition of Genesis and Exodus, another of Psalms, one of the Anglican Mission Prayer Book, and another edition of the Testament, all in the Romanized, and another edition of the Foochow Hymn Book in Chinese character are now in hand.

In connection with the enormous demand for literature which has sprung up within the last year or so, the importance of this adjunct of our work cannot be overestimated; and it is hoped that some generous friend who takes a special interest in this kind of work will, in the near future, provide the funds needed to give this plant a proper building of its own.

**Home Missionary Societies.**

This Report would not be complete if it failed to mention the two missionary societies which our native constituency is supporting so earnestly and successfully.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY was organized ten years ago, and has been an inspiration rather than a burden to all who have had part in it. During the year ninety-two dollars ($92.) were collected, and from this sum the faithful teacher at Phoenix Nest has been supported, while two Bible-women were in part supported from the same fund. These two Bible-women were educated at one of the station classes, being supported while there by this society with a view to having them take up this work for which they seemed well fitted.
Mrs. Pastor Ding has been president of the society again and her enthusiasm has, as ever, been an inspiration to the Christian women who have come under her influence.

MEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY:—Like the society of the women, this is not, strictly speaking, a part of the mission work, but being an outgrowth of it should be reported here. The society has been organized several years, but only with the opening of 1901 did it open regular chapel work. It canvassed the field for the most needy place where the mission had no chapels, decided to open one at the West Gate of the city, repaired a house at an expense of eighty dollars ($80.) and placed in it a graduate of the Theological Seminary. Early in the summer the young man died of the plague. It might have been expected that the society would be discouraged, but such was not the case.

Not Discouraged. The officers at once set about having the house properly cleansed, had one of the theological students supply the pulpit, and later, when he graduated, invited him to take full charge of the place. The extra expenses drained the treasury; but they raised the additional money needed and talked only of how to go on with the work. All of the churches and chapels are supplied with subscription books and are expected to contribute to the work of this society.

As the mission grows and as its various lines of work become more clearly defined, the necessity for proper homes for the missionaries, and healthful and airy quarters for the fourteen or fifteen lines of educational work, become accentuated. We have reason to be grateful for donations which enable us to be doing something along this line; but there are several things that are still immediately pressing.
During the year we have been able to give Foochow College an office building which provides an office and reception room for the president of the college, and a large room now in use as a recitation room for Miss Wiley, but intended eventually for other purposes. This is finely located for the purpose, and is proving very satisfactory. The west wing of Lincoln Hall has also been under way during the latter part of the year, and will be ready for use during the coming school year. It greatly enlarges the dormitory accommodations, adds some needed recitation room and in the basement will give temporary quarters for the press. The school still needs a proper Assembly Hall more than anything else, the church being not more than one-fourth large enough for ordinary uses. As soon as the Woman's School can be moved from its present site it is planned to put up a combined assembly hall and recitation hall which will also be the home of the Peace Street Church.

Land has now been purchased for the much needed building for the Bible Woman's Training School; and the next most important step in the city is the providing of this building. The school has always been housed in a group of inferior native buildings that are neither healthful nor adapted to the use of the school. The site now secured is a most desirable one, and we now wish to give the school such a building as will satisfy all of its needs for many years to come.

The lack of house room at the city has been a serious problem to the mission for several years past, and it is earnestly hoped that the efficiency of the missionary force there may be conserved by the addition of at least one house, in the immediate fu-
ture, the land for one having been secured and enclosed.

At Ponasang, the most notable advance has been in the commencing of the building of the Girls' College, so long under contemplation. A piece of land which it seemed necessary to have was bought after much delay, and the school part of the building will be done in time for the opening of the fall term of 1902. The funds were not sufficient to build the part of the building designed for the ladies in charge of the school; but as the need is a very apparent one, it is expected that the Board will furnish the funds needed without delay.

No doubt many of our friends will be wondering about the new Church of our Savior, the Dudley Memorial, for which the New York Branch of the W. B. M. has sent us the funds and we are glad to report that progress is being made. The funds for this reached us during the year but as it was essential to buy several small pieces of land before anything could be done at building, and as this required not a little time and patience, the building could not be started within the year, but it is the "next thing" in this line at this station.

