



**THE MISSION**

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**IN**

**CHINA**

**1895 to 1910**

## FOREWORD.

The mission work of the Reformed Presbyterian Church began in China in 1895. It is not intended to write a history of the mission as a whole, nor to tell of the failures and successes, the satisfying triumphs and the bravely borne sorrows of the individuals who have shared in the work.

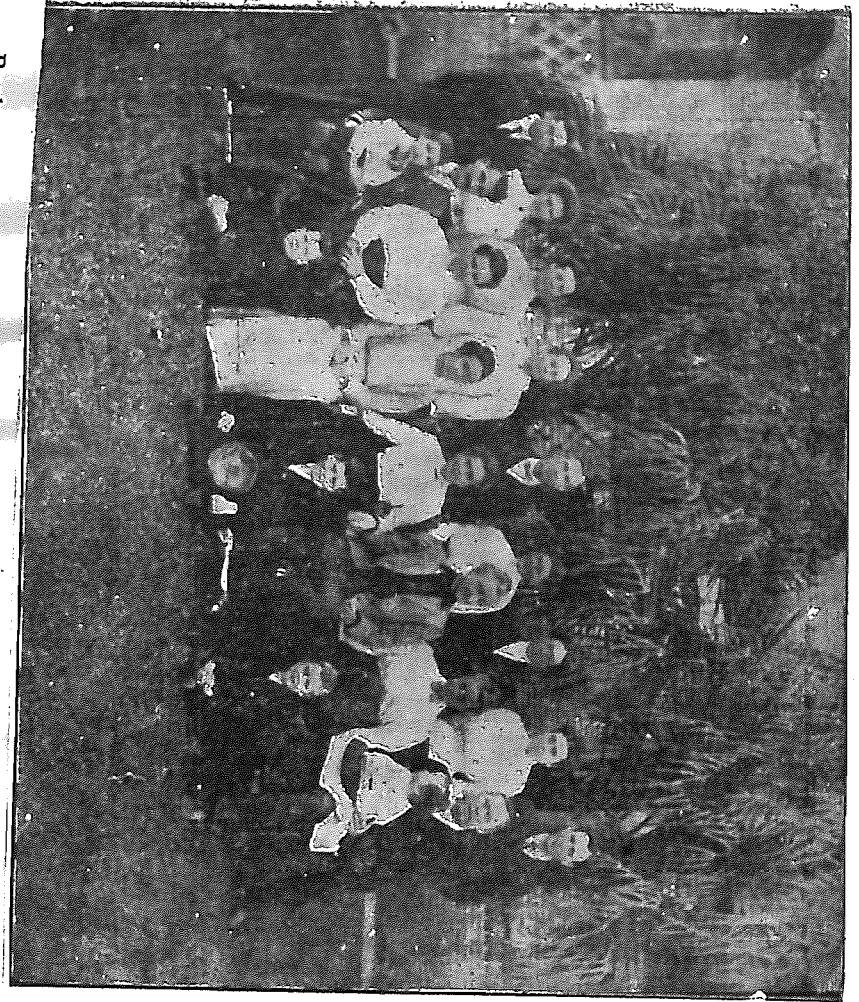
It is felt, however, that some facts of the past and present may be of interest to the workers in the dear homeland whose faithful support has made the work in China possible, and that the close of this fifteenth year of labor is not an unfitting time to present them.

This pamphlet is sent by a friend of the Mission in China, in the hope that on its printed page and between the lines you may read a continuation of the work begun long ago when "they being sent forth by the Spirit, went" out to proclaim good news. If its perusal helps to feel that past efforts have not been wholly in vain, and encourages to further work; if it strengthens the faith of any in the present power of the gospel to save; if it gives even a faintest suggestion of the glory that is to be when the world comes to see its Saviour and King, it will fulfil its purpose.

