requirements. Over two thousand nurses were thus able to graduate, right in the teeth of the Japanese occupation, and many of whom were unaware of this work carried on in their midst.

In some large cities the Japanese took over and staffed the hospitals with their own personnel, but these institutions are not included in this account.

When the glorious day of peace dawned in August, 1945, the Secretary came to Shanghai, and the Board members came to the internment camps in and near that city to welcome the missionary nurses out of captivity. Those who shared those wonderful days will ever cherish their memory. The love the nurses lavished upon us opening up their hearts in a way we had never seen before, was a very heart-moving experience. Miss Tien and the Board pressed me to go up to see Headquarters, and go over the records of the war years and assist with some property problems. So I left the camp and managed to get on to a crowded train for Nanking.

Chinese General Hospital, Shanghai; Miss Dorothy Chang, Superintendent of Nurses, Margaret Williamson Hospital, President of Shanghai Branch of N.A.C.; Miss Lilian Wu, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Ex-president, N.A.C., Superintendent of Nurses, Nanyang Hospital, Shanghai; Miss Julia Tang, Superintendent of Nurses, Eden Hospital, Shanghai; Miss Anna Cheng, F.N.I.F., Bedford College, London, Superintendent of Nurses, Red Cross Hospital, Shanghai. (Photograph taken when Miss Stephenson (centre) was leaving China on furlough.)

Plans are afoot for a National Conference of the Nurses' Association of China to meet in Nanking in October, when the divided Secretariat will be ended and new officers will be appointed. Immense plans on the programme indicate a very busy Conference, as the nurses seek to meet the requirements for staff needed for the 600 new hospitals that the National Health Administration hope to open in the coming years.



BOARD MEMBERS, NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA DURING THE WAR YEARS, WITH MISS GLADYS STEPHENSON.

As I saw the volume of work and responsibility that this group had carried, and the wise plans they had made for each eventuality as it arose, after prayerful waiting upon God for His Will to be done, and for wisdom in its doing, I was filled with thankfulness and joy that China had such leaders in its nursing world who could face the future with confidence as they sang:

"We will praise Him for all that is past And trust Him for all that's to come."

The accompanying photograph shows the group of nurses who supported Miss Tien, the Secretary, as Board members, during the years that are now happily ended.

From left to right: Mrs. Edith Hsiao, Graduate of P.U.M.C. and U.S.A., Examination Secretary; Miss Grace Cheng, P.U.M.C., Superintendent of Nurses,

CONCEPTION OF A NURSE.

"Though we share some of our traditions with other groups of workers, our conception of a nurse is not that of a saint, a soldier, or a servant, nor yet that of a semidoctor, or a charity worker. We think of her as a sociallyinspired, scientifically - trained expert in her own special art, which is still one of the gentlest and most beautiful of all arts. The great nurses of the past were untiring in personal service, but they were also vigorous, forceful. and persistent in rooting out social evils, and they were clearvisioned. courageous practical in constructive Florence Nightingale forms. is probably the finest embodiment we have of this ideal.

"Every age needs such leaders, and the world to-day is calling loudly for them.

They are not made in a few days or months or years, and not all nurses will become leaders, but all should be able to share in the work that needs to be done. It is said that faith and intelligence are the great master forces of civilisation. Nurses of the future will need both if they are to hold on to the gains that have been made by their predecessors and play their part in the nursing work of the future. The nursing profession is already well oriented internationally and has had some experience in working with people of many races and social backgrounds. It has therefore a unique opportunity to forward the cause of peace and of international brotherhood as well as to help in bringing health and well-being to the people of our own and other lands."

From A Short History of Nursing, by LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N., and ISABEL M. STEWART, A.M., R.N.

previous page next page