

**THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE
WILLIAMS' HOSPITAL**

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The eleventh Annual Report of the Williams' hospital by Pang Chuang Shantung

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PANG CHUANG SHANTUNG

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OF THE

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AT

PANG CHUANG, SHANTUNG.

With Coups

*In charge of Rev. Henry D. Porter, M.D., of the
North China Mission of the American Board.*

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THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
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WILLIAMS' HOSPITAL,

For the year ending December 31st, 1890.

IN bringing the statistics of this hospital and dispensary work into accord with the civil year, we are able to report the completed work of ten full years of medical service in P'ang-chung. The station was formally opened in the spring of 1880. The first annual report presented the beginning of an effort which has expanded with each year. It is, therefore, with a peculiar sense of satisfaction that we review the year which completes a decade of work in this little village.

There have been changes in the staff of the hospital as in the preceding year, but the work has been continued uninterrupted throughout the year. During the absence of Dr. Atwood at the annual meeting in May, Dr. McClure, of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission to Honan, very kindly assumed the charge. Dr. Atwood, having decided to return to his field in Shansi, turned over the medical work to the writer of this report on the 6th of October, the remainder of the statistical year falling thus to his charge. The native staff has been increased by a graduate of the high school at Tung Cho, who, under the advice of his teachers and pastors, had chosen the medical profession as best suited to his abilities and desires. The native staff, therefore, includes four assistants, each of whom has had the advantage of several years of preparatory study at the mission high school.

There have been fourteen members of the station, including the children present during the several portions of the year.

To each of these has been allotted more than the usual amount of health and the privilege of an almost uninterrupted service. In view of the experience of other stations in this regard we have thus abundant occasion for personal gratitude.

The general conditions of climate which have had such a special influence upon China during the past year, has equally affected our work. The summer rains came more than a month earlier than usual and with unusual severity. A wide region to the west of us was entirely submerged for many months, except the elevated ground, on which many of the houses are built. In a somewhat similar manner on the east and south we were practically cut off from ease of access for a month or six weeks. Such a condition necessarily affected the daily clinic and the numbers of those in the hospital. The record, however, shows, despite this inhibition, a scarcely diminished aggregate of attendance, a fact to be duly considered in estimating the growth of the work from year to year. In view of this it is right to consider the increase of the year as proportionate to that of the former years.

Before speaking of the direct work, it gives us pleasure to refer again to the work of Dr. Atwood, who very kindly accepted the charge of the work on Dr. Peck's return to America. Dr. Atwood was here for nearly a year and won for himself a very high regard, both from the natives and from the foreigners. With the greatly increased evangelistic and other work pressing upon us, we should gladly have retained his practical and trained experience for our own field. But he felt it best to return to Shansi and help build the religious future of the region allotted to our Board in that province. We follow that mission with a renewed interest which comes from personal acquaintance and friendship.

The writer of this report returned from a furlough in America in the early summer, arriving at the station on the

21st of June. On the 15th of September it became necessary to go to Lin-ch'ing to assist in the care of Dr. Wagner, then seriously ill. Returning from Lin-ch'ing the hospital work was taken over from Dr. Atwood on the 6th of October. This work was again interrupted by a medical visit to the neighboring mission of the London Mission at Hsiao-chung, in Chi-cho, Chih-li. The Chi-cho mission is a day's journey to the west of us, our nearest neighbor. The courtesies and necessities of our somewhat isolated lives makes us often dependent upon each other in cases of emergencies, to which the needs of even very pressing duties must give place.

The increasing importance of our own, as well as of every medical work, may perhaps best be illustrated by a survey of the field which is touched and affected. In common with all missions in Shantung our own is feeling the uplift and impulse of a certain momentum, which has been little appreciated hitherto, but which is to be increasingly an element in the expansion of knowledge, intelligence and faith in China.

A careful collation of the tables and daily record shows that the region from which our patients come, extends across the whole province from the north to the south and as far east as the mouth of the Yellow River. It also extends 200 *li* north into the province of Chih-li, and nearly as far west. This wide region is represented by six *Fu* cities, six *Chow* cities and twenty districts in the province of Shantung and by three *Chow* and twelve district cities in Chih-li.

