

**Foreign Missionary Society.**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(Continued.)

W. R. HUNT:—The retrospect is a busy record, and the present state of our work Chu Cheo district hopeful enough to inspire us to greater effort and deeper consecration in the future. The native church is developing Christian life and character. They have grown in grace and usefulness, and that through adversity, persecution, and manifold temptations. We have lived with the native Christians in their homes, and have seen the human as well as the divine side of their nature. We have not reached our ideals, but are growing, and the Lord is blessing the work. The daily preaching and dispensary work in the city are appreciated. The officials and students are friendly. In May I made the acquaintance of Han Shih Fu, a eunuch from the Imperial palace, and spent several days explaining the Scriptures to him. There was nothing to hinder, and I baptized him on a public confession of his faith. As far as I know, he is a bright Christian. I made two trips to Ban Kiao and Shih Tswen respectively, with F. E. Meigs. Mr. Hunt has made two trips with me to Chu Cheo, staying there three weeks in the spring and two months in the autumn. It was the happiest and busiest of times. We lived in the villages, and preached and conversed with hundreds of men and women who came long distances to see and hear us. At the high rising of the river we were obliged to take refuge in a native inn, our house being swamped. In August we visited Wuhu. In September I made the journey to Lu Cheo Fu, preaching and selling books in eleven towns and two cities, taking thirteen days on the road. In December I attended the Normal in Nankin and gave three lectures. In January, in company with Chinese evangelist Shi, I made an extended tour across Anhwei to Lu Cheo Fu, Lu An Cheo, and Ganking. We traveled 1,500 li, and visited six cities and about forty towns. The trip took twenty-one days, and is the best I have made. My colleague, E. P. Hearnden, left for England in February, so I am working single-handed in Chu Cheo. The day-school opened with 26 boys. They are studying Geography, History, and Christian Evidences. We have treated 419 cases in the dispensary, and hundreds of cases in the villages when itinerating. After Chinese New Year I visited Yu Ho-sz; our out-station, and stayed some days examining enquirers, and baptized five persons in the presence of a large audience of villagers. We hope and pray increased offerings into the treasury will enable us to build a home in Chu Cheo this year. Church members, 17; inquirers, 8; scholars, 26; cases treated, 419; received from patients, \$8.80; ointments, etc., \$3.00; collections, \$5.80.

JAMES WARE:—The chief feature of the year's work, so far as the writer is concerned, has been the regular monthly visits to our Tsungming station. On this island we are glad to be able to report a wide-spread interest in the Gospel, chiefly owing to the good name and faithful labors of evangelist Koo. The opposition that we encountered when we first opened our preaching hall in this city has entirely vanished, and we are now enjoying the friendship of all our neighbors. One baptism has taken place during the year from this station, namely, that of Mr. Zung, a vegetarian, and we have at present three inquirers, two of whom we believe are faithful: one, a native

doctor, and the other, a writer in the Yamen. While tarrying at the station our evenings have been occupied with Bible readings, when a number of the friendly neighbors have been present by invitation. Two journeys were made to the district northeast of Tsungming, one in company with E. T. Williams, and one with two native helpers. We have taken possession of this vast neglected district in the name of the Lord, and will (D. P.) visit it as regularly as possible. In this we shall be greatly helped by our mission boat,—the generous gift of our British Sunday-schools,—which will be completed by the end of the present month. A native evangelist for the country around Shanghai has been supported privately, who has opened a boy's day-school at a small hamlet four miles distant, with 12 scholars. Here regular Sunday services are conducted for the villagers, who attend in large numbers. A weekly Bible class for our helpers and members has been held, at which the gospel of Mark has been critically studied. This has been very much appreciated by all, and has shown happy results. A week-night church prayer meeting has also been held every Wednesday evening. Having been elected a member of the Shanghai Revision Committee, no small portion of my time has been expended in this direction. The year has been one of busy sowing, and we expect as a result, by the blessing of God, to do some reaping during the coming year. We are thankful for the blessing of continued health and strength, and for the many doors of service opened to us.

W. P. BENTLEY:—The past year has been a busy one. One of pleasure, and we hope, of profit. Early in the year the work of this district was equally divided between James Ware and myself, which arrangement has worked admirably ever since. He and I took a twelve days' Bible-selling trip last fall, during which we visited several walled cities, and sold over 1,000 Scriptures. The whole number of days which I have given to country work is about 40, and I have sold, myself, 1,000 copies of Scripture books, and the native helpers an unknown number. I paid one or two visits to the district lying between Shanghai and the sea, including one walled town. This will be an admirable place to open up work when we are able to increase our expenditures. Another town opposite Shanghai will also be occupied as soon as means are available. On alternate Lord's days I go four miles in the country, where we have some work and a nice day-school of boys. Every Lord's day I have a Sunday-school class at the girls' school. On alternate Lord's days I conduct the services in our city chapel. During this year I have been secretary of the Chinese Religious Tract Society, and since December have sent monthly notes to the *Intelligencer*. A few months ago I was elected General Secretary of the United Endeavor Society for China, which work I feel sure will be a great help to the work in China.

