

BENEVOLENT WORK

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Medical Missionary Society Dr. Jardine frequently helped Parker in his surgical operations. He had upon one occasion, in order to secure the consent of a man to a life-saving amputation, given the sufferer fifty dollars.

The list of the original officers, directors and members of the Society included the leading British and American officials, business men and missionaries of Canton. Recorded on the mural tablet in memory of the founders of the Society are seen the names of William Jardine, Peter Parker, Rev. E. C. Bridgman, James Matheson, A. Matheson, John R. Morrison, R. Turner, A. Inglis, G. T. Lay, J. Hine, T. H. Layton, J. Archer, E. Moller, Dr. T. R. Colledge, R. Inglis, A. Anderson, C. W. King, and John C. Green.

Universal Benevolence

Howqua, the Senior Chinese Hong merchant, provided the Hospital building and kept it in repair, because, as he said, "My heart likes this business too." The Hospital has been known as the "Pok Tsai Yee Yuen," the Hospital of Universal Benevolence, now a household word through South China. More than one president of China and many Chinese officials have contributed to its funds and eulogised its work.

The history of the Canton Hospital is interestingly told in the volume "At the Point of the Lancet," written by Dr. W. W. Cadbury and Miss Jones, and published by Kelly and Walsh.

Although the Canton Hospital has always been the headquarters, the Medical Missionary Society has conducted hospitals throughout Kwangtung Province, and in other parts of China. Dr. William Lockhart carried the light of medical science to Shanghai and then to Peiping, the Imperial Capital. Dr. James Hepburn, another agent of the Society, later went to Japan as the first medical missionary to the Japanese Empire; so that through this Society modern medicine was introduced into Japan. Dr. John G. Kerr who was for forty-five years in charge of the Canton Hospital, and afterwards founded the first Hospital for the Insane in China, was the first President of the Chinese Medical Association, and the first editor of the *Chinese Medical Journal*. Dr. Benjamin Hobson first made accessible to the scholars and physicians of this vast empire scientific text books in the Chinese language.

Among the men of faith and work in our Hospital we must mention the old "Fa Wong" (King of Flowers) who, after serving zealously as gardener for forty-five years, passed away before the occupation of Canton. He expressed his assurance that the Almighty would not permit the destruction of the Hospital. He began his career as the chair-bearer of the hospital physicians; but his determination to get the doctor to the patient at the earliest possible moment, through the narrow crowded streets of the City of Rams, made him a danger to the populace; for the ends of the chair-poles were tipped with solid brass.

Worked in Partnership

The Medical Missionary Society, while owning and maintaining the properties, has continuously worked in partnership with the Mission Boards, who have provided and maintained the foreign physicians to staff its hospitals. The present hospital site was bought with money given by a group of Americans living in Boston. The property has been registered at the American Consulate General, Canton.

The Medical School is appropriately named for a former student, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. During his lifetime he

always maintained an interest in the School and Hospital, and himself contributed to it. When laying the cornerstone of the new hospital building, a prominent official declared that much of Dr. Sun's dissatisfaction with conditions existing in China, and his new ideas and thoughts, were developed while studying in it. From there they spread throughout China.

A few years ago, a permanent affiliation was consummated between Lingnan University, Canton Hospital, and Hackett Medical Centre, in order to raise the standard of medical education. In those three institutions, Americans, British and Chinese have co-operated in conducting modern, high-standard medical work on foreign-controlled property. These institutions are fine examples of friendly internationalism in science and education. Such institutions are helping to hasten the coming of the Golden Age, when the will of the Father of all mankind will be done on earth even as it is done in Heaven.

Varied Experiences

In preparing the plans for the present buildings of the Hospital and Medical School, the many varied experiences through which the institution had passed through its long and eventful history were considered. Among them were wars, international and civil; boycotts; blockades of the city; and of the Hospital by labour agitators; floods, fires; typhoons; and white ants. But pitiless aerial bombings of an open city and its population were not anticipated. During the past year, hundreds of victims, all civilians, men, women and children, were cared for in the Canton Hospital and the Hackett Medical Centre. Our institutions were fortunately not destroyed by bombs of fire. They are therefore still functioning, though under adverse conditions, full of poor patients, admitted chiefly from the refugee camps. Present operation of the hospitals is made possible only by those who have contributed through the International and the American Red Cross and the Lord Mayor's Fund and privately as well.

Because of the unique status of the Medical Missionary Society, the American and British Consuls-General of Canton have through most of its history, served as trustees of the property. Recently the present Consuls-General inspected the institutions on the Canton Hospital compound and attended a meeting of the executive committee and of the trustees of the Society.

The present officers of the Society are: President, Dr. A. J. Fisher; Vice-Presidents, Dr. J. S. Kunkle, Rev. G. H. McNeur; Secretary, Dr. J. O. Thomson; Board of Trustees, Dr. C. W. Shoop, Dr. R. L. Lancaster, Dr. A. J. Fisher, Dr. T. A. Broadfoot, Prof. C. N. Laird and Rev. A. H. Bray.

The administration is in the hands of a Board of Directors, comprising Dr. J. O. Thomson, (Chairman), Dr. W. W. Cadbury, Dr. R. L. Lancaster (Secty.), Dr. F. Oldt. Dr. Cadbury is Superintendent of the Hospital.

Upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary, the British Consul-General, Sir Challoner Alabaster, stated that fifty years later others would be commemorating the centennial of the Society, because of the importance of the institution and its work. At present, during the temporary military occupations of Canton, the city is dead. Therefore the fitting commemoration of the centenary must await the return to normal. We have faith to believe that one hundred years hence, Americans, British and Chinese will celebrate the second centennial of this unique Society.—Contributed by J. O. Thomson