## FIRST THINGS.

- First missionaries landed in Canton, China, Dec. 12, 1895.
- First visit to Tak Hing, April 1896.
- First chapel rented, September 1897.
- First property purchased, January 1899.
- First missionary family moved to Tak Hing to live, May 1899.
- Work suspended on account of the Boxer Movement, July 1900 to October 1901.
- First Baptism, April 1902.
- First Communion, July 1902.
- First congregation organized, December 31, 1909.
- First death of native Christian, December 1, 1905.
- First native Christian wedding, January 21, 1908.
- First teacher reached the field, October 1901.
- First medical missionary reached the field, October 1901.
- First trained nurse reached the field, November 1910.

Back row, Rev. D. R. Taggart, Mrs. Taggart, Miss Jennie Dean, Mrs. Robb, Rev. A. I. Robb, Miss Rose Huston, Dr. Ida Scott, Mrs. Kempf, Rev. Julius Kempf.  
 Middle row, Dr. J. M. Wright, Mrs. Wright, Miss Anna J. Robinson, Mrs. Margaret Doig, Dr. Kate McBunney, Mrs. Robb, Rev. J. K. Robb.  
 Front row, Paul Wright, Joe Robb, Lawson Robb, Metheng Robb, Margaret Robb.



## EVANGELISTIC WORK.

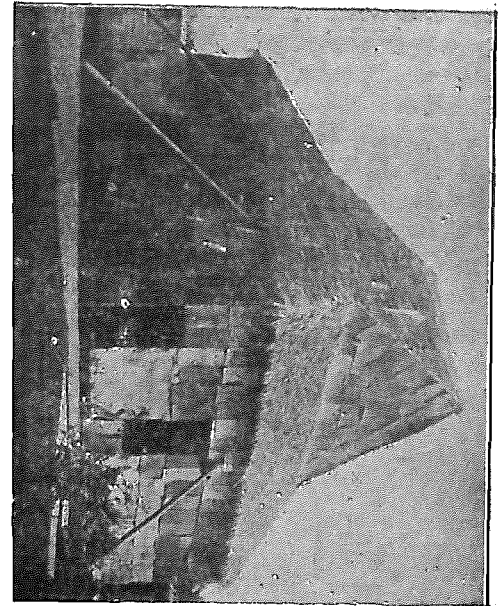
Our work in Tak Hing was begun in 1897, when Revs. A. I. Robb and Elmer McBurney opened a street chapel. During the time between 1897 and 1900 some interest was shown by a number of persons, but no open confessions were made. On the return of the missionaries to the field after the Boxer trouble, services were resumed, and during the next summer the first convert, Tse A Poh, was baptized. Since the fall of 1901 preaching services have been held regularly, first in an old house on the mission property, then in unoccupied rooms of the new dwelling house, and still later in a mat shed erected for the purpose. Finally our church home was permanently fixed for us through the generosity of Mrs. Robert McNeill of New York City, who furnished funds for the erection of a brick chapel with a seating capacity of about three hundred.

At the first our audiences were small, sometimes being fewer in number than the fingers on one's hands. And even now the chapel is not often crowded. But large audiences with us are not the most attentive. Our most interested hearers are those who come Sabbath after Sabbath, and it is from among these that our converts usually come. On December 31, 1909 the congregation of Tak Hing was organized, with a session of six elders, and a board of deacons numbering five, and a membership of one hundred and seventeen. This was an important event. Before we had an organization most of the work and all of the responsibility rested on the missionaries. Now both work and responsibility are shared by five native elders and four native deacons.