JAS. BUTCHART, M. D.:—My work for the year has consisted of the charge of the hospital, two dispensaries, one chapel, and other work closely connected with the medical work. Owing to having no foreigner to take my place, I have this year done only four days of itinerating, having made two trips to Shih-Tawen with F. E. Meigs. The regular work in the hospital and dispensaries has kept me very busy, and has required my almost constant attention and presence. The statistical report will show the numbers treated for the year. I have preached as regularly as possible at South Gate,

and also at Drum Tower chapel, besides having service whenever possible, with the patients in the morning, which consisted of reading and explanation of some passages of Scripture, with an informal conversation with the patients. Living in the hospital, and so chatting day by day, there were many instances where their minds were opened gradually to appreciate somewhat the glorious Good News, while more distant preaching would not have affected them. I have had the pleasure this year of baptizing two young men. One inquirer who asked for baptism failed in courage at the last moment. I have also another inquirer who will be baptized immediately. Though some were very bitter in their opposition to the doctrine, many have shown great interest, and we look, with God's blessing, for results in the future. At the Normal Institute in the Fall, I gave a course of talks on Chemistry and Natural Science, aiming to remove the groundwork of some heathen superstition in each one. I have also done work at tea houses in the city. When the fort opposite us was burned down last Spring, we then opened our doors and treated the homeless soldiers as our neighbors. Though very inconvenient to have 110 soldiers with us, the result has been a very marked increase of good feeling, and less of suspicion and mistrust. There are even devout centurions in China. One of the above has sought for years to lay up merit in the Chinese way. In spite of every discouraging feature we return thanks to God for His protecting care and guidance, and pray that we may have many examples of the gospel being the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes.

MRS. J. WARE: During the last six months I have conducted a woman's Bible class every Monday afternoon. This was held at my own house until the girls' school was opened, when it was removed to the chapel for the benefit of the scholars. In this I have been greatly helped by Mrs. Nee, wife of our pastor, who has since the commencement of the work developed into a very efficient worker. Help has also been very kindly given by two other Christian women. I have also been enabled to do some visiting among the neighbors, and, in company with my husband, to the neighboring villages, as opportunities have arisen. Many friends have been made, and there are at least three women who are interested in the gospel, one of whom would have joined us long ago, but that the opposition of her neighbors has been too strong for her to resist. There is also a well educated Canton woman reading the Scriptures, about which she asks many questions. But my great need just now is a good Bible woman who could accompany me to the homes of the people. The girls' day-school has at present 12 scholars, whose ages vary from 6 to 12. They are mostly from humble homes, and whenever they have any spare time they have to engage in match box making, which prevents them from attending school regularly. They are taught half Chinese and half Christian books, and I am glad to say that the majority of them show a great aptitude for study, which is very encouraging. They are always glad to see me, and recite proudly what they have learned. We are anxious to make them useful in their homes, and also to assist them in making a livelihood, and so are teaching them knitting and to make shoes. I furnish the needles and material for them to learn on, but for actual work they bring their own. One girl, aged 12, has just finished a pair of stockings for her father, of which she is very

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proud. I am very sorry to say that the father of our eldest girl, having recently opened a small opium shop, has taken his daughter away from school, in order that she may assist in boiling the opium. Another little girl has frequently to stay at home, not being able to stand on account of having her feet bound. We shall work earnestly for the removal of this great evil, at least from our churches.

(To be continued.)

**The Montreal "Witness"**

One of the sights of Montreal is a visit to the *Witness* office, which, for internal elegance, convenience and completeness of equipment has few rivals anywhere. One's attention is arrested on the sidewalk by seeing through a window a Chinaman patiently turning a crank with the air of one who has a contract for a century of faithful labor, and means to fulfill it. The Chinaman is made of wood, and for steady, patient, endless toil commend us to a wooden Chinaman. Making bold to go in we find ourselves in an enviable public office with tiled floor, hot-house flowers and what not. Then we were piloted up a spiral stair, through the great editorial room, to the battery of linotypes which are the marvel of the nineteenth century as Gutenberg's movable types were of the awakening life of the fifteenth. The great Hoe press of the *Witness*, which prints almost any number of pages, from two to thirty-two, is the very most complete machine anywhere. Close beside it you are shown on enquiry a patch on the floor which marks the spot where exploded the famous bomb some months ago, which the *Witness* doubtless owed to its active and effective war against gamblers and bunco steers, a class which by exposure and clever caricature it has managed to drive from the city, or at least to deprive of the open tolerance and public freedom which they before enjoyed at the hands of sympathetic officials. The stand for law and order taken by the *Witness* lately resulted in an investigation of the police and detective system of Montreal, which has revealed the need of some revolutionary change. The paper is devoted to temperance and all good things. It claims to be independent in politics, and has certainly opposed with equal vigor the Conservative government at Ottawa and Liberal Mercier government at Quebec. It is at all events a clean family paper, very carefully edited and one of the prettiest in get up and typography that comes to our office.

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