

## WINTER.

The year has lost its leaves a'win,  
The world looks old and grim;  
God folds his robe of glory thus,  
That we may see but Him.

We serve Him in the good we do,  
The blessings we embrace,  
Not lighting farthing candles for  
The palace of His grace.

He has no need of our poor aid  
His purpose to pursue;  
'Tis for our pleasure not for His  
That we His work must do.

The fashion of His providence  
Our way is so above,  
We serve Him most who take the most  
Of His exhaustless love. —*Alice Cary*,

## FIELD STUDY FOR APRIL.

## CHENTU.

In the Field Study for March we talked of China, and of its vast, populous western province, Sz-chuen, Chentu, the capital of Sz-chuen, and the one station which our Society holds in China, is a large and wealthy town, situated in a fertile plain. Surrounding it is a great earthen wall, having its outer side faced with solid brick masonry. Somewhere amidst the narrow streets of this city, with its crowded population of nearly half a million, is a little cluster of buildings closed in by a substantial mud wall. Here is the hospital, with its 38 beds, here the operating, bath and waiting rooms, besides a good dispensary, where more than a hundred patients can be cared for in each dispensary day; here, too, is the school with its different departments; while near the shelter of a wide-spreading tree is a little two-story house, the "Jennie Ford Orphanage," where there is room and loving care for fourteen homeless little ones.

The difficulties to be encountered by our missionaries in China are of a different character from those surrounding the workers in our other eastern field. The native distrust of foreigners is much more deeply rooted; it is based on a denser ignorance and is proportionately difficult to remove. Hence the scant freedom allotted to strangers, and the superstitious fear that has broken out now and again in threats and in riots.

Nor can the missionaries enter into the work at once in coming into these fields, "white unto harvest." Months must be spent on the study of the language before even the tiniest door of entrance can be pierced through the mighty barrier of the Chinese tongue. In Japan great strides have been taken in medicine and surgery; not so in China, where gross superstition and ignorance dominate in cruel fashion all care for the sick. Hence the prominence given to the medical department of the work. Desire for education is not wide-spread, this, coupled with the fact that foot-binding is not permitted amongst the pupils, largely accounts for the small number enrolled in the school. Pupils come in slowly, but the work goes on with steadily brightening prospects.

In February 1894 Miss Gifford, M. D. (since Dr. Kilborn), and Miss Brackbill arrived in Chentu to found there the pioneer mission of our Society in China. Hard study of the language, patient effort to come in touch with the people, arrangements for buying property and for building filled to the full more than a year of weariful waiting. At last in April, 1895, a day school was established, and the arrival of Miss Ford, a trained nurse, assured the immediate opening up of medical work. One month later the awful and now almost-famous Chentu riot took place. Our missionaries happily escaping in safety, though the mission and its contents were utterly destroyed. Before satisfactory arrangements could be made for re-opening work another year slipped by; at its close Dr. Kilborn, Miss Brackbill, and Miss Ford returned to Chentu to find certain hampering law-regulations done away with, and a more kindly spirit apparent amongst the people.

The year of 1897 saw three added to the little band of workers—Miss Foster, Miss Killam, M. D., and Miss Brooks; but with the passing of the busy months came sorrow—Miss Ford slipped away into wider work and sweeter ways of service. Outside Chentu, on a knoll, which has a tiny river running at its base, and rich rice fields stretching between it and the city walls, is the chosen God's Acre of the Canadian Societies. There, on the hill's summit, is Miss Ford's grave.

Through the last two years much distrust has been apparent among the people, alarming tidings of neighboring riots and destruction of property reaching the missionaries in Chentu very constantly.

On Dr. Killam's arrival, Dr. Kilborn joined her husband to work under the auspices of the General Society, and Miss Brackbill's well-earned furlough began with the new year of 1899. Reinforcements in the person of Miss Henry, M. D., and Miss Brimstin, reached Chentu about a month since, so that the little company now numbers five—Miss Foster, evangelistic work; Dr. Killam, Dr. Henry, Miss Brooks and Miss Brimstin; the two latter being trained nurses. The school has 15 pupils. The orphanage six little waifs. St. John. A. S.

## QUESTIONS FOR APRIL.

1. Name the Woman's Missionary Society Station in China, and tell what you can of the compound.
2. State some of the difficulties of the work.
3. When was the work opened in China, and by whom?
4. What sad interruption took place in 1895, and with what result?
5. For whom is the Orphanage named, and why?
6. Tell what you can of the work.
7. Give the names of the Missionaries in the Chinese field.

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