

the time has not come to train native nurses for China. I need scarcely present to you the result of turning out upon any country (least of all a country in a state of ferment that China is in to-day) an army of slip-shod, careless nurses, in their turn to instruct nurses certainly not less careless and slip-shod.

But there is in China a small number of doctors and nurses who believe that the time has come to give nursing as a profession to the student class in China—the very magnitude of the work demands it—and if this is the case, the best we can send is not too good. This small company also believes that its motto is “The greatest good to the greatest number,” ultimately. In several hospitals, more or less, I should say less, successful attempts have been made to train the lower classes as nurses. In St. James Hospital, Anking, on the Yantse River (where I have been for the past two years) has been made the first attempt, so far as I know, in Central China, to establish a training school in connection with the hospital, thus giving nursing as a profession to the student class of mandarin-speaking men and women. I think I may say so far it has not been unsuccessful. In the next five years it should prove a success, and will doubtless be adopted by all the hospitals. If the profession is to claim and hold the best of the student class, it will be through the services of nurses, the best our hospitals can train—capable, attractive, adaptable women, who know what it is to fight, and love it—who are not afraid to meet difficulty and overcome it.

If now we can give nursing to the student class of China, we will give our profession in the Empire a forward impetus of a hundred years at least; for if now the profession is given to the lower class, the evolution by which it will come to its own will be painful and slow—how long will China have to look for a Nightingale?

The standard of good work has already been raised there. I know of one nurse from Blockley, Philadelphia. She is doing splendid work. She has been doing the work, nominally, of two women—it should be allotted to three. How long can she keep on if nobody goes out to help her? I don't know. What will she do? Will she be content to lower her standard of work and give less than her best because of the great pressure on her? I think not. Will she give up and come home rather than give less than her best? Maybe so. Will she drop at her work, or, worse, ruin her health? Will we let her? Will you and I miss such an opportunity? I know a nurse from my own school (Boston City), a Johns Hopkins nurse,

a Roosevelt nurse, a Wellesley woman in the Yale mission—she is still contending with the language. In a year she will open, on American lines, Dr. Hume's Hospital at Chang Sha, where the Yale mission is located. How long before she'll be begging for an assistant? You can't teach in practice and theory, direct the training school, know about every patient and inspect every corner in the hospital, and be the operating room nurse, and do it all well!

People say, “There's so much to do here, why not do it first?” Just because in the attitude of China at present there is an opportunity that will not wait; it must be grasped now, or in a few years it will have gone on to the place of lost opportunity, another witness to selfishness and neglect.

A friend was asking me of my work, and I said, “Oh, it's really a big situation to be slung, and of course its fun to sling it.” She said, “But why can't you do the little thing so close, instead of going way out there?” Well, the thing I'm trying to do just now is to help the people who have said, “We will crush tuberculosis out of our land,” and it isn't in any sense little, but, this country once thoroughly aroused to its danger, how long will it take? Some people say—years. How many are there prepared to fight, compared with those equipped to intelligently fight in China?

In the United States are 90 million; in China 400 million.

In the United States are 152,000 physicians and surgeons; in China, 207 men and 93 women doctors.

Many people here are superintendents of great training schools—you can't go out there—I'd be the last to want you to; some of you are an inspiration daily to every nurse who works under you, but you might find ways to let your nurses *know*—you want them to be broad, you might have people let them know—what their profession is doing in foreign lands.

“But these people have their religions.” There are Confucianists, and Buddhists, and Mohammedans—yes, they have—and Buddhism and Mohammedanism and that splendid moral code of Confucius are, I believe, that salt that has saved China.

But are they affecting the life of China to-day? No, they are not. They've done their work, and they are dead. Have we nothing to give China more vital to take their place?

People will say, “Oh, it is all right to give them medical aid—but Christianity, I don't believe in it.” Oh, don't you? Go out then, and look at the women and the little children in China and maybe you'll feel that you'd like to give them something. Have you something

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)