NANKING STATION REPORT, 1928-1929

Two Years After

Published by
Nanking Station, Kiangan Mission
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
July 1929
Our Welcome Back to Nanking.
“A Year of Tragedy and Triumph” was the title of the Nanking Station report for 1926-27, a true title, for in the tragic experiences of March 24th, many of us found a depth and reality of spiritual experience that life gives one but seldom. For a time we lived on the heights, but from them we have come down as people usually do into the valley of daily difficulties and problems.

Last year, 1927-28, was for most of us a year of waiting. A very few members of the station were able to return to Nanking to live during the course of the year, but by far the larger number were on furlough in America or “refugeeing” in Shanghai. Those who returned in the spring had to give most of their time to the exacting work of rebuilding and repairing property. So faithfully and with such quiet devotion to details did they carry on this necessary work that the autumn of 1928 found the Ming Deh Compound equipped with two homes and a partially repaired school building. The courage and faith of the few who returned to do this was very fine.

Resumption of Work by Resident Missionaries.

The year 1928-29 has been different in its turn from either of the others. In spite of the reopening of the work and the return of our Station members, most of us have passed through times of serious doubt and discouragement, although the days have been lightened by Chinese friendships and a steady though slow improvement in the quality and amount of work accomplished. The welcome by the Chinese to those who returned in the autumn was heart-warming.
Personnel.

The members of the Station in Nanking this year have been Mr. and Miss Drummond, Miss Moffet, Miss Wright, Miss Null, Mr. and Mrs. Mills, Miss Dresser, Miss Hyde, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith at the Ming Deh Compound. Miss Leaman was part of the year in the South City; Miss Walmsley and Mrs. Thurston were at Ginling, while Mr. and Mrs. Buck and Mr. and Mrs. Thomson were at the University. Our new members, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler, spent the year in language study in Peking. We are looking forward to their arrival in the autumn. Mr. and Mrs. Reisner left on furlough in June, and Mrs. Thurston in January. Mr. Drummond and Miss Null spent the latter part of the year in Hwaiyuan in answer to an emergency call from that station. Miss Smawley, Mr. and Mrs. Speers, Mr. and Mrs. McAfee, and Dr. and Mrs. Stuart have resigned during the course of the year. We regret the loss to the Station of these friends, but look forward to seeing them in the home land or better still in China at some future date. Mrs. Drummond after months of illness died at Santa Barbara last spring. She "has out-soared the blackness of our night," and has entered into the life where there is no more pain or suffering; but our memories of her make us still look for her in the garden which she made so lovely, and about the house where she lived for so long, and she seems very near by.

The Situation in General.

The year in general has gone well, and Nanking has shown a vast improvement in the orderliness and lack of tension over the year previous. Newcomers to Nanking still notice a truculent and unpleasant spirit in many of the people one meets on the street, which makes one wish regretfully for the friendliness of past years. But either conditions are improving or else one gets used to them, for I notice it less now than I did at first. During the holding of the Kuomintang Congress in March, the women and children were evacuated to Shanghai at the advice of the American Consul and China Council.
This was a rather discouraging experience to many of us, for both Chinese and foreign authorities were afraid of communist trouble which might easily turn anti-foreign. The stay in Shanghai was prolonged by the revolt of the Wu-han faction. The fact that the government has weathered those two difficult periods, and that the great crowds who came to Sun Yat-sen's funeral this past week were handled in an efficient and orderly way, gives reason to hope for a gain in stability, although as this is written the Nanking troops are being called out again to war in the north.

Our general situation as a Station has been so well expressed by Miss Moffet that I quote three paragraphs from her report:

“Work in Ginling College and at the University of Nanking, which was not interrupted by the trouble two years ago, has been going on normally all the year. The Chinese churches have been gradually building up in numbers and in strength after the hardships of a year of occupation by soldiers and government offices, and the absence of their missionary co-workers. The women evangelists in the city have been able to re-establish their connections and take up their work again. Miss Dresser and Miss Hyde have given encouraging help and stimulus to the work among women at Hubugiai Church, in addition to renewing their contacts in their former centers of work. Primary day school work has got started in most of our school centers. Country itinerating has not been possible all year for foreign women evangelists, and foreign men have made very few trips into the country field. The two high schools, Ming Deh and Hubugiai, have not yet been able to reopen, and Severance Hall Bible School for Women still remains closed.” (This building has just been returned by the Lung-Hai Railway officials, and we hope to take up our occupancy of it at once). “This means that, although most of our Station members are back, our organized work is still at a low ebb. We are here standing by, so to speak, showing our confidence in China by having returned, and trying to work through friendly personal contacts and neighborliness until such times as schools are open and it is possible for us to make our
contribution in a more organized way. The indefiniteness of work for many of us this year and the necessity of waiting for more stability in the political situation and more certainty as to the future before we could make plans for our work or begin to do certain things that we felt the need of doing, have been trying and at times discouraging."

Miss Moffet speaks of the difficulties of her special work, and then goes on to say: "There were also the difficult problems of personnel. Should we ask for the return of a worker when we couldn't be at all sure that when he arrived it would be possible for him to live in Nanking; or that his work would be reopened if he came? Should we insist on holding our Station force in spite of the fact that work was reopening only very slowly; or should we let our workers go to other places to fill pressing needs, and thereby possibly delay the reopening of our own work? Questions of property repairs were, if anything, even more difficult. With our returning staff we must have houses to shelter them and places for them to carry on their work. All of our houses had either been destroyed or badly damaged, and churches and schools were in utter disrepair and quite bare of furnishings and equipment. But there might be more fighting, more looting, more soldier occupation; and even if the government maintained itself and increased in stability, the plan for rebuilding the city, widening the streets, and making Nanking a suitable national capital, made it impossible for us to build or repair with any assurance that we would not have to tear down what we had built as soon as it was finished. Things of this sort have meant hours and hours during the past year spent in committee meetings, Station meetings, correspondence with the Mission Executive Committee and China Council, and discussions and plans without number."

**Repair of Residences.**

The material result of this thought can be seen in the repair of Mr. Drummond's house, where Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Miss Drummond and Mr. Drummond, during his months in Nanking, have lived. The kindergarten building at Ming Deh
has been made over into a dwelling house for Mr. and Mrs. Mills. The Abbey and Leaman houses have been torn down, as too wrecked for repair, while the main building of Ming Deh was so rehabilitated as to house five women missionaries as well as the Chinese teachers in the People's School, until the completion of the new Ming Deh dormitory which is now being used as apartments for foreign missionaries.

**Shwang Tang School and Church.**

The Shwang Tang school and church, which were particularly badly wrecked, have been rebuilt, and it is hoped that services and church work which are carried on there can be on a basis which will be of greater service to the neighboring community, and that the school which has been held at Yen Liao Fang during this past year can be reopened in this district. During the year when Miss Drummond has found it impossible to do the work in the country which is her special interest, she has given much time to the Shwang Tang School and women's work, and to the building repairs.

**Hansimen, Hubugiai and Fu Dung Churches.**

Our other city churches at Hansimen, Hubugiai and Fu Dung are all doing fairly well. Hansimen was, if not the only church, at least one of the very few churches in the city that were able to carry on without a break even during the difficult spring months of 1927. It is the hope of the Station that the long-talked-of new church building may soon be undertaken for this our oldest church in Nanking. The political organization which was holding the Hubugiai buildings finally left and services and school were resumed there in the fall. The congregation which had scattered somewhat during the months without a proper church home has come together again and is slowly getting back on the old basis. The increasing enrollment in the primary school since it opened last fall, and the local interest in the middle school, which we have not yet been able to reopen, indicate a real need in the district for these schools and an appreciation of their contribution.
Fu Dung has been fortunate in being under the leadership of Mr. Dju Gi Chang, who has stuck to his work during most discouraging times. The political trouble has hit the local support of the church very hard. Funds from non-Christian Chinese, who contributed to its educational and community service features, have been largely withdrawn, and the responsibility for work that formerly rested on a good sized staff has fallen on Mr. Dju alone. Nevertheless, besides church services and meetings, a small primary school has been carried on, and a clinic supported entirely by local funds has been held on alternate days during the week. Indications are that better times are ahead, and we hope that the years to come will justify to Mr. Dju his faithfulness in carrying on during this discouraging period. It is good to realize how well the work of these churches was carried on during the absence of most of the missionaries at the time of the evacuation this spring. It proves that work is organized on the basis of definite Chinese leadership and responsibility, though it is far from self-sustaining.