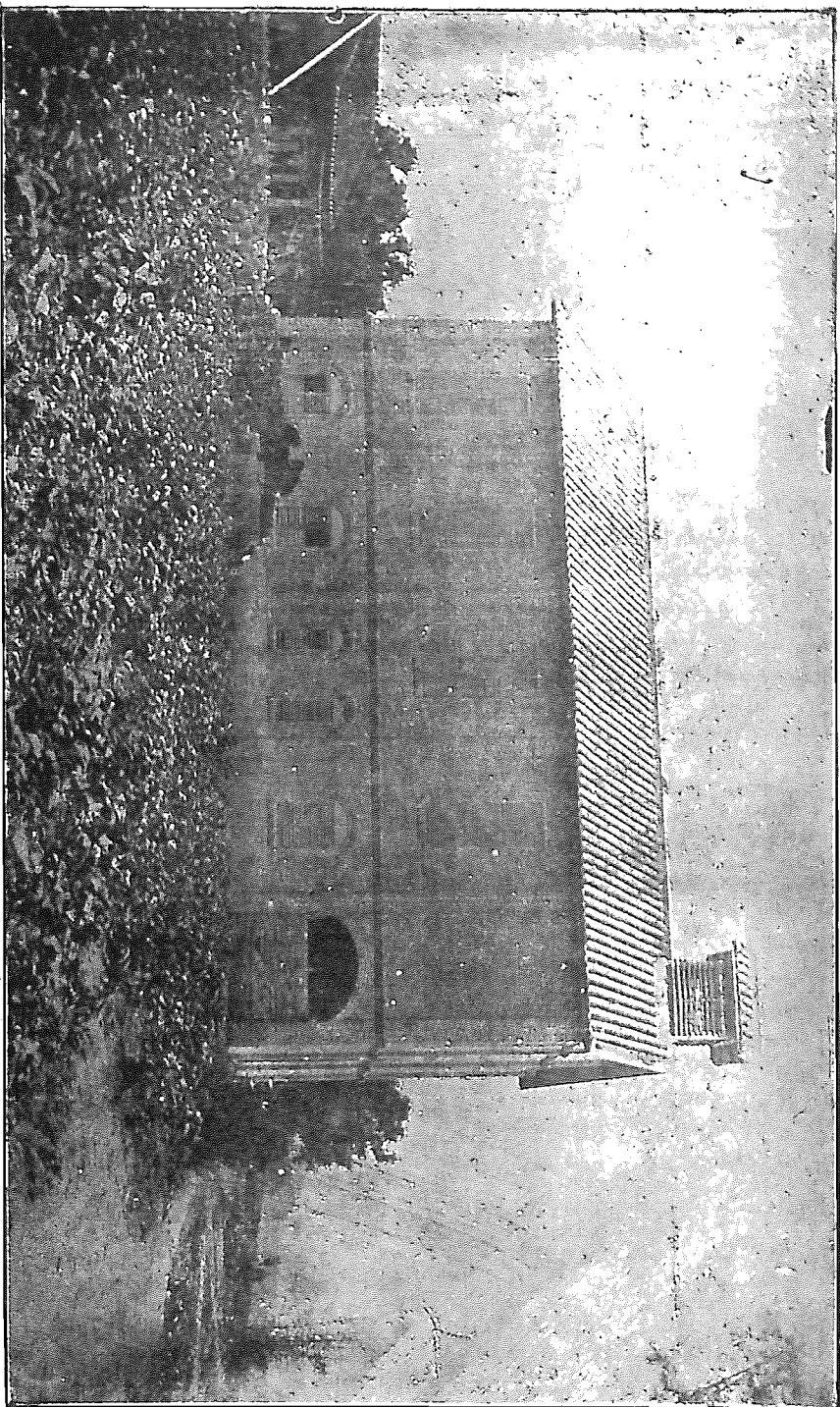
When our work was first begun, gospel truth was necessarily presented in its most rudimentary form. But with the growth of our members in knowledge and attainments, it became necessary not only to preach the truths of faith and repentance, but also to press upon them the duties that grow out of their acceptance of these truths. So our preaching services at the present time are intended not only to bring men to the knowledge of Christ, but also to build up in the faith those who have already accepted Him. At our communion services in October 1910, we urged upon members with greater insistence than ever before, the duty of taking up some form of active Christian work. We are anxious to impress upon them their responsibility for their fellow men. For some years our members have been subscribing money for the work. They still have much to learn about Christian liberality, but their contributions grow from year to year. A few of our members are tithers. Sabbath School work has been carried on in one form or another almost ever since the beginning of work at Tak Hing. Private instruction was given to inquirers, and to members as soon as we had any. At the present time we have an organized school. The men and boys meet in the chapel, and the women and girls in their respective school buildings. Mid-week prayer-meetings are held, and the freedom with which old and young alike take part would probably be something of a revelation to many of our home friends. We feel that our Sabbath Schools and prayer-meetings are of great value in fostering and developing the Christian graces of our members.

