

The Personal Teacher Needed in Addition to the Language School.

It will be seen from what is mentioned above that the personal teacher is no less a necessity for the missionary in the language school than he is for the missionary who has not that advantage. The personal teacher of the new missionary is kept hard at work explaining characters, repeating sounds and tones, and endeavoring to make the missionary, whether man or wife, familiar at the earliest possible date with this strange language. His work is not easy; he probably never saw a foreigner before until he was employed as personal teacher; he knows not a word of English, whether spoken or written. We believe this to be an advantage rather than a disadvantage. The missionary and his wife are obliged to speak Chinese from the very first, whether they would or no. Broken though it is, yet it is their only means of communication with the people among whom they live. For some the acquisition of the language is not so hard as for others, but no one ever masters it without persistent, hard work. Full two years are allowed every new missionary from the time of his arrival in West China, for the study of the language. During that time no other responsibility whatever is put upon him. His sole work and his whole work is to master the Chinese language. We go to China to live a lifetime there, we hope for twenty or thirty or even fifty years of service. For this lifelong service, then, we believe that two years devoted wholly to language study at the beginning are little enough. In any case, the man or woman who does not succeed in acquiring a more or less perfect mastery of the Chinese is handicapped for the rest of the time in China.

Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson were the only missionaries, except Mr. and Mrs. Quirnbach, who were not appointed to live in Chengtu in 1909 in order to attend the language school. In Mr. Quirnbach's case the reason is clear. He had been in China for many years previously, and had acquired the Chinese language. In Dr. Ferguson's case, the reason does not seem so clear. It was this: Mr. and Mrs. C. J. P. Jolliffe were our only missionaries in Luchow. The nearest medical missionary to Luchow, in our own or any other mission, is distant three days' journey. *The health of our missionaries there* was considered to be of greater importance *than the language school for Dr. Ferguson*, and so he was appointed to Luchow. Furthermore, it was considered that Dr. Ferguson's youth would give him a decided advantage in the acquisition of the language. He will be simply in the same category as all missionaries of previous practice; that is to say, he will study the language with the aid of a Chinese teacher in his own home.

\$60.00 for a Teacher the Maximum.

All appropriations made by the Board for the West China Mission, excepting salaries, are taken to be simply the *maximum allowance* for the purpose named. No man draws the \$60.00 for