Country Work.

Although Mr. Drummond, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Mills have all made country trips, country work has been impossible for the foreign women owing to the presence of bandits. Chinese women evangelists, however, have not only made country trips, but in certain places they have been able to live for extended periods during the year. Mr. Drummond gives an interesting account of the activities of the Great Sword Society, which seems almost as dangerous as the communist propaganda which is rife in some other parts of China. The Great Sword Society is very active about Li Yang. It is made up of many independent bands formed for self-protection, and was originally secret in character. Their methods remind one of those of the Boxers of 1900. Incantations, idol worship, and the drinking of a magic potion to make them invulnerable precede their raids. So far they have not been anti-Christian; indeed in one or two places they seem specially to have respected Christian homes and places of worship. In the vicinity of Li
Yang they have killed more than 500 soldiers and civilians. In reprisal many of them were killed by the soldiers, who cooked and ate the hearts of their victims. The whole story gives one a renewed sense of how very thin is the veneer of anything like modern civilization in China, and inspires one with sympathy and respect for the educated men in the government who are trying to fit China for a worthy place in the family of nations.

The country evangelists and teachers have carried on the work of church and primary schools in spite of difficulties. There has been no great advance, but the work has gone on steadily, which is perhaps all we can ask for these unsettled days which are even more difficult for the Chinese than for the rest of us. Mr. Mills found the people very keen and practical in planning for a program of development to cover the next five years, at the end of which help from mission funds will gradually be reduced. There is real cause for encouragement here, and in the thoroughness with which the Board Survey questionnaire has been answered. Mr. Drummond also found conditions in the country churches full of encouragement and promise.

The Transfer of Work to Presbytery.

As far as the general work of the church is concerned, the most significant step of the year has been the giving over of the work of the Coöperation Committee to the Ning-Djen Presbytery of the Church of Christ in China. Hours and days of thought, planning, and committee meetings have gone into this. It has taken much patience and discussion, but we look upon it as a very definite step in advance for the Christian church. Account of this reorganization of our work is taken from Mr. Smith's report.

"Nine years ago in the Williams' sitting room a small company of foreigners met to plan for the reorganization of the Station in such a way as to allow for more Chinese representation. The result was the formation of the Station Coöperation Committee, which during the intervening years has
carried on the work which was once carried on solely by the Station. The Coöperation Committee was a splendid training school in inter-racial understanding for us all. But it has served its purpose. The Nationalist Movement of the past few years stimulated the development of the local presbytery, and there was a growing feeling of friction and over-lapping of authority between this court of the church and the Coöpera­tion Committee, which was always a creature of the Station. It was felt that some reorganization was necessary that would increase the power and dignity of the presbytery, remove the sources of friction, and at the same time conserve all that was good in the old organization. A small committee of the presbytery had been appointed to meet with a committee of the Station and effect some new plan of reorganization. There had been some preliminary meetings, or at least discussions, so that when a meeting of the two committees was called last October at the house of Mr. Drummond, it was possible to work out a plan which was substantially adopted later by the newly organized Ning-Djen Presbytery.

"The matter of turning over funds and functions to the Presbytery by the Nanking Station was somewhat complicated by the fact that this Presbytery is composed of two fields operated by different missions—the Southern Presbyterian Mission at Chinkiang and the Northern Presbyterian Mission at Nanking. In the new organization the two fields are kept distinct, and yet a certain amount of unity under the Presbytery is secured by the creation of regional branches of the Presbytery's executive committee, under which various sub­committees carry on the work formerly conducted by the Station and later by the Cooperation Committee. In the Nanking field, for example, the work is carried on by three sub­committees, Educational, Men's Evangelistic, and Women's Evangelistic. The members of these committees are chosen by the local churches, together with two representatives on each committee appointed by the Station. The Executive Committee is composed of seven members, three of whom must be members of the Station. In addition to the three foreigners, there are also the chairmen of the three committees and one member at
large. All actions of the sub-committees come before this Executive Committee. The moderator or vice-moderator, whichever happens to be a Nanking man, is chairman of the Executive Committee.