During the last two years steps have been taken in extending our work. Four stations have been opened, at Sha Pong, Ma Hui, Tung On, and Che Tsai, in the order named. At three of these stations we have native preachers. These men are from our own training school.

OUR FIRST CHAPEL.







THE ROBERT MCNEILL MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

This work is of great importance. Our aim in establishing it is to reach more people, and we feel that the results more than justify us in making the effort. Much depends on the native workers. They have yet a great deal to learn. But we believe that larger experience will bring increased efficiency. During October 1910, another station with resident foreign missionaries was opened at Do Sing, about fifteen miles above Tak Hing, on the south bank of the West River. Rev. and Mrs. Mitchell, and Dr. Jean McBurney are in charge of the work there, and have much to encourage them.

The following are only a few of many facts that might be mentioned.

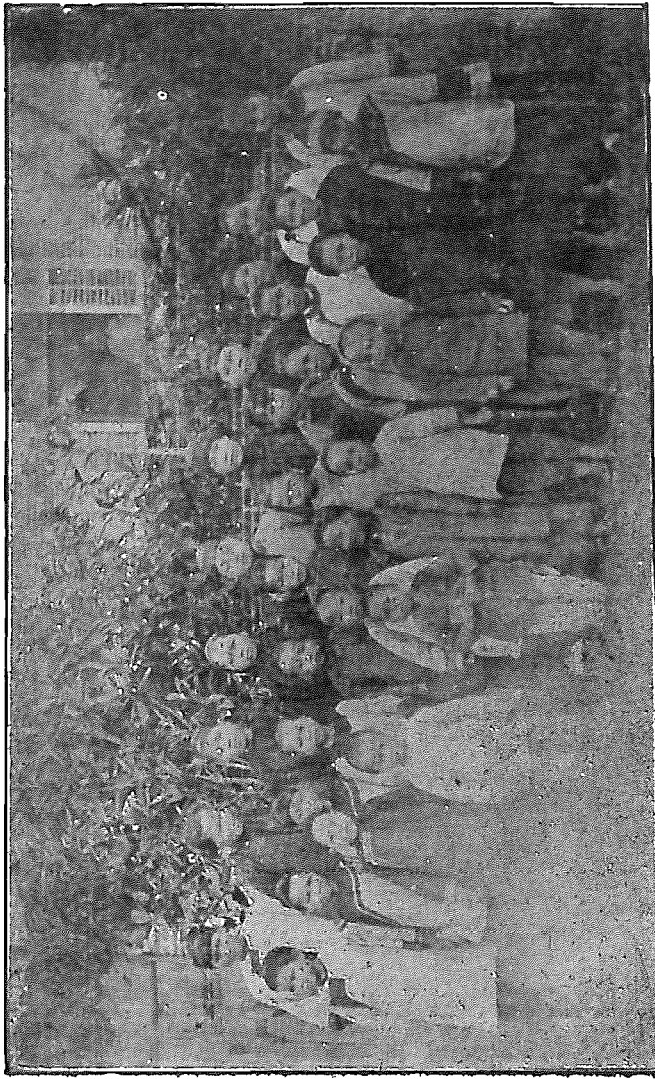
1. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The preaching of the Word has been done for the most part by persons who bring their messages to their hearers through the medium of a strange and difficult tongue of which they have only a very imperfect knowledge. Remembering that through such ministrations over one hundred and forty souls have been led to Christ, we are reminded that it is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," that such results are possible.

2. The training and employment of native workers is necessary to the evangelization of China. There are at present twelve salaried workers in our field, "but what are they among so many?" Our native Christians must be enlisted. When once imbued with the spirit of service, they possess qualifications for doing effective work that make their services peculiarly valuable. China's hope lies in her own native Christians. Her evangelization will be accomplished through the agency of a numerous and well equipped native ministry, supported by a willing and devoted people.

