

HOSPITAL OF UNIVERSAL LOVE, HANKOW, CHINA.

The Annual Report for 1940 of the Methodist General Hospital, Hankow, is indeed a solace in this faithless age. It is gratifying, it states, that in spite of war conditions and difficulties the work of mercy was carried on without any interruption or hindrance. It was a record year in the history of Methodist Medical Mission Service in Central China, as shown by the statistics as compared with those of previous years. Whatever success was achieved in the past was, in the main, due to the supplications, prayers and gifts of our friends and supporters in the British Isles, who in these days of trials and tribulations, distress and suffering, had not neglected the physical and spiritual needs of their fellowmen living in this part of the world. To these godly and kindly folk we owe a debt of deep gratitude for their continued aid to the noble cause. To them we extend our real sympathy in their national struggle for freedom, justice and righteousness. We are also indebted to the International Red Cross Committee for Central China for its subsidy and interest in our activities. Above all, we are full of thanks to God for guidance and help in enabling us to find a solution to many a problem.

In this spirit the work of a hospital is sure to succeed. We turn, of course, with deep interest to the Report of that great example to nurses, Miss Gladys E. Stephenson, the Matron, who has made the Nursing School of this hospital a nursing star in the East.

Matron's Report.

"Thanks be to God who always causeth us to triumph." How very truly we can echo these words at the close of the year's work. "Yet not distressed" was the keynote of 1939. Lack of staff, rising prices, greater pressure of work, instruments and drugs hard to obtain, so many such-like difficulties, yet as St. Paul found, in it all "not distressed" because we knew the work was God's and He was in it.

1940 has seen the hospital not only recover its former strength but go into greater usefulness than ever in its history. "God has indeed caused us to triumph."

Returning from furlough in June, 1940, I found the O.P.D. crowded daily, beyond anything we had known before, and every dept. in the hospital booming. The Doctors' Library, a Diet Kitchen, the former Jubilee Kitchen dept., and part of the Ante-Natal dept. that could be spared had all been turned into extra wards to give increased accommodation to patients.

Prices of all living commodities were mounting in a fantastic manner, causing anxiety and apprehension to the people, and yet day by day amongst those engaged in His work, joy and confidence abounded as we watched our faithful Lord supplying our need and showing us how to meet these trying conditions.

It was a joy to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Russell to Hankow, and Mrs. Gedye, Ian and Miss Nancy Gedye, who arrived with Miss Ridge in November. Mrs. Gedye kindly came to our help in the busy pharmacy and assisted Mr. Wu, the dispenser, during the crowded hours of Out-Patient Clinics. The Medical Committees had appointed Miss Nancy Gedye to the staff here to replace Miss Driver, who was urgently needed at Shih-Huei-Yao, down river. Miss Driver has been with us for six years, and it is hard to express in words just how valuable her contribution in life and work has been to us. Having a full-time Sister in charge of the women's wards has immeasurably raised the standard of the nursing care given to the patients, and has given the young Ward Sisters the supervision and help that has meant so much to their efficiency.

The equipment of the wards, the nursing technique, the care of the patients, and the oversight of the daily routine,

all have greatly benefited by Miss Driver's devotion and skill. Her artistic gifts, her ability in teaching nursing technique, her attention to the social side of the nurse's life, the daily physical games and drill, all have been of great value to the hospital and School of Nursing, and her going will be a very real loss to us.

The Sunday School also will greatly miss her; several of the nurses have learned to take a share in the teaching of the children under her care.

We much enjoyed furnishing the new residence for Nurses together as soon as I returned. We had hoped to have a good deal of new furniture for it, but with conditions as they were and the impossible prices we made the best of what we had, with the addition of some essential tables and chairs for the dining and sitting rooms.

A painter was kept at work for some weeks painting up old furniture and some new wicker chairs and sofas. When it was all ready with the colourful new curtains and cushions brought out from England, the result was very attractive and we were all delighted. The staff Nurses' sitting-room was grey and blue with some touches of pink and the students' sitting-room was brown, green and primrose in colour.

For some years we had been collecting things for the equipment of the Lecture Hall, and the cupboards for nursing demonstration teaching, and it all seemed much more complete than we had anticipated. The Nurses were very happy and excited over it all. This very week a senior nurse who has finished her training said, "Oh, I can't bear to leave you all and our beautiful new building."

The stained glass windows, which travelled so well from England and were put up into the recently acquired hospital Chapel, were unveiled the same day that the Nurses' school was opened. It was a most happy, memorable day, a great landmark in the history of the School of Nursing.

The one-time Blind School compound is now an extension of the hospital compound and has given the staff its much-needed accommodation and privacy.

With the coming of the new class of nurses in the autumn we were able to relieve the pressure on the nursing staff and dispense with V.A.D. Nurses. More nurses were assigned to the maternity department, the O.P.D. and some to night duty.

Mr. Stanley Wang has continued his excellent management of the Out-Patient Dept. this year as well as assisting with the teaching in the School of Nursing. Miss Paula Sen, one of our staff Nurses, secured a scholarship to the Peking Union Medical College for a post-graduate course, and we look forward to her return before the summer.

The one and only department we have not yet re-staffed is the Public Health one, and as travelling round to the homes of the patients was not easy, nor was much school work being done, the problem was not a pressing one. Now, however, that things are easier, we hope before long to have a specially trained Nurse giving her full time to the opportunities available in this field of work.

The School Report for the Year.

We shall refer to this in our next issue as it is too valuable to curtail.

WORDS FOR THE MONTH.

"What's got by Justice is establisht sure;
No Kingdoms got by Rapine long endure."

Herrick.

Grant me, indulgent Heaven, that I may live
To see the miscreants feel the pain they give;
Deal freedom's sacred treasure free as air,
Till slave, and despot, be but things which were.

—R. BURNS.

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