

the polite question, "Have you eaten food or not?" I have no intercourse with them. I could not stop on the street to talk to the women even if I were able, it would draw such a crowd, and they are nearly all Mohammedans in this part of the city and do not invite foreigners into the compounds at all. Very few come to see us, and those that do come are so anxious to see the house from bedroom to kitchen, that it is very difficult to get a word in about anything else, and they always try to dismiss the subject of religion by saying, "Oh, we are just the same as you; we believe in the one true God just as you do," and they cannot or will not understand that there is any difference. At the Shanghai Conference last spring missionaries from all parts of the country agreed in saying that the Mohammedans are very difficult to work among. No one could tell of a single consistent convert among them. This is a new station, too, and as it is so difficult to reach the people, there is very little work going on outside of the dispensary. So you see I have really very little to write about here.

I will tell you a little about an A. B. C. F. M. station, sixty miles from here, to which Mr. MacKenzie and I paid a visit last week. Lin Ching is situated on Yün river, so we packed bedding, food and cooking utensils, hired a house boat and started down the river. In twenty-four hours we reached the end of our journey by water, seven miles from our destination (Pang Chüang). A light wagon was sent to meet us, and I quite enjoyed my first ride in China, in spite of meeting teams in dreadfully narrow places, when it took a great amount of scolding and shouting by drivers on both sides before matters could be arranged so they could pass each other. Before we reach Pang Chüang I will give you a little sketch of the way the work was started there. Fifteen years ago, during a time of dreadful famine, two missionaries went there to distribute famine relief money, and succeeded in carrying over seventeen thousand through that trying time. It nearly cost one of them his life, as he took famine fever and nearly died. The people were naturally grateful and received them kindly when they returned, which they did as soon as possible, and now, after years of constant, earnest labour, a fine work is being done. From the little village where they are living they go out to surrounding villages for many miles. They have a number of native helpers, and from the outset