

Health to the Nanking Government, and other officials came to take charge.

Later, Sir John Hope Simpson, of England, was appointed as Director of the Commission. The Commission was divided into five sections. Food, Clothing, Hygiene and Sanitation, Rehabilitation and Dyke repairs.

The Hygiene and Sanitation department quickly began work, and asked for the co-operation of the local medical Groups, mostly missionaries. The writer was asked to act as Director of Nursing for the six emergency hospitals that they planned to open. Eventually eight hospitals and many clinics were opened.

Units of Nurses had arrived from Peking and Shanghai and were waiting to be graded and appointed to the various centres.

The Boone College in Wuchang had already offered their beautiful Library to serve as a hospital and it was here that the first unit of nurses began work. There are three cities at this great river junction. Hankow and Wuchang being one on each side of the river Yangtse and a smaller city of Hanyang on the other side of the

these hospitals were soon filled with patients suffering from cholera and dysentery, and at any moment a visitor entering one or other of the hospitals could see the Chinese nurses hard at work assisting with intravenous injections of saline solution, the routine treatment for cholera patients. Other groups of doctors and nurses worked at great pressure seeking to inoculate the refugees in the camps, their numbers increasing daily as they did, making the work very difficult. When inoculation finished vaccination began on a mass scale as the death-rate among children from smallpox was very high.

Two hospitals were opened on Black Hill and the Staff of the Union Hospital with the student nurses of the School of Nursing moved from the ship when it was withdrawn, to the Black Hill No. 2 hospital. They also had a large Isolation camp near by for the smallpox patients.

Rice was distributed in all the camps for some weeks and then as the multitude of hungry refugees became too large a host to feed, the distribution ceased. Fears were entertained for some days that rioting would result, but shortly, shiploads of American wheat began to arrive.



PART OF BLACK HILL CAMP, OCTOBER, 1931.

Note the tiny huts in which the refugees lived by families. December—104,000 refugees.

river Han which runs out of the Yangtse. They are collectively called Wuhan.

Four hospitals were opened in Wuchang, three in Hanyang and two in Hankow. One of those in Hankow was housed in the ship. The China International Famine Relief Commission sent up a cargo boat from Shanghai to help. It was adapted and prepared as a hospital ship and proved a great success, though, alas, it could not stay more than a month or two.

It was anchored out in the River Yangtse and two small steam launches plied up and down, fetching patients from the dykes where refugees were congregated.

As the Union Mission Hospital suffered heavily in the floods, its staff divided in two parties, and took charge of the ship and also the Base Hospital which was housed in a school for the Blind building belonging to the Wesleyan Mission.

On Black Hill, already referred to and on Pagoda Hill and Mei Chia Hill, large mat sheds were erected to serve as hospitals. The Peking Union Medical College sent a large contingent to staff the hospitals in Wuchang. All of

and this was ground into flour and given out to the refugees. At the time of writing (January) flour distribution is continuing. Enough flour is given to sustain life but not enough to count a sufficiency and the destitution is great. Some of the patients carried into hospital are literally skeletons, many having died of starvation. On Black Hill two large white cement domes mark the spot where five hundred men and women lie buried, victims of those awful days at the beginning of the flood.

As Xmas drew near, many kind friends were wishful to help the refugees and money was given to buy extra food, clothing, etc. Ten cases of old clothing came from the Mayor of Manchester, and willing hands helped to cut them up and remake them into suitable garments of a Chinese shape.

Cadbury's cocoa firm sent a ton of cocoa, while a Dutch firm sent a large consignment of Quinine. In the Black Hill Hospitals the nurses did their best to cheer the patients. Good meals, extra fruit, etc., were provided and woollen clothing. On the evening of Xmas Eve we processed round the mat shed wards with red candles singing Xmas carols

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