3. The present is a time of great need, and of great opportunity. Just now a new foe to Christianity is rising. A wave of atheism and unbelief is sweeping over China. The church has now two foes instead of one, and this latest one is more dangerous than the former one. Just now is the time to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The church's opportunities were never greater than now. They may never be so great again. This is our work because it is His work. Let us acquaint ourselves with it, and get interested in it, and pray for it, and support it by our contributions, and if possible get out on the field. "Our prospects are as bright as the promises of God." The question now is, are we going to be helpers in winning the victory? Let us redeem the time.







PUPILS IN GIRL'S SCHOOL.

## EDUCATIONAL WORK.

Definite educational work had its beginning in the Mission at Tak Hing, China when Miss Jennie B. Torrence, the first teacher sent out by the Board in 1901, made plans for our present Girl's Boarding School. Just as the building was completed and the school about to be opened, the Master revealed other plans for his handmaiden, and she was called to her Heavenly Home. This would seem an irreparable loss; but in the goodness of God, although faithful workers are often laid aside, new ones are raised up and the work goes on.

Mrs. J. M. Wright offered her services and under her direction the Tak Hing, "Love the Doctrine" Girl's School was opened in the fall of 1905. In the Spring of 1907 Dr. Kate McBurney took charge and when she went home on furlough in March 1909 Mrs. Wright again came to the rescue. The latter's illness necessitated another change, and the supervision was placed in the hands of Mrs. A. I. Robb in February, 1910. Mention should also be made of timely assistance rendered by Mrs. E. C. Mitchell and Dr. Jean McBurney. Such have been the changes in the history of the school, and with the foundation thus laid in faithfulness and sacrifice, Miss Jennie Dean assumed the responsibility in the fall of 1910. Miss Rose Huston is heartily welcomed to the work.

Since the last Chinese New Year, the Girl's School has been characterized by a steadily increasing number of students, 37 having been enrolled, with an attendance at the present writing of 33. If the work enlarges in the coming year as it has in the past, and there is reason to believe it will, the present accommodations will be entirely inadequate, as the building is now crowded to overflowing.

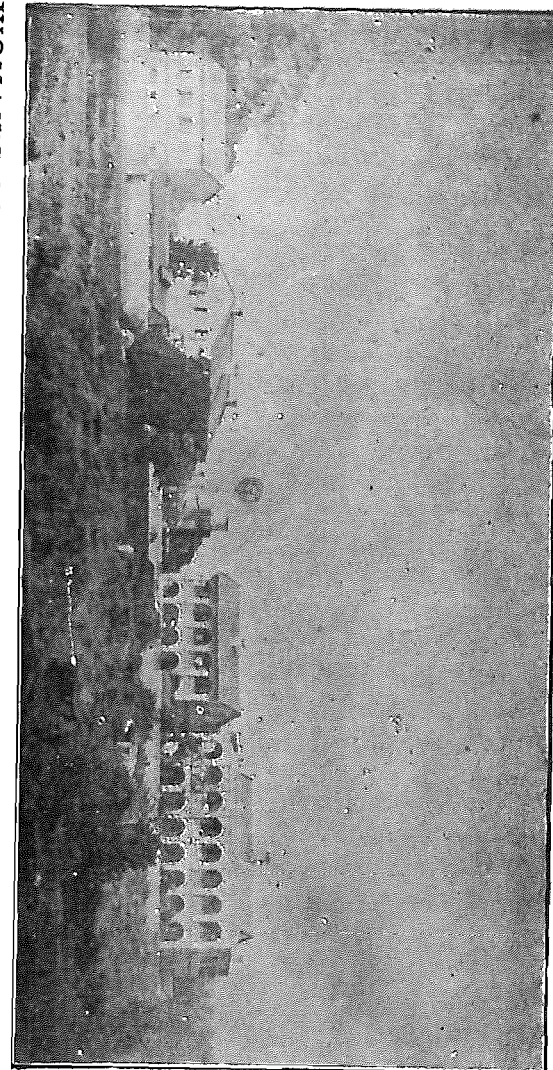
In October of this year, the school was graded according to the Course of Study outlined by the Unification Committee of the Canton Educational Association and is proving a great success. The New National Readers that have been installed are up to date and quite as attractive as the readers used in schools in the U.S. In the absence of a native teacher, five of the older pupils are doing very acceptable work in teaching the younger children and are gaining valuable experience, for it will not be long ere they will be needed as teachers in other places. There are girls in Do Sing begging for a school to be opened there and in the city of Tak Hing there is great need for a day school for girls. These are but two instances of pressing need. The pupil teachers are given instruction by one of our men teachers who is a very fine scholar, besides that taught by the foreigners. Thus the Light has dawned for the daughters of China in this district, and in these redeemed ones we see future mothers, teachers, and Bible women, who shall be Light-bearers to their sisters who are still under a bondage such as those in Christian lands cannot begin to realize.