"It is too early as yet to know how efficiently and harmoniously the new organization is going to function. Like the old Cooperation Committee which it displaces it will probably have to undergo a good many changes before it fulfills all its requirements. It will develop as the Chinese church develops. Meanwhile it marks an important step in the growth of the Chinese church, for while the old Cooperation Committee was an organization of the mission station and responsible to it, the new organization is the creature of the Chinese church, and in the last analysis responsible to Presbytery. Such is the theory underlying the new organization, and it devolves upon us all to give reality to the theory. As a step in that direction the Station is proposing to turn over to the Presbytery, without strings, the current appropriation for evangelistic and primary educational work.

Bible Teachers Training School for Women.

Of all our union work, probably the Seminary and the Bible Teachers Training School suffered most severely at the hands of the soldiers in 1927; and not until this year has it been found possible to reopen. Miss Smawley, our representative on the Bible School faculty, has not returned, so I have no special report from the Bible Teachers Training School. It has carried on this year with smaller classes and only part of its plant. Organized a number of years ago by a group of women interested in training girls of middle school education for religious and evangelistic work, it has been carried on by the Northern and Southern Methodists, the Northern and Southern Presbyterians, the Christian, Baptist and Friends Missions. One half of the board of managers are mission representatives, and these coöpt the same number of independent members not responsible to any organization. Of late years several of the missions have felt that this is too large a number of coöpted members to make mission and church control
possible; and this year there have been requests from several of the co-operating missions that the board of managers be organized on a different basis, reducing the number of coöpted members. Theological, educational, and personal differences have made the whole question a very complicated one. Miss MacCurdy, our mission representative on the board, spoke with admiration of the dignity and fairness of spirit with which the discussions of the board on the question of reorganization were conducted. Unfortunately, it was felt that differences in attitude and policy between the coöpted members and the majority of mission representatives were so marked that a division in the school was necessary. The Board passed the following resolution:

"After having carefully considered the statement prepared by the members-at-large, and after urgent requests had been presented by a number of mission representatives, asking that the members-at-large should not separate from the body until all the missions who desire to do so should have an opportunity to consider the statement in their annual sessions, the following action was taken:

1. Voted that in our opinion a separation is necessary.

2. That this separation be accepted in principle at the present time.

3. That the final terms of separation shall be agreed upon not later than the annual meeting of this board in 1930; and that these shall be put into effect immediately after the meeting of that body.

4. That in order to carry on the school during this year of transition, we agree to the following:

   (a) That we postpone for one year the consideration of the letters from the missions, calling for changes in the constitution.

   (b) That we request the members-at-large to function in the present proportion during the year that has been specified.

   (c) That we request the present faculty to continue to function until the end of the next school year in June, 1930.

Action on this is, of course, left to the Home Board and the China Council, but the whole question calls for most careful study on the part of the mission during the coming year."
Union Church Sunday School.—A part of Miss Eleanor Wright's work.
W estm inster M all.—The new dormitory for Ming Deh Girls’ School.
The Theological Seminary.

The Theological Seminary reopened this year in the buildings of the Methodist Academy, as the Seminary buildings are still rented to the Supreme Court. There was considerable difficulty in getting back the Academy buildings, and it was only at the direct interference of Madame Chiang Kai-shek that the soldiers were finally removed. The fall term opened in November with an enrollment of 21 students, five of whom were in the entering class. This number has now risen to 31. The increased number of students is very encouraging, as it indicates returning confidence in the Seminary, and a determination of young men to prepare for the Christian ministry, in spite of the events of the last two years. It gives promise that there is a real place for the Seminary in the life of the church, and that the supply of Christian workers will not fail.

Mr. Smith expresses the problems of the Seminary in words that are very provocative of thought: "The Theological Seminary, like all the rest of our institutions, has come in for its share of questioning as to its usefulness and necessity in the new age on which we are entering. There is a growing conviction that the problem of securing an adequate leadership for the Chinese church is one of the biggest problems facing the church and the mission bodies. There has been a good deal of criticism of the product of the present theological education in China, and a searching for better ways of improving both the quality of candidates for the ministry and the courses of study offered to them. The Nanking Theological Seminary shared in this criticism, and is also sharing in the effort to improve the situation. Its Board of Managers and its faculty are open to all constructive suggestions for bettering the school, and for making it a more effective place for the training of prophets. It can do little, however, in raising the quality of its students except by a careful examination of their credentials. The students are sent to the Seminary by the various church bodies, and the faculty must accept what is offered and train them as best
it can. The Seminary cannot make candidates for the ministry. These must be created by the spirit of God and discovered by the church.

