

Asiatic Division Mission News



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Colporteur Institutes In The Far East

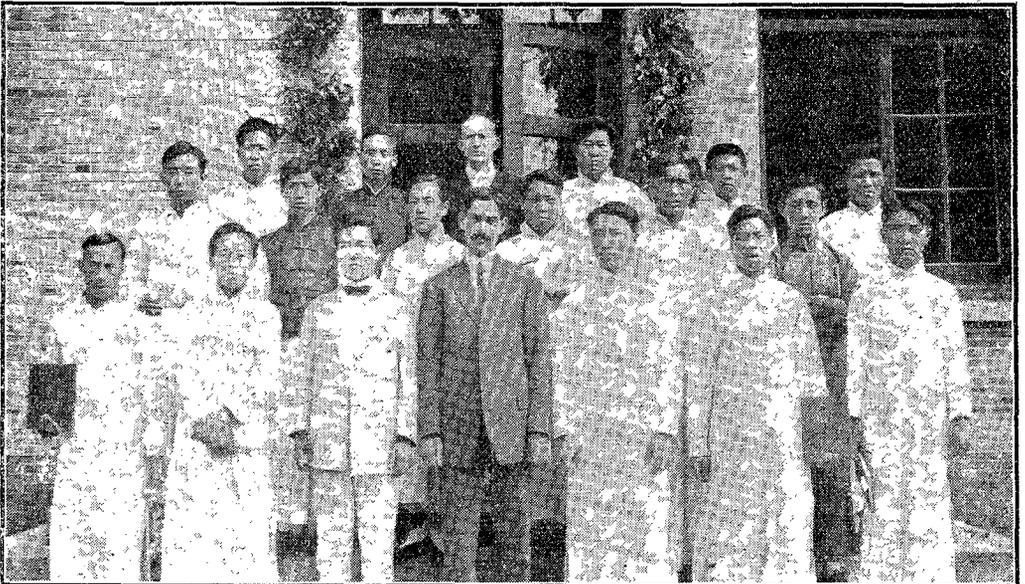
At the close of the school year in our China Missions Training School, an institute lasting two weeks was held with the boys who were in the canvassing field for the summer. In all about twenty were in attendance, four of these being young men who had been called in from the field; not because they were in need of the instruction, but because they had been very successful in the work, and we thought that their presence would give inspiration to the new men going out. And in this we were not mistaken, as they all bore a ringing testimony, placing a true estimate upon the importance and sacredness of their calling.

These four young men had taken between them, in the four and a half months previous, no less than two thousand annual subscriptions for the magazine, at fifty cents per subscription; besides this selling many hundreds of copies. One of them, Li Chih, brought in with him 220 subscriptions for the previous two weeks' work, securing as high as fifty-four annual subscriptions in one day. After paying fifty per cent of the amount collected into the mission, he had over \$10.00 for his two weeks' work. This is surely wonderful in a country where half that sum is a very good monthly salary.

In our institute we devoted time every day to a study of the qualifications of the colporteur,—dealing with such subjects as consecration, enthusiasm, faith and courage, determination, dress and deportment, and numerous others. Above all else we endeavored to have our boys catch the fire of enthusiasm for their

work,—that spirit of overcoming difficulties which is inseparable with successful colportage; and we believe that in this we were to some degree successful, for they certainly went to their fields filled with a determination to succeed.

One very interesting feature of this institute was the training of our first class on subscription book work in China. Some reports have come to hand of the beginning made by these boys, and without exception they have had excellent success.



Canvasser's Class of China Missions Training School, Shanghai

We praise the Lord for this beginning in our subscription book work. We have been careful to put only a very few men on the book at first, as it is largely a matter of experiment; but if this small beginning is an indication of what might be done, we look forward to having quite an army of workers doing this work in the near future.

Meanwhile the subscriptions for our *Signs Monthly* continue to roll in as rapidly as ever. We must exercise great care to see that as the one department grows the other does not retrograde. Our subscription list now stands at about 38,000.

Our next meeting was at Seoul, Korea, whence we proceeded immediately after the close of our meeting in Shanghai. Here were gathered over twenty colporteurs, who seemed greatly to appreciate the efforts put forth to help them during a ten days' meeting.