#### Seminary.

In March 1906, Dr. A. I. Robb started a theological class using the basement of the chapel for the school and in February 1909, graduated four students. These evangelists are all engaged in active Christian work, one being located at Tung On, another at Ma Hui, another at Che-Tsai and the last remaining at Tak Hing. The converting of coolies and cooks into "read book" men and preachers of the gospel is not an easy proposition, but the results surely justify the labor and patience involved, and could the friends witness the earnestness and enthusiasm with which these men who have tasted the joys of salvation, proclaim

WOMAN'S SCHOOL DWELLING.

GIRL'S SCHOOL DWELLING.



the glad tidings to their fellow men, there could be no doubt as to their effectiveness as workers.

A second class was started in the Training School in the fall of 1909 and four more students are in training. One other, a man of education, began with this class, but has gone to Do Sing as Rev. E. C. Mitchell's helper in the evangelistic work and is proving himself invaluable.

It would be considered a great impetus to the work if more educated Chinese were available for building up a native ministry, but here, as in the days of the lowly Nazarene, the humbler classes are first to respond. We do long for our three personal teachers to give themselves to the service of Christ. We cannot but believe they are secret believers; one in particular, Lei Sin Shang, who scoffed not a little, but over whom in recent years a great change has come, will be a great power in the work of the kingdom when he yields himself to the Master's service. To this end many earnest prayers have ascended and are ascending to the One who answers prayers and controls the hearts of men.

### **Boys' School.**

In March 1907, one year following the opening of the Training School, the Boys' School came into existence with fourteen pupils. Dr. Robb had charge of the school until May when he was relieved by Rev. J. A. Kempf who has continued the supervision.

The school building is one built for the purpose and is located in the city. The enrolment of the past year was 35 pupils, ranging in age from 10 years to 24 years. The native teacher, a very godly man, is one of the elders and is assisted by his son who is a pupil-teacher. It is purposed to adopt the new course of study in the Boys' School; also to introduce English, for which there is a strong demand.

Through Rev. Kempf's efforts while in America on furlough, enough money was raised for the purchase of a dormitory. This, with a much needed play ground will greatly facilitate the work.

The Boys' School, like the Girls' School exists primarily for the children of the Christians. However, the children of non-Christians are not barred and there are cases where the children are the first to be brought to Christ. In the Boys' School we see our future ministers of the gospel as this is a preparatory school for the seminary.

### Woman's School.

The last school to be opened was the Womens' School in October, 1908 under the management of Dr. Kate McBurney. The main object of this school is to provide a haven for the women and thus give them an opportunity to learn the doctrine. Nine women who have had instruction in this school have learned the Way of Life and united with the Church. Many others, entering for a longer or shorter period of time, have come under the influence of the gospel. There are daily classes in Bible and secular subjects, also a daily service conducted by one of the native evangelists. There are unlimited opportunities for the Bible women who are receiving training in this school.

The blind department is an interesting feature of the Womens' School. To be sure it is small with two little girls and the young teacher who was educated in Canton. Yet this is a beginning and promises to be the foundation of a greater work among this ever present needy class. The first blind pupil was taken a little beggar girl from the streets rescued from a life of shame, and at the last communion was received into the church.