The land for the Theological Seminary has been purchased in part and there is a good prospect that all that is needed can be obtained by patient waiting. The purchase of land is one of the things that cannot wisely be hurried in China.

The burning of the physician's house, and the coincident looting of the Ponasang Hospital (for men) brings new problems before this station. The new house should, of course, be located near the hospital. The land upon which the hospital now stands is not mission property. The hospital was so old before the looting that it was
poor economy to spend money upon it for repairs, and now that the Storrs' Memorial Hospital is contemplated, it is obviously poorer economy to put any money on the old building. So the present thought is that we should first get the land for the new Hospital before rebuilding the house, as the usefulness of this will depend so much upon the location of the former.

The needs of the Diong-loh Station are many, but the thing that should be pressed at present is the building for the Girls' School at Diong-loh city. The land for this has been purchased and enclosed, the place is an ideal one for the school, and the parents who would patronize it are asking for the removal of the school to this central point, but no funds are as yet in hand for the purpose. Another need of the station is a home in some part of the same city for the missionary in charge of this part of the work, and a small hospital and dispensary from which he can double his effective influence.

Now that there are resident missionaries at Ing-hok, we may assume that the needs of this Station will soon become imperative in some directions. The first necessities here will be a home for the young ladies and the Girls' Boarding School, while later, a place for the Boys' Boarding School must be provided. Much of the necessary land has already been bought.

Shaowu Station has been kept busy all of the year repairing the buildings wrecked by the looters the previous year. Some of the residences have been made habitable again, progress made on the Men's Hospital, and a start made in providing a home for the Girls' School and the Woman's Medical Work. For the latter a most attractive site has been obtained, and we may hope that next
year will see the buildings well along, the funds for part of them having already been provided.

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**SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.**

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| Total Number of Missionaries       |   ...   |   ...   |   29. |
| Number of Preachers               |   ...   |   ...   |   71. |
| " Teachers, Men and Women         |   ...   |   ...   |   85. |
| Bible Women                        |   ...   |   ...   |   18. |
| Total Number of Native Helpers    |   ...   |   ...   |   210.|
| Organized Churches                |   ...   |   ...   |   62. |
| Regular Preaching Places          |   ...   |   ...   |   130.|
| Self-Supporting Churches          |   ...   |   ...   |    6. |
| Communicants                      |   ...   |   ...   | 2486.|
| Added During the Year             |   ...   |   ...   | 330. |
| Sabbath Schools                   |   ...   |   ...   |   66. |
| S. S. Membership                  |   ...   |   ...   | 1522.|
| Pupils in Various Schools         |   ...   |   ...   | 1675.|
| Native Contributions for Home and Foreign Missions | $210.86. |
| " " " for Building etc.           |   ...   |   ...   | $1139.19. |
| " " " Education                   |   ...   |   ...   | $601.65. |
| Total Native Contributions, all purposes |   ...   |   ...   | $4844.59. |
| Average Per Member                |   ...   |   ...   |   $1.95. |
Is The Kindergarten Needed In China?

By Jean H. Brown.

At no time in the history of the civilized world has there been such a wide-spread interest in the education of children as now, and at no time have educators felt so deeply the need of making the child himself the determining point as to what that education shall be.

Everywhere we read of mothers' meetings, where motherhood sits in council to determine what the education of the home should be, and of teachers' conventions where our ablest men and women meet to discuss the child, his environment, his needs, his desires, and to decide the education of the school accordingly.

So general has the interest become that one can scarcely find a newspaper or magazine that does not devote a column at least to some phase of this subject, and the ever increasing number of books on child psychology compiled by many of our leading college men show how truly the educational world at least, is waking up to the claims of childhood. But the mother and the teacher are not the only ones whom we find trying to solve this problem of "What shall be done for the child?" Many of our large city corporations are also discussing the same question and as a result municipal law regards the interests of its embryo citizens with more intelligent consideration and with deference to them as children than ever before. Abundant proof of this may be seen in the municipal playgrounds, vacation schools, and the gymnasias, parks and gardens set aside exclusively for children's amusements. There is still much to be done along these lines;
the movement indeed, is only in its infancy, but the progress that has been made indicates that the Christian world is coming to believe with Emerson that the child is "the sun of the world", and that his education must be first and foremost if the race is to advance.

