

TALK III.—NOTES

The first school opened to Chinese girls was started in Singapore in 1825, less than a hundred years ago. Until the missionaries came a girl in China had very little chance of being educated. When at last she was permitted to attend school, she did not have a very happy time. Like the boys, she studied aloud, the louder the better. When she had learned her lesson by heart, she would be called to the teacher's desk and told to "back the book." This is exactly what she did. Making a courtesy to the teacher, she placed her book on the table, and then, turning around, with her back to both the teacher and book, she recited what she had learned. The fashion of studying alone the missionaries found to be very helpful when the children began to learn the "Jesus Book," as the Chinese called the Bible. Some of the girls and boys, by thus studying their Bible lessons at home so that all the family heard, became real little home missionaries. Many a mother, who had never gone a day to school herself, and who had not the courage to attend the mission chapel, learned of Christ and His love from thus hearing her little ones. Tell of the schools your Church has in China.

Making Sick People Well—How many of you have ever been real sick? What did your parents and the doctor do for you? How would you like to have had a red-hot needle, many inches long, thrust through your side or into your stomach when you were already suffering great pain? How would you like to have had to swallow a mixture of dried and powdered snake skins, or ground monkey bones? If you lived in some parts of China that is exactly what would have been done to you. The people believe that an evil spirit is causing all the trouble, and that the red-hot needle is one way of letting the spirit out. Picture what it must mean to the Chinese boy or girl to be skillfully treated by a Christian doctor or nurse, or better still, cared for in a Mission hospital, and the smiles that light up his face as he is told that Canadian boys and girls are helping in sending these, and that some of them expect some day to come themselves. Tell briefly of the doctors, nurses and hospitals of your Church in China. Show pictures of "Nursing Staff" and "Chengtu Hospital" in "Canada's Share."

What we got from China and what we can give to China—Did you ever think where all the silk we use in Canada comes from? Not all from China of course, but it was from this old country that silk first came. It was in China, too, that gunpowder was discovered. Two hundred years before Christ, fire-crackers were used there. Tea was first used by the Chinese, and chinaware, in which our tea is served, tells us, by its name, where it was first made. The mariner's compass is another Chinese invention. Still more remarkable, the very materials that make this little book possible are among their many inventions, for the art of papermaking was discovered by these wonderful people in the first century, and printing was used by them 800 years before it was known anywhere else. One of the finest things that Canadian boys and girls can do for the boys and girls of China is to send back to them, *printed on paper* they invented for us, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and thus help to bring smiles to the little faces that have been sad quite long enough.

Place maple leaves on map of China and tell very briefly what work is being done by our Canadian Churches, as given in "Canada's Share."

Chinese Game—One of the games, greatly enjoyed by the boys and girls of China, is called "Select Fruit," a game in which any number of players may take part. Captains are appointed to choose sides. The players squat down in two rows about twenty feet apart. Each player is given the name of some kind of fruit. After one captain blindfolds one of the players of his side, a player from the other side steals over and touches him, returning quietly to his place. The blindage is removed and the player touched goes over to the opposite side and tries to discover, from change of position, guilty smile or some other evidence, the one who came over and touched him. If he guesses correctly and discovers the right player, he takes him back with him to his own side, otherwise he himself must stay with the opposing side. This is repeated until one row is entirely taken over. It will add to the interest if one side represents Chinese and the other Canadians.