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REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1915.

FACTS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I. Use of Time. From the work in Hankow to our Chinese Association in Tokyo, then back to the States for two months for my new partner in the work, and returning to China to set up our home in Tientsin - all this in a year's time - means, as you can readily imagine, a most interesting and profitable twelve-months. Language study and my work in the Association have no doubt suffered from the long travel and consequent interruption of my service but the experiences of the year have been rich and happy and I trust to be of greater usefulness because of them all.

II. Hankow. Last fall in Hankow and Wuchang, really one great center, it was my privilege to have a small part in the Eddy campaign and to see with my own eyes the awakening of a new interest in Christianity on the part of the great student class. The closing meeting of the series I shall not soon forget. The scene presented that night I presume was much like that occasioned by the meetings of this National evangelistic campaign in the eleven other centres.

The Governor of the province had given orders for the courtyard of the famous "Heroes' Temple" to be arranged for the holding of these avowedly religious meetings, a mat shed was erected over the open court, electric lights were installed, and benches were made to give the whole area its full seating capacity. A large platform was erected at one end of the courtyard opposite the high altar, on which only a few days before incense had been burned for the spirits of the "heroes" whose names were there enshrined in tablets and whose portraits were hung over the altar. These "heroes" by the way, were the first men to suffer death in the Revolution and though of low station in life were honored in their death by the dedication of this temple to their memory.

Here on this warm October night I saw the courtyard crowded to overflowing with men and boys eager to hear Mr. Eddy's final message. Some of the benches were at the very foot of the altar and the speakers could see over the heads of the great audience and above the altar the tablets and portraits of the "heroes". A strange setting indeed for an evangelistic meeting, but one very typical of the changed conditions in old China. The old conservatism is slowly yielding ground with the incoming of new ideas from the West, the old temple worship is falling into decay, and Christianity has right

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now a hearing which I presume the older missionaries not many years ago would have hardly dared to hope for.

In Hankow I had the pleasure for a few weeks of helping to organize athletics among the boys of the day school in the Central Association, which is now occupying temporary quarters on the splendid lot bought by Hankow friends for the new building soon to be erected. The large unoccupied space was cleared of rubbish and was soon the daily scene of all sorts of impromptu sports. A race track was hardly laid out before the younger boys were enthusiastically racing around the oval. Not only did these Chinese school boys indulge in broad and high jumping, running, and other western sports but were stimulated to the playing of their own native games, a development we hardly looked for and one suggestive of the possibilities for a revival of China's ancient games and sports. In many ways I was sorry to leave the work with these Hankow boys but my six weeks' stay there was soon over and I was off to Japan, where our Chinese Student Association in Tokyo was urgently needing reinforcements.

Before dismissing the Wu-Han centre, however, I should tell you of a most interesting and inspiring meeting held in the auditorium of the Wuchang Association one Sunday afternoon last fall. The occasion was the Day of Prayer for Peace called by President Yuan Shih Kai. In the proclamation he called upon all Christians throughout China to assemble on this Sunday for prayer that the European war might come to a speedy close. The meeting at the Association building was a union one in more than the sense of its being a joining of all the mission forces and native churches in Wuchang. For the gathering was truly international in its makeup and the spirit of Christian brotherhood pervading it was striking and significant. England and Germany, China and Japan, America and one or two other nations were represented by Christian citizens. The American Consul presided and read President Wilson's call for a Day of Prayer for Peace. The Scripture reading was by an English missionary. Prayer was offered by the German pastor of Hankow and by the Japanese Vice-Consul, an earnest Christian layman. Do you wonder that the hearts of all present were touched by such a gathering at such a time in a so-called heathen country?

III. Tokyo - Chinese Students. Coming to the work among the Chinese students in Tokyo, I wish I might take you with me to that interesting student center, probably the largest in the world, and look in upon the work in our two buildings there, both of them well-equipped and in addition to the dormitories furnishing the regular Association facilities for the development of all-around manhood. Regular Sunday meetings and midweek Bible classes as well as large mass meetings for special evangelistic efforts have for several

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years now been sending many of these progressive young Chinese back to their homes in the different provinces, earnest Christians or eager seekers after the truth. Several of the younger leaders now influential in the national life of China made their start as Christians in the Association work in Tokyo. In the dormitory where I lived and worked there were last winter three former members of the Republican Parliament and a number of men who had seen active service during the Revolution.

But in my previous reports I have already acquainted you with some of the more interesting aspects of our Tokyo work, especially some personal experiences that were mine at Waseda. Just now I should like to tell you of the united effort which the Chinese churches and the Association in Tokyo have made and are making toward the winning of these men for Christ.

This work for the Chinese was really one splendid piece of cooperation, though the casual observer might see only the three separate bodies independently organized and at work. There were two churches, the Episcopal and the Methodist, with regular Chinese pastors and a small but interested membership, and the Young Men's Christian Association with its two branches, larger membership, and larger staff of workers. Under the peculiar circumstances of this Chinese work in Japan, cooperation was felt to be not only desirable but quite essential. Small differences in method and natural divisions of the work disappeared. All three organizations worked together for one thing - the winning of men to Christ. Pastors and church missionaries served on Association committees, spoke at our meetings, and led Bible study groups. Association secretaries in turn were active in the churches, served on church committees, and in general lived up to their obligations as zealous laymen. Being a very small community of Christian workers, all were brought close together and without regard to nationality or denominational connection cooperated in the fullest sense in this His work for Chinese students.

IV. Tientsin. Boys' work in Tientsin! Yes, that is the work to which we have come and right glad we are to be able so soon after coming to specialize in a department where the need is so great and the field so ripe and promising. Work among boys in all parts of China is getting more attention these days and the opportunities for promoting it are compelling in their attractiveness. But there is particular need and a peculiar opportunity in the large port cities, especially in those where our general work is well developed and equipped. In but one of these cities at present, Shanghai, is there a well organized work for boys. So it is with especial pleasure that I have come to Tientsin to help in this work of moulding the boy life of a great city.