And this question which is not a national one merely but a world-wide one, is the one which faces us here in our missionary work in China. Does it not underlie the one I have been asked to answer to-day, "Is the Kindergarten Needed in China?" or to change the phrasing "What has the Kindergarten to Offer as a Solution of this Problem of Children’s Education?"

To begin with, the present interest in child-study is due largely to the quiet, pervasive influence of the kindergarten and its leaders. Other influences have had their effect, it is true, but not until Froebel offered to the world his philosophy of the development of the child, and his system of education in accordance with that development, did parents and teachers really arouse to the importance of studying the child himself. The influence of this keen-eyed, great-hearted philosopher, has gone on increasing with years, as a great river increases with its distance from its source, and year by year we find the principles for which he fought ever gaining new victories. A survey of educational work in primary schools, in schools for the deaf and dumb, for the blind, and the feeble-minded, in manual training schools as well as in social reform work where kindergarten methods are being used with crowning success, will be sufficient to convince us of the growth of Froebel’s theories in Christian countries.

Obviously the kindergarten has much to offer China. We may scrutinize the child’s education at any point, and always we come to the same fact, that what the child wants
is power to do, the power to create. It is the deepest craving of his soul. Left ungratified it becomes the breeder of a thousand ills, fretfulness, discontent, untruthfulness, mischievousness so called, and in fact most of the woes of childhood.

Indeed, it is possible to trace the greater part of human discontent and misery to this unsatisfied craving, and social reformers are coming more and more to realize this fact, and to see that true reform must put a man in possession of his own capabilities. The purpose of education is to give the child the power to do, but more especially to help him discover power within himself. This is the crucial test of every system of education and upon this it must either stand or fall. Chinese education is false to the core, for in no sense does it develop the individual power, in no sense does it lead the individual to an expression of his own thought and feeling. Hence the Chinese as a people have become mere copyists, each following the copy set him by his ancestors thousands of years ago. To-day we find them a nation with no artists, no musicians, no inventors, no scientists. There has been no progress. They are still living in the past ages and is it not because the individual power has not been allowed expression in the children of the race. As a further consequence of this system of suppression the natural elasticity and versatility of the Chinese have been paralyzed to a cruel degree; and this great people, so capable in many ways, are still unfitted to grapple with new problems, are still incapable of remodeling or making the most of their natural conditions.

Our duty then as educators is to save the children of this nation from becoming mere imitators, and to help them become independent and creative. It is only thus that the nation can come into its true freedom; for only as man comes
to know himself and his own powers does he come to know what God is who is the source of all freedom. But how shall this best be accomplished? Clearly not through books alone. Books can never develop the power to do in children under seven years of age, and only in a very limited sense in those over seven.

Granting that this is the strongest craving of the child, to be logical therefore, we must meet it with a condition which is essentially childlike. This we find to be play. We need be nothing more than casual observers to know that play is as essential to the child as his food. It is his religion, his creed, his world, the pole around which all things center. Play is the child’s business as truly as work is the man’s business, and he applies himself to it with all the intensity and fervency of his small being. It may seem frivolous to us, but it is never so to him. To the child it is always profoundly serious. Play is the real work of childhood and the love of play if properly nourished becomes the love of work in the man. The child who shows the most quickness, enthusiasm and energy at his play will show in like degree the same characteristics in his work as an adult. Play is the door through which the outside world enters into his experience, and it is the only door which admits us into the Holy of Holies of his innermost life and thought. We can never truly reach the child, we can never truly understand or influence him until we have entered with him into the mystic delights of his play. Not until we in deed and in truth become again as little children, re-living our childish joys, feeling again the same thrill of pleasure over our play, can we come into full sympathy with these little ones. Nor can they understand us which is of equal importance. The adult life is ever beyond them, baffling and perplexing; but
when we use their own language how readily we are understood. They cannot come to us, we must go to them. Play is the only medium which can bridge the gulf between the child and the adult. It is only on this ground that there can be mutual understanding.