A still more minute collation shows that the patients have come from no less than a thousand and thirty-one villages (1,031). It ought surely to be a compensation for the arduous effort of the daily clinic to be assured that into this region, comprising one-fifth of the districts of Shantung, seeds of divine truth and light are being spread abroad. A list of the de-

partments and districts thus reached is appended for the sake of future comparison. A study of the tables will show that the classes of disease are very wide, and chiefly of those affections for which the native profession have little or no relief. The immediate effect, in case of even a partial cure, is greatly to enhance the repute of foreign medicine and of the doctrine of which it is the acknowledged forerunner. It is, therefore, gratifying to find that a real confidence in the missionary, as well as in his medicines, is rapidly spreading and deepening. The cases in the hospital are the witness of this. The last half of the year has shown an increasing number of very severe surgical diseases. Only the clinging to the last hope for life would bring them to the test of the operation. The increase of these cases is a fair measure of the assurance that they expect to get relief and perchance a new lease of life. In the large majority of these cases the relief sought has been obtained with a natural readiness to trust all the more in the judgment or the skill of the Western doctor.

The Evangelistic Character of the Work.—The first purpose of the medical work is not to relieve the suffering of those who apply, however important this must be, but to make it subservient to the larger purpose of awakening an interest in the Gospel message and all the good that flows from it. The hospital work bears directly upon this purpose with a steadily increasing influence. The number of hospital in-patients for the year has been 554, an increase over last year of about 100. The number of days spent in the hospital cannot be very large on the average. And yet some have stayed from one to three months. For the most of the time for the year the wards, both for men and women, have been fairly full. Some of the time they have been crowded. The religious work of the hospital is now fairly systematized. It centers largely about the daily dispensary preaching. The

dispensary chapel or waiting room has been full, if not crowded, every day for the most of the year. Mr. Smith, when not called away to the village work, has been constantly present, spending the most of the p.m. in the room. The preachers who happen to be at home, are on hand to give necessary help. One of our oldest helpers is the practical chaplain of the hospital. His mornings are given to selling little books to such of the patients as care to buy and so teaching as many as care to learn, while the p.m. is spent in the waiting room taking a turn at preaching, and the evenings are also given to talking with the patients in the rooms. While this is being done for the men, the matron of the women's wards, Mrs. Ma, is doing a like work for the female patients. The ladies have also given regular hours to painful and wearisome teaching to the women who are persuaded to learn. It may be safely said that no year in the history of the station has been so marked in the energy and continuosness of the evangelistic work in the hospital as has the past. Several very marked cases of special interest of persons who have accepted the Gospel while in the hospital, both of men and women, are to be mentioned. They will be referred to in the station report. It has been the purpose to have every one who stays at the hospital for even a day or two carry with him some truth which may abide. In accordance with this purpose an effort has been made, not merely to have the patients learn the Lord's Prayer and the commandments, but to have them learn to read the same. The effort to learn fixes the words and the thoughts as well. A simple prayer has been added in rhyme, which aids in recalling the thought. It has been a matter of surprise to us to find how large a proportion of those who have never learned a character take to the study of these simple forms with a real enthusiasm. The hospital affords a special help

in this respect. Those who have begun, assist in keeping up the interest of those who are beginning. It has been the pleasant experience of the year to see from forty to fifty in the male wards all studying and reading with an interest which is contagious. Some have gone on until the Scripture and the Catechism Primers have been painfully learned. The success of some in learning these has led them to read in the Gospels and other small books. One remarkable case will be referred to elsewhere of a man of thirty years, who in a few months' time, from the merest beginning, went on until he has now read almost all the valuable Christian books, including the New Testament. His enthusiasm has doubtless led many others to undertake what at first might have seemed a hopeless task. While the men have made the most progress in reading, the same effort has been made with the women with a very large measure of success. From the very first entrance into the hospital they are urged to learn and by persistent effort a very good beginning has been made in learning the fundamental truths of the Gospel. It is needless to suggest the very important bearing of this useful study upon the future of our work in the villages. In addition to the daily instruction in the chapel and the wards, an effort has been made to have the Gospel preached in the places from which the patients come. This belongs properly to the regular work of the station and is mentioned here as an integral part of the evangelistic work of the medical department. Had as careful a record been kept of those who have learned to read a little, as of the daily treatments of disease, it would appear that several hundreds, both men, women and children have been started in Christian truth through their new interest in learning to read.

Notes on the Medical Work.—During the spring and summer several tours were made by the chief dispensary assistant