

SHAPING A COLLEGE COURSE WITH A VIEW TO MISSION WORK

By Margaret E. T. Addison, B.A., Dean of
Women in Victoria College

The following paper was written by special request for the Mission Circle of Trinity Methodist Church, Toronto, and was read before a joint meeting of the Circle and Auxiliary of that Church.

—The Editor of Outlook.

The title of this article would seem to indicate a subject simpler than it is. Let no one expect definite details regarding subjects and courses, for though the curriculum of instruction is definite enough, the human factor of the candidate is variable, and the past in which she may one day find herself, an unknown quantity. However, if in the term, "college course" we include not merely the curriculum, but all the extra curricular contributions to an education, if we discuss the candidate herself, and her education, and also the needs of the mission field, there is quite enough for a short paper.

We shall begin with the curriculum of a university. Generally speaking there are honor courses in languages, history, philosophy, mathematics and science, and a pass course. There are also practical courses in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, forestry, commerce, education, theology, household science, social service, public health nursing, music and art. No one course may be said to excel any other—all are good, and they offer a student a wide choice wherein she may find full play for her own particular gifts and aptitudes.

The study of languages develops linguistic ability, very valuable in acquiring foreign languages. Knowledge of the history and literature of other peoples gives a sympathetic human background for the study of a new people, with whom the student is to live, and whom she is to understand. Philosophy, with psychology, teaches much about the workings of the mind, and is invaluable in the study of Oriental character. Mathematics and science the most universal studies of all, bind different people together by common research, shared by all alike.

The pass course offers more options than

the honor courses, and is less exacting than an honor course, thus leaving more time for supplementary subjects if desired. The men in theology carry one or two theological options a year in addition to their arts course, and it is possible and advisable for a young woman who hopes to go to the mission field to do the same. For woman missionaries will need much more theological training now than twenty years ago, and such training, to be effective, cannot be compressed into a single year. To study one or more subjects in theology during each of four years gives time for the adjustment of the minds to truth, which it must incorporate as its own. Then there may be added a final year of consecrated study in theology.

On the mission field there are many positions to fill. Teachers are wanted in language, literature, history, mathematics, science, art, music; evangelistic workers are needed, and doctors, nurses, dentists, druggists, architects, social workers, child welfare experts. In other lands, as here, more spheres of work for women are opening up. No knowledge that has ever been acquired will come amiss, and the more experience of a right kind which a candidate can have, the better. Now that Christian Colleges and universities are established in China, Japan and India, women who are learned specialists, if possessing the right spirit, will be welcomed among the young women students of these higher seats of learning.

Let there be no remnant of the idea once held that missionaries are sent to foreign countries to convert an inferior race called heathen. Missionaries go now to share with their foreign brothers and sisters, who are not only their equals, but in some ways their superiors, the wonderful message of the love of God to all His children. Let them go to learn from those of a finer culture than their own, and with the deep humility which should characterize the messengers of the love of God.

It is highly desirable that a candidate for the mission field should make connection with the Board under which she is to serve at as early a date as possible. For a Board will know what specific positions there are to be filled, and can therefore direct the studies of the candidate accordingly. While it is true