At his play the child is more truly himself than at any other time. Free and unfettered, his natural impulses have full expression. His likes and his dislikes, his aspirations and his disappointments, his victories and his defeats, are all laid before us; and we not only see the child as he is, but we may prophecy what he is likely to become. It is only through play that we can understand the child's needs, and it is only through play that we can supply those needs. We can commit no greater wrong against childhood than to leave this impulse unsatisfied. It is God's own way of developing the power to do in the young. We cannot work hand in hand with Him in the saving of these heathen children if we fail to follow in the path He has plainly marked out for us. We may be sure when the Saviour took the children in His arms and blessed them, He did not send them away without first ministering in some way to their innate love of play. If we would be as the Master and bless the Chinese children He has intrusted to our care we must recognize the divine origin of play and foster it as the highest phase of child development.

But all play is not equally beneficial and developing. We must see that the child has the purest, most wholesome play possible, the play which is adapted to his stage of development, that which will meet all sides of his nature, and which will prepare him most truly for his future life as a man. The kindergarten plays we believe, provide this more perfectly than any other scheme yet devised. Its gifts
and occupations are all designed not merely to make the child dexterous in the use of his fingers, but rather that he may, through these, give expression to his own inner thought, that he may more perfectly put himself on record as an individual.

Carlyle caught the spirit of the kindergarten, and struck the keynote of all true education when he said to each individual, "Be no longer a chaos, but a world or at least a worldkin. Produce! Produce! Were it but the pitifulest infinitesimal fraction of a product, produce it in God's name". It is the aim and purpose of the kindergarten that every day every child shall create something, be it ever so small. This is the ideal which we must ever keep for ourselves and our pupils, if we and they are to attain "unto the measure of the stature of Christ". To make a child feel his own original power is an important step toward his understanding spiritual truth. The exercise of the creative faculty leads the child to feel his relation to God by revealing to him that he possesses, though only in a small degree, one of His attributes. The child's keenest and purest pleasure, his chief source of satisfaction is found in the thing he has fashioned with his own hands. It may seem absurdly crude to us, but to the child it is the expression of himself. For him it abounds with life and he delights in it accordingly. The unexpressed thought lies as a load upon his heart, but when he sees it put into visible form his joy is akin to the divine.

We should reverence these small beginnings of self power as the prophecy of future attainment, and as the expression of the Godlike nature in man.

In the games of the kindergarten the child comes to know himself as a social being, and learns to assume responsibilities and duties as such. Each has a part to perform
for the good of all; and each must be considerate of his neighbors' rights and privileges if all are to share in the fun. In this miniature world the child casts off the Egoism of the home and enters into the higher Altruism of community life. Gentleness, forbearance, self-control, truthfulness, obedience to law, flourish and grow in the sunny atmosphere of the kindergarten, plants which once having rooted can never wholly be eradicated. "Virtue kindles at the touch of joy," and the kindergarten if nothing more, sheds radiant joy along its way. There is a vast amount of religion to be breathed into these little ones, as Kate Douglas Wiggin wisely says, "before they can understand abstract beliefs." "Texts and prayers" the same author goes on to say "can have small value except as they are accompanied by doing." Let us have less abstract teaching with the Chinese children and more of that practical religion which by daily practice leads the child first to a sense of his duty to parents and playfellows and then to his higher duty to God. "How can a man love God whom he hath not seen if he love not his brother whom he hath seen."

No man can have a true idea of right until he does it. The kindergarten is a place where the young may learn the right by doing it, a place "where the practices of complete living become the matter of daily habit." If we can but establish right habits what a power we have put into the child's life, a power which will carry him through many dangers of his later years. "Be ye doers of the word not hearers only" is the underlying principle of the kindergarten. Here the child has opportunity to put into deeds the good impulses which crowd upon him, and which only stifle and confuse unless given expression. Education should always lead the child into doing. Religious instruction can have no vital power,
cannot be comprehended by the child except as it is connected with his own activity.

Again, the kindergarten games, gifts and occupations give definite direction to the child's energies. They concentrate his powers, and save them from becoming scattered and purposeless as they are likely to be if the child is left entirely alone in his play. The child is ignorant of himself and his own possibilities, as well as of the possibilities of the material with which he tries to express himself, therefore, the loving, sympathetic suggestions of an older person are necessary to guide, stimulate and encourage him in his efforts to accomplish the thing he desires to do. Without such guidance the child becomes a prey to the one thing fatal in life, namely discouragement, and he loses faith in himself.

