

254

The North China Union Medical College for Women

PEKING : : : : : CHINA

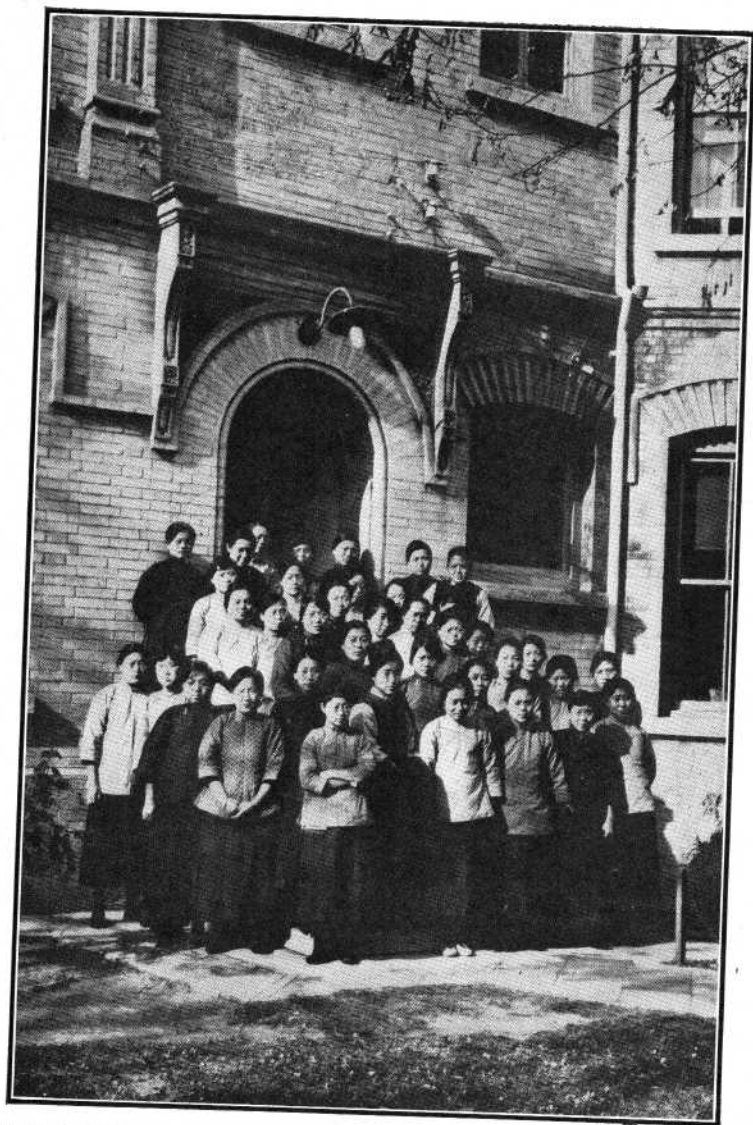
1908



1921

*In this booklet is briefly depicted
the urgent need for medical train-
ing for Chinese women, and the
manner in which this need can
be met by the North China Union
Medical College, now in its four-
teenth year.*

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE
WOMEN'S UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGES
IN THE ORIENT
1921



Students of North China Union Medical College for Women on the School Steps

The Woman Physician in China



WHEN the Christian women of the West saw their high destiny of world service, like the Wise Men of old, they followed the Gleam, and gave to the women of the East, their choicest gifts. They gave no gift so rich, so sweet, so welcome, as the gift of the woman physician. The woman physician came to China, hoary, vast, teeming China. See what she saw!

WASTE OF BABY LIFE

A little child gazes at her with speaking eyes and dumb lips. She is the victim of acupuncture. The native doctor has thrust into the larynx a great, unclean needle.

This soft baby head is a mass of festering blisters. Burning is the remedy of the so-called Chinese physician. Those heavy eyes mean dope. The baby has an agonizing ear abscess. Unable to bear the crying, the helpless mother has given opium.

The woman doctor passes through a Peking street, and notes how it overflows with laughing boys and girls. A little later, she finds the street mute as death. "Throats not good," she is told. Diphtheria came, saw, conquered, till not a child victim is left. Who knows about contagion? Who has ever heard of antitoxin?