The ultimate object of all the school work is to win souls for Christ and to provide the best possible environment for the development of workers for the Master's service. Therefore is the Educational Work, like the Medical, contributory to the Evangelistic. Perhaps more than anything else, China needs at the present time efficient Christian workers; and since the schools are a means to this end, there is need of extending this branch of the work.

The effort to reduce the mission schools of South China to some degree of uniformity is a long step in advance, and will greatly increase the usefulness of the schools. Now is the time of opportunity when the youth of China are so desirous of acquiring a modern education. Not all can give themselves to foreign service, but all can give themselves, as many have, to the great work of intercession, and have as truly a part in the work as those on the field.

the private wards is named "Little Blanchie Houston Memorial Ward." The large upper ward in the womens' department is named "Higgins Ward."

The building is equally divided into a department for Women and a department for Men. The total number of beds capable of being used in present building is 44.

In the womens' department is a tablet to the memory of Dr. J. Maude George, and it is expected in the near future to have a tablet to the memory of Rev. David Methury, M.D., in the mens' department.

Medical work in China is a very large and important work. The people are ignorant of anything approaching modern medical science and consequently the most insanitary conditions prevail. Quackery flourishes and superstition is rife. Charms are plentiful, and the idols are consulted often before a remedy is sought. It is the work of the medical department to meet all these in a proper way. The greatest work is to prepare Chinese people to be able to take and do the work thoroughly.

All new work has its difficulties, and each new field its own peculiar circumstances. Our work is no exception, but on the whole it has been and is encouraging. Progress in China is proverbially slow, but on looking back, we can see very much for which to be thankful.

The people in this district are poor, and many of those who should be in a hospital and on nourishing diet, have not the time to spare to come, for their daily food depends on their daily work. The dispensary does the best it can for this class of patients. The people are a home loving people, and many spend their lives within a small radius, and could not be persuaded to leave their houses to come to the hospital or its dispensary. Each locality has its

market town, and to some of these we go and thus reach many of the last named needy ones. For two years Dr. Jean McBurney has had charge of itinerating work which has been of mutual value to many. Frequently 20 miles were walked in one day and medicines dispensed.

The Doctor has now gone to Do Sing to take charge of the Medical work there. At all of the dispensaries portions of Scripture and tracts were sold and the "Good News" declared.

Both rich and poor are treated in the hospital, and while its patients are not large in number, the number is gradually growing. Services are held morning and evening in the wards, and all are required to attend. All are required to attend Chapel evening services and on Sabbath day. The hospital help are members of our Church, and are diligent in working for the salvation of those under their care. Our aim is to bring to the Chinese salvation, and to give the benefits of modern healing. To be effectual, we must have trained Chinese Christians. The people are reached through the hospital, dispensaries, and by itinerations, which are the present means at our disposal. The future is bright. The work is pleasant and encouraging. There is a joy in trying to fulfill His command to "Heal."