China needs the kindergarten. If missionary societies could realize what power lies within it to evangelize the nation, they would push it beyond every other work. I do not put it too strongly. The kindergarten saves the child morally, spiritually and intellectually. By saving the children we save the nation. The men and women are in a sense past saving. Diseased in body and mind, with old superstitions and foibles still clinging to them, stunted and dwarfed from lack of early development can we hope to quicken the moral sense into a bright and burning flame?

The surest and quickest way of evangelizing China is by Schools of Prevention rather than Schools of Cure and the kindergarten is pre-eminently the former.

We would ridicule the gardener who put all his strength into trying to straighten the limbs of a guarled, storm-beaten tree while he allowed the tender young shoots to grow unheeded. The scientific gardener cares for the young plants above every thing else. Not that he neglects the old trees.
He does all he can for them by pruning and digging, and he gathers their sparse fruit in their season rejoicing and wondering that even in these nature can produce, but well he knows that the hope of his orchard lies not here but in yonder saplings that are struggling towards the skies, and careful is he to see that no summer drought or winter frost shall mar or destroy their growth. Does not the gardener teach us something in the culture of human plants? Let us see that our best, our most scientific care is put upon our youngest, that they may be saved from the errors which we find well nigh impossible to correct in their parents. The progress of the race demands this. These are to be the future men and women of the church in China. Their moral and spiritual fibre will be determined by the foundation laid now in their youth. Perfect soul development in childhood, alone assures perfect spiritual attainment in maturity. Let us then gather the little ones about us and surround them with the most wholesome, childlike influences possible, that they may grow naturally, freely, joyously, in obedience to God's laws. Joy and activity are two essential elements in spiritual growth. Suppression of either chill and dwarf the faculties.

In connection with the kindergarten, China needs well equipped playgrounds; and this is within the reach of every mission. A well equipped play ground for children means a place large enough for a sand-court and baby-swings for the wee ones, large swings, Maypoles, turning-bars, rope-ladders, spring-boards, for the lads and lasses who have outgrown the kindergarten and who long to attain to greater achievements. Have a reverence also in your souls for stones and bricks, old boards and packing boxes as character builders and add a plentiful supply to your gymnasium. Children know their secret and have learned how to extract their true
worth. The value of such a place cannot be estimated. The lessons of mutual helpfulness, of forbearance and courage, the power to think and decide quickly, the act of bearing a defeat manfully, which is especially emphasized in games of contest, are of infinite more value than anything which the routine of the school-room can offer. Give children a chance to expend their surplus energy in right directions, and we shall reduce unruliness, quarrelling and deceit to a minimum.

Activity is a psychological as well as physical necessity. It must and will seek an outlet. If not allowed expression in right channels, it unfailingly seeks the wrong and becomes destructive.

We must first make good, healthy, vigorous little animals of these Chinese children before we try to make them into saints. If we succeed in the former, we need have no fears about the latter, and let us remember that "the throne of the God's grace can be reached through childish play as readily as through the pulpit, if not more so."

Does some one say we cannot afford the kindergarten and the play-ground? On the contrary we cannot afford to do without them. This is the most economical missionary work we can do, the work which yields the most satisfactory and lasting results.

Education is character building and this is best accomplished in the early stages of life, when heart and mind are most impressionable. We must face the enemy with his own tactics if we are to outwit him and begin our work when life is most plastic, when we can make and mold it as we will. Satan and his forces do not wait until the child is old enough to read and should we, the servants of God?

In the children we have a storehouse of tremendous energy demanding ways of expenditure. What shall we do
with these great untrained forces, pulsing with strength and vigor? How shall we help them to their highest possibilities, so that they may become powers for good and not for evil?

Her children are the nation's richest treasure, her chief glory but they may become her greatest enemy. We can render her no higher service than to save the children of this generation, for upon these does the future of China depend. There is certainly no work that will yield such large returns, as this one among little children and none that so nearly affects the future history of the world; for he who touches the heart of a child touches the very heart throbs of the universe.

Let us therefore delay no longer in the great work of child saving, and let us in love and faith recognize and foster the earliest beginnings of power and by free, joyous, wholesome activity, the heritage of every child, lead these little ones to love "whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."

The kindergarten offers China the gospel of play, which is in truth as we find it there, the gospel of Jesus Christ put into practice. Can we afford to do without it?