"Just what the future of the Seminary will be no one can tell. Many factors will enter into it. It may be decided best to reopen the Seminary in a new location, possibly nearer to the University of Nanking, so that students training for work in the rural church will be able to take advantage of the courses in rural life offered by the Agricultural Department of the University. It may be decided that there are too many theological schools at present, and that some of them should be closed. The Nanking school may be one of the latter. Another and more possible alternative may be the concentration of various grades and kinds of work in different institutions; e.g., it has been proposed that all advanced work for college graduates be confined to Yenching University, and that the regular course for students of middle school grade be given either at Shantung University or at Nanking.

"All of these possibilities are being talked about, and the Nanking Station should give some thought to the questions raised. Are we satisfied with the present product of the theological schools? Our workers are mostly graduates of the Nanking school. Have we any suggestions for the improvement either of the quality of the candidates or of the courses of instruction? Have we any ideas about the location and number of theological schools in which our mission is interested? These and other related questions are in the minds of many these days. Are they in our minds and are we giving them their due attention?"

The University of Nanking.

Mr. Buck and Mr. Thomson have been our representatives on the University staff this year, with Miss Priest, the treasurer, and Miss Van Vliet and Miss Hynds in the University Hospital, associated with our Presbyterian group here in Nanking. Dr. Y. G. Chen, a third generation Christian, has continued to serve as President of the University. The enrollment has been 949, and college work has gone steadily
forward. The spirit of the students has grown constantly better, and more thorough, settled work has been possible than was possible during the difficulties of last year, when unruly soldiers and political propaganda were both materially and mentally disturbing. The University has registered with the government, and so far has met with no special difficulties as a result.

Mr. Buck writes interestingly of some special research work which he has been doing in his department. The results of this research are shortly to appear in a book entitled, “Studies in Chinese Rural Economy.” “It is a detailed survey of a year's business on 2,866 farms in seventeen localities in seven provinces. The material will prove of special use in teaching work, since it has been difficult in the past to teach such practical courses as farm management with only the material which exists in western countries. However, the data also have larger aspects which are even of international importance. For instance, it is found that, while the price of labor in China is cheap, still high-priced labor in the United States can produce wheat as cheaply as do farmers in China. As a result of this research work, the Institute of Pacific Relations has seen fit to make the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management a considerable grant for the study of land utilization in China. This is a fine opportunity for the Department in that it gives opportunity for training students as well as for adding to the knowledge of agricultural conditions throughout China.

“That the work of the College of Agriculture is appreciated by the new Nationalist Government is evidenced by increased requests from government bureaus and other national organizations for information pertaining to agricultural economic conditions and for recommendations of graduates who have had training in the same subject. There is now a demand for a number of such men which cannot be filled because of the dearth of men who have specialized in these particular subjects. Associated with this increased interest on the part of governmental and private organizations, students are also taking a more active interest in this line of
work, as is shown by the greater number of students now specializing in the Department.”

The great problem of the University to the missionary members of the staff is the religious problem. Mr. Thomson writing on this subject says, “In 1927 about thirty foreign missionary teachers were lost to the University. For various reasons only five foreign missionary teachers are at present serving on the staff, and the outward expression of the religious life of the college is at a distressingly low ebb. The difficulty of securing Christian Chinese teachers for college work cannot be exaggerated, but one wonders at times whether the Chinese administration feels this lack as keenly as do the foreigners. Properly qualified Chinese Christian teachers are so few that the administration is constantly forced to put educated non-Christians in places of leadership and authority. This cannot but be detrimental to the Christian influence of the institution, and is a cause of deepest concern to many of us.”

That there is, in spite of the many difficulties, a real and vital religious life in the University is evident from the report of another member of the staff who writes, “The Christian activities in the University have been going on as usual, except that the instruction in religion and religious services are voluntary rather than compulsory. In attending religious services one is, of course, impressed with the smaller attendance as compared with former times, when all were compelled to be present whether or not they so desired. But numbers do not tell the whole story, and one cannot help feeling that the quality of the services is greatly improved by having only those there who really desire to be there. There is a good nucleus of Christian students and faculty members, and as one attends the services on Sunday which are entirely handled by the Chinese, one cannot help but feel that religion is a definite part of the University life which is embedded to stay, no matter what may happen in other aspects of the University life.”