One man was present who a few weeks previously had been so severely beaten by a native Presbyterian pastor that he was unable to attend more than two or three meetings, because of his injuries. Others had met with bitter opposition in their work, although their opponents had not, as in this case, resorted to brutal physical force.

There were an old lady and a young man present who told an interesting story. The woman had sold a copy of the Korean paper to an innkeeper, whose inn was visited a day or so later by the young man. He read the paper and became so interested that he asked the keeper if he had any other copies in the inn. Receiving an affirmative reply, he secured them and read with increasing interest. Later, he secured from the publishing house by mail all the literature he could get, and after their study ardently accepted the truth, never yet having met a living representative of the message.

There naturally followed trouble with his employer, a Japanese, who demanded that he work on Sabbath, and dismissed him for refusal, thinking that this action would overcome his religious convictions. Finding, however, that he had failed, he sent for the young man, and reinstated him with a good salary. A little later this man returned to his father's home with a burden to bring the truth to his people. The result was a church of eighteen members fully versed in important points of truth and ready for baptism, and a church building erected free of debt, before yet having been instructed by one of our workers. The young man is now a field agent in one of the four local divisions in Korea, and is doing fine work.

It is such experiences as this one that make our colporteur work worth while, and bring such satisfaction to the workers.

At our meeting in Korea the burden of our effort was to train the colporteurs to take annual subscriptions. Heretofore they have been confining their attention almost entirely to selling single copies. We await the result with interest.

After leaving Seoul, two days were spent at the training school in Soonan with a class of young men who are planning to spend the weeks of their vacation in the canvassing field. We left one of the Korean native field agents there to help these men on their canvass and other points of the work which we had taken more time upon in Seoul.

If we were to digress much might be said about the fine school the Korean brethren have in Soonan. It was certainly an inspiration to me to see the fine body of young people Professor Lee and his assistant workers have under their care.

Our next effort was in Mukden, Manchuria. The work opened in this field only two years ago, and the brethren there were very anxious to get a good effort launched with our literature in that field. East China and Central China had each responded loyally to an invitation to donate one colporteur each to Manchuria, and these men had reached the field before our arrival. One man had already secured 208 annual subscriptions for the paper in two weeks, and the other had taken sixty-three in four days. This was a great encouragement to our brethren in Manchuria, and also a convincing argument to some among our converts from other missions who had declared it to be impossible to sell literature on a subscription basis in that field. While with them, we trained two of these men for the work, and they commenced to have success right from the start.

Manchuria is a great field, and should be prolific in its results to our publishing department. We look for a big work there in the future.

It is truly inspiring to push the work with our literature into these far outposts in our world field, and we praise the Lord for the blessed privilege of the part we are permitted to act.

H. M. BLUNDEN.

More South China Meetings

The month of June was set apart for the general meetings of Swatow, Amoy and Foochow. The Swatow meeting was planned to be held in one of the villages two days' journey in the interior, but over a week of heavy rains, lasting right up to the date set for the meeting, made the roads impassable, and compelled us to hold the meeting in the Swatow chapel. Most of the women that expected to attend were also prevented because of the high water, but quite a number of men succeeded in reaching the meeting. The Spirit of the Lord was present with us, and all felt that we had a good meeting in spite of all the adverse circumstances. We were all disappointed in not being able to have Pastors Anderson and Keh with us at this meeting, but Pastor Anderson was called to Shanghai to attend the meeting of the General Committee, and Pastor Keh could not get a boat so as to reach the meeting on time. There were quite a number in that district who were waiting for baptism, but many of them did not get down to the meeting, so there were only eighteen added to the church, seventeen by baptism and one by a previous baptism.

The Amoy meeting followed a few days after the close of the Swatow meeting. Pastor Keh arrived in Amoy several days before the meeting opened and rendered very efficient aid throughout the meeting. Pastor Ang and wife from Swatow also attended the meeting, and their presence and help was enjoyed by all. As our new boys' school was nearly completed we held the meeting in it. This furnished us with a

good large assembly hall as well as a place for the people to stay. The last Sabbath of the meeting about two hundred were assembled, and during the noon intermission thirteen candidates were baptized. Eight others had been baptized a few months before in this section, so the number baptized during the meeting was not so large. We missed the help of our superintendent, but otherwise we had a good meeting, and the Spirit of the Lord was present to bless all who attended. Many of those present felt that it was one of the most satisfactory meetings we had had in years.