## REGISTER OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE MISSION IN CHINA

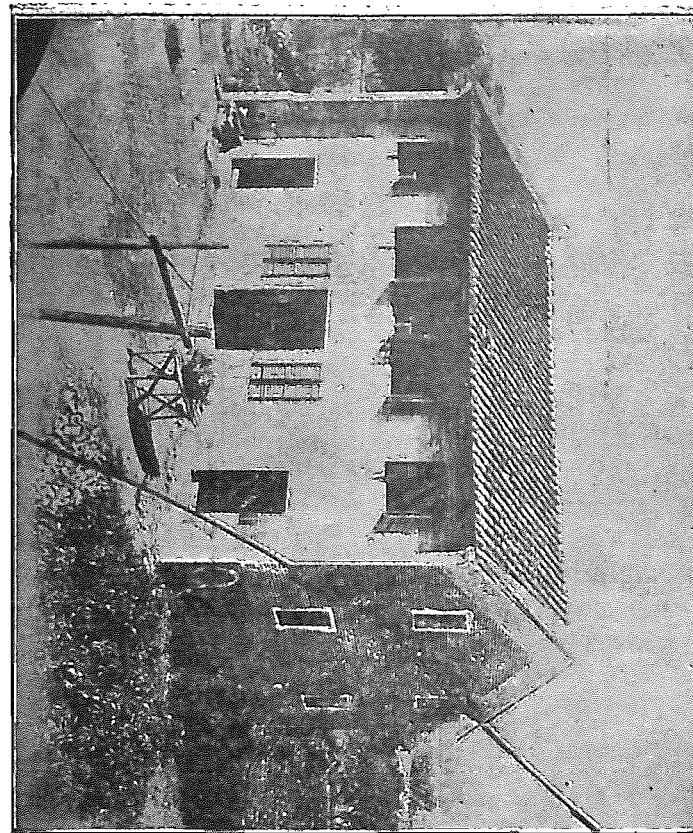
Rev. E. McBurney	....	....	....1895—1900
Mrs. Lizzie McBurney	....	....	....1895—1899
Rev. A. I. Robb	....	....	....1895 —
Mrs. Ella Robb	....	....	....1895—1903
Dr. J. Maude George	....	....	....1901—1904
Miss Jennie B. Torrence	....	....	....1901—1905
Rev. J. K. Robb	....	....	....1902 —
Mrs. Maude Robb	....	....	....1902 —
Dr. J. M. Wright	....	....	....1902 —
Mrs. Nannie G. Wright	....	....	....1902 —
Dr. Kate W. McBurney	....	....	....1903 —
Dr. Jean G. McBurney	....	....	....1903 —
Rev. Julius Kempf	....	....	....1904 —
Rev. R. A. Blair	....	....	....1907—1908
Mrs. R. A. Blair	....	....	....1907—1908
Rev. W. M. Robb	....	....	....1907—on furlough
Mrs. Orlena M. Robb	....	....	....1907—on furlough
Rev. E. C. Mitchell	....	....	....1907 —
Mrs. Lena Mitchell	....	....	....1907 —
Dr. Ida Scott	....	....	....1907 —
Mrs. Janet C. Robb	....	....	....1907 —
Miss Jennie Dean	....	....	....1908 —
Mrs. Margaret Doig	....	....	....1910 —
Mrs. Mabel Kempf	....	....	....1910 —
Miss Rose Huston	....	....	....1910 —
Rev. D. R. Taggart	....	....	....1910 —
Mrs. D. R. Taggart	....	....	....1910 —
Miss Anna J. Robinson	....	....	....1910 —



## SOME STATISTICS.

Total number of missionaries sent out	....	28
Removals by death	....	3
Retired on account of illness	....	4
Enforced furlough on account of illness	....	3
Present force on the field	....	19
Total years of work in China	....	113
Maximum period of service	....	15 years
Average term	....	4 years
Number of persons received into the church	....	161
Number of baptisms	....	164
Present membership	....	140
Elders....	....	6
Deacons	....	5
Native preachers	....	4
Colporteurs	....	2
Teachers in schools	....	6
Hospital assistants	....	4
Pupils in Girls' School	....	37
Pupils in Boys' School	....	35
Pupils in Womens' School	....	21
Pupils in Training School	....	5
Outstations	....	4
Tak Hing occupied by missionaries	....	1899
Do Sing occupied by missionaries	....	1910

FIRST MISSIONARY RESIDENCE.



## WE THANK YOU.

- 1.—For your generous financial support.
- 2.—For your surrender of sons and daughters to Christ and his work in this land.
- 3.—For the help of your prayers, your often shown interest in this work.

## ENCOURAGEMENTS.

- 1.—A growing membership.
- 2.—Growing work and increasing number of workers, native and foreign.
- 3.—Doors are open, prejudice is passing away, and opportunities great.
- 4.—The influence of the gospel and the missionary is greatest where best known.
- 5.—An unparalled awakening, and great changes in secular things, have made the people willing, as never before, to consider the claims of the gospel.

## PURPOSE.

- 1.—To make the gospel known to every individual.
- 2.—To make Christianity the controlling force in the individual, family, social, and national life of China.

## PROMISE.

“God will bless us;  
And all the ends of the earth shall fear him.” Ps. 67:7.