A paragraph in Mrs. Buck’s report gives an interesting and encouraging view of the mind of the Chinese student as
she has encountered it in the contacts of the class-room, especially along the line of the students' attitude towards religion. "I have had three classes this year, two in the government university and one in our own University of Nanking. It has been interesting to me to observe my students closely, not only from the point of view of seeing the quality of their work, but most of all to see and comprehend what changes have taken place in them since the revolution. The pre-revolutionary student I knew well, and also the violent, radical, intemperate-minded student of the revolution. This student—the post-revolutionary—is different from all others. Much of his extreme idealism is gone. The revolution has come and gone and his dreams of magic changes have not been fulfilled. The new government has many of the faults of the old. He sees at last that human nature is not fundamentally changed by revolutions, that such changes come more gradually and only after greater effort. I find, therefore, that my students of this year have more gravity and more steadiness than the students of the previous four years. They are more reasonable in their outlook. Moreover, they conceive their duty to be study and preparation for life rather than political agitation. They are somewhat disillusioned, particularly those who were active participants in the agitations of the last years, and yet I do not find pessimism of an extreme nature, partly. I think, because the new government has accomplished enough to warrant belief that it is trying to improve conditions in the country, and partly, too, because these students have learned by experience that violent methods do not accomplish a great deal actually. I have been able this year to talk more freely than for several years past on the subject of religion. Much of the prejudice against religion and against Christianity is gone or is weakened. Students, while opposed to superstition in any form, are seeing that a man must have personal liberty in religion and are willing to consider religion as a field for thought and talk, at least. This is a distinct change."
The University Hospital

The Station has been without a representative on the staff of the University Hospital during the past year. We have, therefore, no detailed report of the institution. It is evident, however, that the hospital perhaps more than any other of our institutions is showing the adverse effects of the depletion of its missionary staff. It is well known that as at present conducted it is not rendering the efficient, Christian service to the community that it has rendered in past years. There was a general disorganization of the hospital during the time when it was outside the control of the University. The task of reorganization has been difficult and has been made more difficult by serious problems of administration and by the shortage of missionary doctors. The two foreign doctors and three foreign nurses have given their best, but the task has been greater than their strength. It is confidently expected that a change in the administration of the hospital and an increase in the foreign staff will do much to bring this institution back to its former position of usefulness to the community. We as a Mission must assume our share of the responsibility for any lack there may have been this year in the service of the hospital, for we have not supplied our quota on the foreign staff.

Ginling College.

One of the big events of the year was the inauguration of Dr. Yi-fang Wu as President of Ginling College, succeeding Mrs. Thurston. Mrs. Thurston's retirement from administrative office after her years of absolutely devoted leadership of the College has made us all realize the strength and magnitude of her service to China. Ginling Chinese faculty and students held the College from military occupation during the spring and summer months of 1927—a task calling for ability, and moral and physical courage of no mean order. Students of the College have kept their heads and stuck to their studies in the face of political propaganda and of what amounted at times to social persecution. The work has
gone steadily on and is of a high standard. These facts all bear testimony to the strength of the foundations laid by Mrs. Thurston and her associates during the early years of the College. The expressions of love and admiration that came to Mrs. Thurston at the time of Dr. Wu's inauguration from Ginling girls of all classes must have assured her that her contribution to China has been not only in splendid buildings, efficient administration and excellent instruction, but still more in helping to form devoted and loyal lives that look to her as an inspiring and directing force. Mrs. Thurston is returning to Ginling to teach next year.

Dr. Wu, the new president, is a member of the first class to graduate from Ginling College. She is a woman of excellent scholarship, and of quiet strength and Christian personality, which makes those of us who love Ginling look forward with confidence to the years to come. Her inauguration was an occasion of dignity and charm that made us all very proud of what the College can do. The numbers of students enrolled this year are still considerably below normal. This is partly due to the present situation to which one becomes rather weary of alluding; but also to the fact that all of the mission universities, except St. John's, now admit women as undergraduates, and also that many mission schools, some of whose graduates normally entered Ginling, have had to close temporarily. This reduction in numbers may be only for a time. At any rate, I think few people question the definite and individual contribution that a women's college has to make to the educational life of China.

