

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES.

NURSING ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

By Miss Cora E. Simpson. J

CHINA, with her four hundred million people, 5,000 years of written history, great areas untouched by any medical work, all diseases known to humanity running riot, and with no place in her past history for the nurses, make it a wonderful place in which to develop nursing ideals. Modern nursing in China is of recent origin, was started, brought to the present state of development, and is still in the hands of Missionary nurses. This is the one country in the world where Christian nurses were free to establish ideals and carry them to a full fruition unhampered. In just ten years' time the scattered groups of nurses were organised, had put over a programme for the registration of schools, uniform curriculum, National diploma and examination, established a Journal of Nursing, built up a great Association with her own graduates, received into full membership, made themselves a National power and brought the work of nurses from "no word in the language for nurse" to the Association's full membership in the International Council of Nurses, which is a record unsurpassed by any Nurses' Association in the world. This record demands the world's tribute to the work the Missionary nurses have been quietly doing in the past dozen years.

The first Missionary Hospital in the world was opened by Dr. Peter Parker in Canton in 1835, and now has in connection one of our Registered Schools of Nursing.

Miss Elizabeth McKechnie, the first nurse to come to China, reached Shanghai in March 1884. She is still living and is a member of the N. A. C. The first nurse trained abroad was Miss Elsie Mawfung Chung, trained at Guy's Hospital, London. She is now Mrs. Lyon of Tientsin. The first book translated was Mrs. Isabella Hampton Robb's "Principal and Practice of Nursing." The translation was begun by Dr. Eleanor Chesnut of Lienchow, Kwangtang. She was killed before the book was completed but the work was finished by Dr. Bliss Boggs.

The real origin of the Nursing Association of China is, in 1908 I sent a letter of inquiry about nurses' work to Dr. Coursland of Shanghai. My letter and his reply were put into leaflet form and sent out in the "China Medical Journal" of that year as a call to the nurses to form an Association. The N. A. C. was started in 1909, with Mrs. Hart of Wuhu and Miss Henderson of Wusih as the first President and Secretary. In the summer of 1912 a committee consisting of Misses Gage, Clark, Simpson, Hope, Bell, Harris, Lowe and Murdoch met and prepared a programme for a uniform standard curriculum, Registration of Schools, National examination and diplomas, and from that date there has been a steady, healthy development of the Association.

The first National Convention was held in Shanghai in 1914. At that Convention the word for "nurse" was first adopted and has since passed into the language of the people. The first National examination was given in 1915. The diplomas were secured that year by two boys and one girl.

The Nurses Page in the "China Medical Journal" was continued until 1920 when the "Quarterly Journal for Chinese Nurses" was launched, under the Editorship of Mrs. Hern and Miss Pumphrey. It is now the official organ of the Association. Many text books have followed the first translation. Now we have Maxwell Pope's "Practical Nursing," Blumgarten's "Materia Medica," Freidenwald's "Dietetics for Nurses," DeLees' "Obstetrics for Nurses," Hopkin's "Bandaging," Stinson's "Drugs and Solutions," Bundy's "Anatomy," Aikin's "Ethics for Nurses," Andrew's "Midwifery for Nurses," Rowley's "Operative Midwifery," Reid's "Bacteriology in a Nutshell," Massage, Chemistry and many Quiz books besides Children's nursing, Chinese dietetics, and several written only in Chinese.

After a nurse has secured the Association's diploma (three years), she may enter for the normal Midwifery diploma, and after she holds that she may still sit for the diploma, in operative midwifery. Nurses are received into full membership after securing the Association's diploma in nursing.

The Association has seventy-six Registered Schools of Nursing established at different places in China and many more applying for registration. The demand for our graduates are so great that it is impossible to supply the calls. They are wanted for hospital positions, Instructors, Matrons, Ward Sisters, School Nurses, for Health work and the Army and the Navy, as well private duty secures many of them.

Chinese young men and women take to nursing very readily and make splendid nurses. They are patient, kind, painstaking, faithful to duty, and do splendid class room work as well. The nurses' course, curriculum and examinations are all given in the Chinese language. English is taught in most schools as an elective.

The National Convention is held every two years. At the last one held in Hangkow in 1922, the Minister of Education placed a special car at the services of the nurses from Peking because the nurses' work was a great Educational Convention. The Governor of Canton paid the expenses of six of his nurses from Canton so that they could attend this great Nurses Meeting. The Governor of Hupah with his staff of some thirty high officials attended one afternoon session of the Conference and addressed the nurses. General Feng wrote to one Superintendent that he wanted only N. A. C. graduates for his army and would take all that could be supplied to him.

The Nurses' Association of China has a representative on the China Medical Association Council on Hospital Administration and another representative on the Committee on Child Health and still another on Relationships. The nurses attended their last Medical Conference and were given a whole evening on their programme to present nursing. The Nurses' Association of China is a member of the China Council of Health Education and her part in the National Health programme is to teach health to the people.

At the last Conference the work of the Association had grown to such proportions that nurses carrying full Institutional positions could no longer carry the work of the N. A. C., so a full-time Secretary was asked for and is

devoting all her time to this work. One of her chief duties is to visit the Schools of Nursing and Conventions, to interest people in nursing work. Organize the Chinese graduate nurses into Auxiliaries for training for National responsibility, and to carry the business management of the "Journal of Nursing." A committee of Nursing Education has charge of all matters pertaining to the Schools of Nursing under the Association. Miss Gage of Changsha is the Chairman of this Committee. Miss Gregg, the President, is home for health reasons. Miss Gladys Stephenson of Anluifu Hupch is the acting President. She is a woman of the highest ideal and one of the most splendid nurses ever trained in Britain. Under her leadership the Association is making wonderful forward progress this year. Her motto for the Association for this year is "with God nothing shall be impossible."

The great need is for foreign nurses to come out as Matrons of Schools of Nursing to train the young people in nursing. Schools of Nursing registered under the Association have had to be closed and new ones cannot be opened for lack of a Matron to care for and train the nurses.

Surely some of the nurses in the home lands can be spared to come over and help us. Today is the day for the nurse in China, she is welcomed everywhere. She has a work no one else can do and a place no one else can fill.

When the final history of the Christianization of China is written and the record of the service of love made known, not a little part will belong to the nurses of China and the share they have had in the bringing of health and life to this great people.

NURSING, A PROFESSION FOR WELL EDUCATED GIRLS.*

(Read at the Conference of the South India Medical Association.)

Probably every High School principal finds as one of her most difficult and necessary duties, the giving of vocational guidance to the girls who are leaving school. She does not wish to see square pegs put into round holes, yet this is what often happens. The vocational opportunities now open to Indian girls are painfully few—practically they may all be summed up under matrimony, teaching and a medical course. My contention is that with these three, nursing should be made an important fourth. There are many girls who get into Sixth Form who have a real desire to do medical work—partly for their scientific interest and partly because of their desire for Christian service. Among these there are always a number whose capabilities are practical rather than theoretical. One doubts how they would stand the grind of the four years' medical course and yet feels that their intelligence would develop wonderfully along the lines of doing. Their powers of leadership have been trained by their High School life and studies and they have the power to develop into leaders of the nursing profession. It is for such girls that we crave the opportunities of a special course for nurses of a High School grade.

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