

usually without backs, are placed for the people. If sufficient space is available, a room is partitioned off to be used by the missionary for a living and sleeping room when visiting the out-station.

To-day is Our Opportunity to Buy Property.

Wherever suitable premises are offered for sale in a promising out-station, we prefer to purchase, as I have mentioned above, rather than to rent. It is very possible that in the near future there may be a strong re-action against foreigners, or against Christian missionary work in West China; but just now everyone is friendly. The way is wide open for the prosecution of our work under the most favorable conditions. No hindrance whatever is put in the way of acquisition of property and the opening of new chapels everywhere. Just now is our opportunity. I think all our missionaries realize this, and hence are very active in extending our work in the out-stations.

Our Force of Missionaries too Small to Keep Pace with the Requests to Open Work in Important Centres.

Not only are no hindrances put in our way, but conditions have changed so in recent years that now the problem is not to find new centres for out-station work, but rather *to resist the frequent invitations to come to open work in this or that town or village!* We are actually compelled to open out-stations *slowly!* We must choose those centres which seem most important, and open these first. The difficulty is that our force of missionaries and Chinese Evangelists is insufficient to keep pace with the requests that come to us to open work in other centres. One missionary cannot effectually superintend work in more than four or five out-stations, although some have attempted to do it for ten and even twenty out-stations.

The Important District of Junghsien.

The largest single item for this year, for "Rent, Deposit on, or Purchase of, Chapels in Out-stations," was that granted to Dr. Smith, \$500. Dr. Smith has a large and promising district in the county of Junghsien. He and Mr. McAmmond together have between twenty and thirty out-stations to oversee; and they are kept very busy with this work. Several buildings, with the lots they stand in, have been bought already by Dr. Smith in the various villages. He will probably add two or three to the number this year. These buildings are sometimes large enough to provide a good-sized chapel on the street, and several rooms at the back where an Evangelist may live with his family. Dr. Smith has also \$20 for rent of a street-chapel in the city of Junghsien.