She sees superstition take the sick child from the heated *kang* and lay it on the cold floor, destroying its last chance of life. From the doorway, the desolate mother waves the child's coat, trying to call back the departing spirit.

Cholera rages, sweeping off entire villages, while children play on decaying filth heaps, piled at the very house-door,

and devour cut melons, exposed on open stands in dirty streets. Who knows about the deadly fly? Did not one of their own poets say,

“Oh, spare the busy morning fly!
Spare the mosquitoes of the night.”

Who understands the alphabet of the laws of sanitation?

WOES OF MOTHERHOOD

The woman doctor sees the pitiable woes of the women. The prospective mother patiently (no woman so patient as the Chinese woman) lies down on her bed of pain. Her bed has been prepared by placing several inches of dirt over the brick bed. Who knows anything of septicaemia? Surely not the ignorant, unclean midwife. Mother and babe are poisoned.

WHY THE WASTE?

“It need not have been,” was the poignant cry of one of them, Dr. Rachel Benn. That cry is echoed over and over again in the hearts of her sister physicians. “Why, why this unutterable waste of baby life, of mothers?” Why?

“So much to do, so few to do it. What are we among so many—250,000,000 Chinese women and children?”

A WAY OUT

Then to these worn, but dauntless women doctors, standing at their posts in the Battalion of Life, God sent a dream—a dream of a medical college to train Chinese women, women deft of hand, quick of brain, stanch of heart—the very material for a woman doctor.

The North China Union Medical College for Women

THE DREAM REALIZED

"It was not all a dream," for these women of faith knew how to make their dream come true.

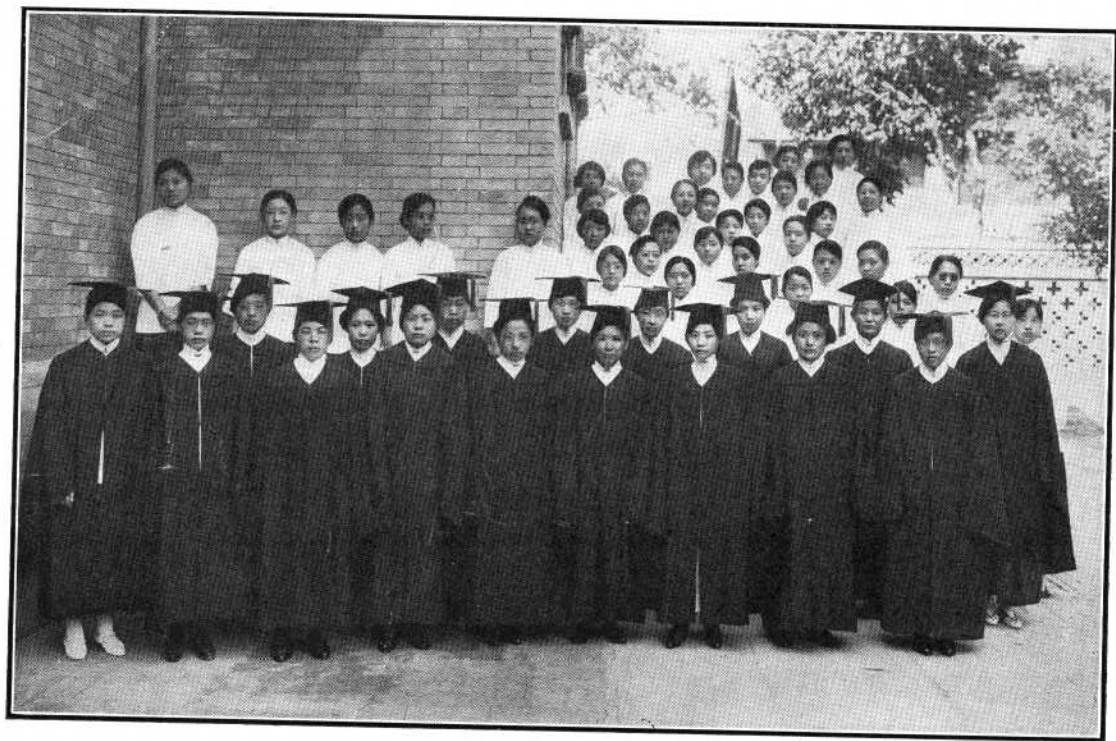
February,—birth month of liberators like Washington and Lincoln,—February, 1908, marks the birth month in Peking of the North China Medical College for Women, an institution to proclaim release to the captives of filth, ignorance and superstition, the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

THE BEGINNING

Only two young women formed the student body. There was no college building and classes met in two small rooms of the Mary Porter Gamewell School, one of which was used as a lecture room, and the other as a laboratory.

