

The maternity hospital was started in 1907. Some Chinese ladies approached Dr. Duncan Main as to the possibility of starting a maternity hospital with a training school for native women. At first he refused, as he had no lady helper, for the English nurse was then studying the language, but finally a midwifery training school was opened, the ladies having promised the greater part of the fund, so eager were they to arrest the cruel practices of the "bo-bos" or midwives.

Ninety applicants sent in their names without delay, and twenty were chosen. They were not prepossessing in appearance, for although all came from respectable homes, they were far from clean in person, and their long nails, denoting superior position, presented another difficulty to be overcome. The first lecture was necessarily

on personal cleanliness and the importance of short nails, and for quite a long time it was ludicrous to see only the right hand nails cut. But gradually, by lectures, and being in constant contact with the English doctor and nurse, the nails of both hands were shortened, and the all-important point of cleanliness was observed.

For various reasons, four out of the twenty students left, and the remaining sixteen passed their examinations very creditably, and were succeeded by others, and the good work is still progressing.

At the completion of their training the students return to their own towns and villages, and are able to carry on their work on Western lines. One student trained as a nurse and midwife, and later came to England to perfect her training and take her L.O.S. certificate.

It is delightful to think of the useful future of such well-equipped women, destined to attend ladies and women of all classes and to supplant the old "bo-bos." The harm these ignorant women have done with their terrible practices, causing such suffering of women in their confinements, is beyond our imagination.

Some of the nurses have become Christians;

and may they be endowed with power to live consistent lives and draw others to the knowledge of Christ!

If China is to become a Christian country, the natives themselves will have to make the great advance, and what better way of extending Christianity than by training those who desire to enter upon this form of Christian work? They have shown keen interest, and it is encouraging to hear that the effect of the teaching is seen in their patience and perseverance.

The natives have the advantage over the foreigner, although it is our duty and privilege to help and guide them all we can. We labour under difficulties of climate, customs, and language, whereas they are thoroughly conversant and can more clearly explain themselves and more fully sympathise in their joys and sorrows, and are able

to penetrate into the homes, and win their way to the hearts of the people.

With a sense of thankfulness we learn of the wonderful progress that has been made, and know it is all worth while, but how much more rapidly the work would spread if the supply of workers was more adequate, and if we recognised our mission of passing on to those who are through various circumstances more fitted than

ourselves to carry on this great work the knowledge of the art of ministering to the sick, through which Christ is often revealed.

Yours faithfully,

RHODA METHERELL.

#### NATIONAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

The eighteenth annual report states that during the past year the work of the Hospital had been well maintained. Of Lord Iveagh's gift to the Dublin Hospitals, the institution has received £1,500, which it was intended to devote to the building of new labour wards, bathrooms, and additional sanitary accommodation, the want of which had long been felt.



MATERNITY HOSPITAL, HANGCHOW. MOTHERS AND NURSES.

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