In Conclusion.

After reading the report of our religious and educational work, it seems that on the whole things are going well. Work has been slower than we hoped to reopen, but that is better than unwise haste which may produce much to be undone. The two great problems before the church are those of self-support and of an adequate presentation of the Christian way
of life to the educated Chinese. There are hundreds of educated Chinese in this capital city who are nominally Christians, but who have no connection with the church life of the city. The church itself has weathered the storm, and public opinion is friendly to it.

In addition to the problems of organization, there have been personal problems so general, so immediate, and so absorbing that no report of the year would be complete without them. For parents it has been a question whether it is fair to children to bring them up in an atmosphere of tension, so that it is possible for a small five-year-old to ask, "Mother, when the soldiers shoot us this time, we'll go to Shanghai, won't we?" It is difficult to become used to the rudeness one meets along the street from people among whom we have lived for years, and we hate to subject our children to it. But these are minor matters and concern only a few of us. Of much greater importance are the questions of readjustment that arise from our relations with the Chinese workers. While we have been particularly fortunate in Nanking that the revolution has brought almost no friction between Chinese and foreign workers as such, as it has in many places, yet there are many perplexities and questions. During the enforced absence of the foreign group from Nanking, most of their duties of leadership, administration, and initiative devolved upon Chinese Christians. We had long been talking of this change, but actual preparation for it had not been very great. Many of these duties have been bravely carried; some not so well; some not wisely at all according to our western standards. What is to be our relation to these responsibilities now that we have returned? Let me quote from various reports, which reflect the uncertainties of individuals.

"It has been a year." as one person writes, "of doing just whatever we could." Reorientation in work in which we had a part is not easy. One member writes: "The question as to just how far we ought to go in actual leadership personally is a delicate one, as one would not in any way wish to make these Chinese leaders feel they have to give up any of the initiative they have developed during the period when the
foreigners were away from the city.” From another report—
“It seems to me that in the matters of initiative we will have
to undergo the greatest amount of re-orientation. We like
to see things done with some despatch and efficiency. It is
hard on our patience to stand by while we wait for our
Chinese co-workers to take the initiative; painfully to train
up those who can take our places, allowing them to do those
things which we could do so much more easily and quickly
ourselves; yet the price must be paid if the Chinese church
is to develop initiative and recover from the habit of depen­
dency which afflicts so many of our workers.” Here again
is the expression of like difficulties: “At times the mission­
aries in Nanking are tempted to discouragement at the many
interruptions to our work and at the obstacles which seem
to block our paths. The Christian work has suffered greatly
in the last few years, and seems most slow in opening up
again. The missionaries are standing aside, waiting to advise
and help the Chinese wherever their help is needed, and hoping
the Chinese will continue to keep the leadership they under­
took when the foreigners were forced to leave. We are seeing
many mistakes made, many problems remain unsolved, or at
least are not solved as westerners would solve them, and many
undertakings seem to be bungled.”

From one in school work comes this summary of the
situation that expresses a very general experience, but is hope­
ful in its tone: “It is easy for us foreigners to criticize many
things under Chinese administration. For instance, from our
western point of view, school discipline may seem lax, and
management of certain affairs may seem to lack efficiency.
However, it may be in spite of these faults, which especially
trouble us as occidentals, the ultimate value of the school for
the Chinese will be increased in proportion as things are done
in ways which do not clash with oriental standards and
manners as much as some of our western struggles for the
utmost efficiency. For after all, some times we have been
so absorbed in being efficient that the cultivation of greater
values has been neglected. On the other hand, our Chinese
friends may learn through experience that western standards
of discipline and efficiency are necessary for the best development of a school in China."

There is nothing pessimistic in the admission of these difficulties. They are real and very disturbing. They drive us in on ourselves to study what our contribution is to be, to seek for the mind of Christ; and they should certainly make us more dependent on Him in carrying on His work. He was with us in our days of exaltation; He will be with us in our daily and personal difficulties; and I think as we look back we may find that this year of enforced quiet and questioning has been one of very real spiritual gain.
PERSONNEL.

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