With a splendid modern building in complete running order-including attractive rooms for the boys - with a large force of competent secretaries, and with the substantial support of some of the leading citizens here, conditions are surely right for promoting a boys' work with a city-wide outlook and a large objective. Tientsin, too, as a city has already done much to care for the rising generation of boys in its over a hundred primary and middle schools which enroll something like 12,000 students. The middle schools of China correspond in the ages of their students more nearly to our colleges and it is they who have furnished along with the colleges such a large and responsive field to the student Association work. But here in Tientsin, as probably in other cities, the much larger field afforded by the primary schools, enrolling boys from ten to about seventeen years old, has been practically untouched. For these boys in their early teens we believe the Association has a message and is prepared to work.

With over 400 boys already in our membership, you can see that there is much to be done right within our doors. These boys, most of them in our day or night school, we shall surely not overlook, but we hope to carry our appeal for a clean, strong, unselfish manhood out into the schools and into the communities of working boys as well, beyond the vicinity of our building. Could you see these schools teeming with uniformed, bright-eyed boys and the numberless workshops with their manly boy toilers, you would be as eager as we are for the Association to help them to a vision of the full rich life that may be theirs in the Christ and in His service.

PROBLEMS, DIFFICULTIES, and HINDRANCES

In this report I hardly need to repeat what I said a year ago regarding the difficulties in the way of continuous and satisfactory language study. My attempts to get in a second year's study along with my work at Hankow and Tokyo resulted in only a little more than the completion of the first year's course of study. After the eight months in the language school I believe a man could accomplish more in six months by isolating himself in a Chinese community and giving himself exclusively to study than he could in two years' time having a few hours a day of broken study.

Both in Hankow and in Tokyo I was impressed with the serious problems arising in the work from the frequent change of secretaries. The Committee is undoubtedly acquainted with these situations and I need not go into details here. In Hankow, also, I believe very serious injury to the work resulted from the long delay of building operations. The constituency in our Chinese cities is not so patient as would be the case at home and they cannot understand the difficulties in

the way of delivering buildings to the work in China. Even the native boards of directors get impatient over long delays and lose something of their enthusiasm for the work.

Along with these rather natural difficulties goes another equally obvious to anyone acquainted with our work in China; namely, the lack of native leaders for our various activities, both as employed and as voluntary workers. This need is especially felt in the purely religious work, such as Bible study, and in view of the opportunities lying open before us is a source of real anxiety and concern. In the native church membership outside of the pastors and our own secretaries, it is very difficult to find even a few men qualified to lead the Bible classes that can be so easily organized if proper leadership is assured. Prayer that God will raise up a body of native leaders equal to the reaping of the ripening harvest is an urgent duty forced upon us all alike by China's present condition of openmindedness.

This problem of leadership of course confronts us in the boys' work but is made easier by the wide range of activities in our program and the possibilities of developing leaders through summer camp work and auxiliary movements like the Boy Scouts. Just at present there is urgent need of a Chinese Boys' Work secretary here in Tientsin. The men on our staff fitted for this position cannot be released from other work that is pressing but we hope before long to have a new man in training for this work with boys.

Among the hundred or so "primary schools" in Tientsin, which enroll boys from eight to seventeen years old, we have found some opposition on the part of the principals to the Association's promotion of sports and athletics. These men are much less in sympathy with western ideas than the middle school and university teachers and are in some cases extremely conservative. The principal of one of the largest of these primary schools is a Mohammedan and while cordial to our secretaries went so far as to expel one or two boys who joined the Association last year. This opposition is now gradually weakening, we believe, and through careful cultivation of the higher educational authorities we hope before long to secure a general change of front among these primary school heads.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While I still feel rather too new in Tientsin to be entirely clear as to the right policy in our Boys' Work here this year, yet in the main two objectives stand out in my mind as demanding our best efforts for attainment. The first is to

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reach with a carefully planned program of Bible study and religious meetings the four hundred boys in our membership who are under twenty years of age. The second is to effect some sort of a solid approach to the primary schools, so as to begin work for their students in a very definite, if not in a very extensive way. These two pieces of work, one intensive and the other extensive, will constitute our chief objectives for the year.

With such a splendid field for work among boys and with so good a base for operations, one may understand how eager I am to insure a long enough stay here to see the Boys' Work established on a permanent footing. If I can be set aside for a number of years for this attractive task, I shall indeed be happy: for I believe in this way I can best make whatever contribution I am capable of making to the work of the Church in China. And with such possibilities of service for the boy life of this city before one, it would seem little short of a real wrong to attempt much toward the two objectives mentioned if the work were not sure of continuance and proper follow-up in the years just ahead.

DISTRIBUTION OF TIME

In the past year my time has been divided as follows: September 30, 1914-Nov. 16, Wuchang and Hankow; Nov. 17-24, en route to Tokyo; Nov. 25-April 24, Chinese student work at Waseda in Tokyo; April 25-May 10, enroute to America; May 11-July 15, marriage and visit at my home in Maine; July 16-Sept 7, en route to China, stopping in New York, Lancaster, Pa., Kansas City, Missouri, and Kobe; Sept. 8-30, settling in Tientsin and preparing for Boys' Work here. This would total approximately

Association work-8 months

Travel, vacation, and marriage- 4 months.

My language study would be equal to about three hours a day for four months.

In concluding this report I should like to express my gratitude to the Foreign Department, to the China National Committee, and to Mr. Brockman and Mr. Wilbur for the kindness and consideration shown me this past year.