The Foochow meeting opened June 21. The writer was not present at the opening of the meeting, but Pastor Anderson had arrived from Shanghai, and Bro. F. E. Bates and Pastor Keh went up directly after the Amoy meeting, so there was no lack of help. When the call was made for candidates for baptism to present themselves in the chapel at a certain hour, the brethren were somewhat surprised to see a group of seventy candidates. When they asked the reason why so many of the students were among the candidates, they were told that the twenty-eight boys among the students who were already members of the church had set themselves to pray and work for the conversion of their fellow students, with the result that fifty-four of them had been converted and wished to join the church. Out of the seventy candidates sixty-six were baptized while four were requested to wait until a later period. After the close of the Foochow meeting Pastors Anderson, Keh and the writer went to the village of Sinchiu, where we are carrying on chapel and school work. There seventeen more were baptized, making a total of eighty-three for the two places, and of one hundred four for this province for the first half of this year.

The congregation at Foochow has so entirely outgrown our present quarters that we let the contract for remodeling the old temple that we bought last year. When finished it will make a church fifty by seventy feet, and will have a balcony about twenty-eight by fifty feet, so that it will hold about 800 people. The cost will be only about \$1,600, gold. The Lord also opened the way for us to buy some land just a few hundred feet away from the land we already have in Foochow city, and at a very reasonable price. Thus our foreign workers are assured of a place to build their homes and will be close to their work. The location is an ideal one, and the hand of the Lord was very manifest in our being able to secure this property.

God is blessing the work and going before us to open the doors of men's hearts. We are glad to report such large numbers entering our ranks from among the heathen. Out of the one hundred four baptized thus far this year only six were ever members of any other church. When members of other missions accuse us of directing our work toward securing converts from among their members and neglecting work for the heathen, it is always good to be able to call their

attention to the large number of heathen we are reaching in comparison to the numbers that are coming to us from their ranks.

A few days ago we held a four days' meeting in Amoy city. The chapel holds about 130 people comfortably. About 200 people attended every meeting, so you can imagine what it was like. These people were not passers-by who just happened to come in, but people who came on purpose to hear what we had to say. Half of the room was occupied by the women, and a good class of women attended in numbers to more than fill their half of the room. Asking the evangelist who these women were, I was told that they were relatives of our girls'-school students. They gave good attention to all that was said. On the last night of the meeting over thirty signed cards promising to attend a twice-a-week Bible study in the chapel. I hope all our brethren will pray for the work in this district.

W. C. HANKINS.

New Church In Japan

Sabbath, June 24, was a day of unusual blessings and special importance to our work in the city of Nagoya. Pastors DeVinney and Okohira, of Tokyo, having previously joined us, some very profitable meetings for special instruction had been held, at the close of which it was found that six new believers were ready to follow their Saviour in the rite of baptism. Friday afternoon a goodly number of us gathered on the bank of a river just outside of the city, and it was the writer's privilege to bury these precious souls in the likeness of Christ's burial, and lead them forth also in the likeness of His resurrection to walk in newness of life. It was in this same river that we baptized six last year, all of whom are proving faithful as witnesses of the power of salvation.

Sabbath forenoon after Sabbath-school we organized the company of believers into a church with complete set of officers. Eighteen believers were thus united in church fellowship, and in the afternoon manifested their new relationship by mutually entering into the participation of the sacred ordinances of the Lord's house. For the majority it was the first time, but it was indeed a feast of good things in which the love of God and the mysteries of the cross were made more real to us all.

This church is the fruit of the faithful seed-sowing of Brother Watanabe who has labored in Nagoya five years, and of tent efforts we have held in that city for two summers. Though so young, this is one of our strongest churches in Japan, as the members are nearly all self-supporting, and imbued with a fervent missionary zeal. With joy we welcome them into our family of churches and bespeak the prayers of all our brethren in their behalf.

The tent meetings in Kobe, concerning which we have already sent a report to the NEWS, closed in

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EDITOR: MRS. R. C. PORTER; ASSOC: FLORENCE SHULL
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June. Of those who heard the truth for the first time at the tent, five or six have already accepted Christ and are keeping the Sabbath. Two who had been studying before were brought to take their stand, and quite a number of interested ones are continuing to study. This work has given a new stimulus to our work in Kobe, and we hope to follow it up by another series of tent meetings as soon as the hottest weather is over.

In recent trips, visiting all the companies and isolated believers in our section of the Empire, I have been encouraged by seeing many proofs of God's continued care for His work and evidences of the advance of the cause of truth.

BENJ. P. HOFFMAN.

Disturbances in Kwangtung

Since Brother J. P. Anderson and wife returned to the States I have been acting as treasurer for the Hakka Mission. This necessitates my making a trip every month to Waichow to pay the workers' salaries, etc., and do what little is in my power to keep the work together until Brother Nagel returns.

Of course I was naturally anxious to start a good effort with the *Signs*, but the recent fighting has unsettled the whole country, and now our work, with every other enterprise except that of robbing and pillaging, is at a standstill.

For two months all communication with Waichow was cut off. I was unable to go myself or to send any money to the workers. The Republican troops gained control of all the country except the city of Waichow itself. Here, after four days' fighting, they were compelled to retire. Our compound, being just outside the city wall, was between the fire of both sides, but as no cannon were brought into play, the damage sustained by the mission buildings was slight. The new church building was chipped in some places, and the roof tiling broken up. In the two foreign houses eleven panes of glass were broken and some shutters torn by the flying bullets. One bullet, which is now in my possession, went through shutter and window, bored through a wall, passed across Brother Nagel's bed, and ended by gouging a lump of brick and plaster out of the opposite wall. Had Brother Nagel been in bed at the time, it would surely have frightened him badly, if it did him no further injury. Now the soldiers have scattered throughout the country, robbing the helpless villagers and terrorizing the people generally.

Nearer home, in the portion of Kwangtung that comprises our Cantonese Mission, similar conditions have prevailed and continue to prevail, though not to such an extent as in the Hakka country. So far Canton and the larger towns have escaped, but it looks as if trouble is coming. Last week I went to Canton to conduct a small canvassers' institute for the students who are now having their summer vacation. While there news was received that the Yunnanese and Kwangsi troops who have been threatening Kwangtung for several months were at last advancing. Heavy fighting was reported within forty miles of Canton, and the reports were substantiated by the arrival of hundreds of wounded soldiers. All shipping, except the passenger steamers plying between Canton and Hongkong, has stopped.

You will wonder what the fighting is about, now that Yuan Shih Kai is dead and Li Yuan Hung is proclaimed president. The Kwangsi and Yunnan troops are bent on putting an end to Lung Chai Kwong, governor of Kwangtung. His support of Yuan Shih Kai and many other things have caused his name to be hated by the great majority of Chinese in the south. They say that so long as he remains governor, so long will Kwangtung be unsettled and torn with dissensions. This time his troops appear to be losing out, and so Canton, it is thought, will see serious trouble very soon.

We pray that the strife will soon cease, that we may not be hindered in pushing forward the Lord's work.

ARTHUR L. MOUNTAIN.

For about a year a young man at Peking, who had become acquainted with the truth through reading the Chinese *Signs*, has been corresponding with the editor, asking for farther light. At Peking he was language teacher for the American ambassador. A few weeks ago he came to the office at Shanghai, and we are using him as a language teacher. He is personally acquainted with Li Yuan Hung, the President of China, and has written to him, sending him samples of the magazine and telling him of our work here in Shanghai. Thus the chief executive of China will have his attention called to the truth.

A letter received from Sister Porter, written July 7, gives the following paragraph: "We are in dear Sister White's home, and it remains about as she left it. They gave us her bedroom for our bedroom, also her sitting room for our use. Everything seems sacred to us, yet we feel perfectly at home. While en route to the West I had six hours in Denver, and I went forty miles to the Boulder Sanitarium to see Sister J. P. Anderson. She is now there and doing splendidly in recovering her health. She has already gained several pounds, something like eighteen, I think. Sister Anderson is beginning to wonder if she can go back in a year's time. She says it will be a happy day when she can again turn her course to the Far East."