PRESENT GROWTH

From this insignificant beginning, the school has grown to its present proportions. Seventeen professors and instructors, American and Chinese, compose the faculty and represent the three co-operating missions, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational. The administration building, located in the Methodist compound, is a substantial two story structure, provided with electricity, steam heat and running water. The equipment is meagre, but is receiving yearly additions. Funds for an X-ray machine have been appropriated. Two adjoining buildings are used as dormitories. Plans have been made for a departmental teaching dispensary and staff residence.



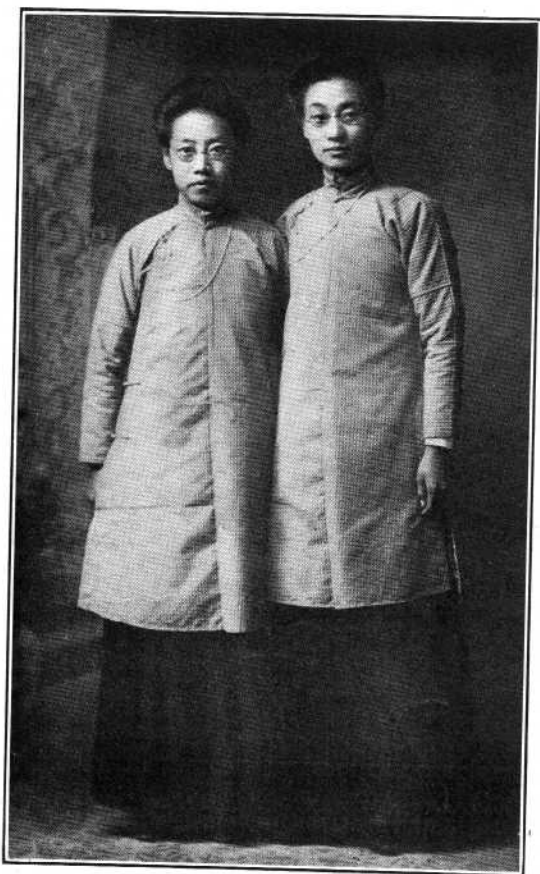
Class of 1921

STRATEGIC SITE

The college is favorably located in Peking, wonderful old city of palaces and temples, the great center of political, intellectual and social life. Peking has also a cold, dry winter climate with weeks of brilliant sunshine. In the Western Hills and on the seacoast, are healthful retreats of easy access for vacation days. The college is near the Hatamen,—the great, towering gateway between the Manchu and Chinese sections of Peking,—through which flow back and forth the surging multitudes. Three mission hospitals in the vicinity provide vast clinical material. The Sleeper Davis Hospital, maintained by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has a capacity of 100 beds. In 1920-21, it treated 1061 in-patients, 21,566 dispensary patients, and 401 obstetrical cases.

The Dow Hospital of the Presbyterian Church has 40 beds and a large out-patient department. The clinical opportunities that these hospitals for women afford, are freely placed at the disposal of the medical students, and members of the advanced classes are allowed to assist in certain operations. Clinics in the Methodist Men's Hospital, located a block away, have been attended by the students in small groups, and an excellent opportunity afforded for direct observation of symptoms and treatment. Groups of seniors visit the Government Isolation Hospital and are given an insight into the care and treatment of contagious diseases. The Union Medical College Autopsy Room and Pathological Laboratories are also open to the students.

The Union Training School for Nurses is also located near the Medical College for Women.



Miss Liu Lan Ying Miss Wang Pao Chen
Surgeons at the Union Medical College

STANDARDS

The entrance requirements have been gradually advanced. The new class admitted in September, 1920, were young women who had completed two years of college work, including English and pre-medical courses in physics, chemistry, and biology with corresponding laboratory work. Yenching College,—the Woman's department of the University of Peking,—offers special courses in pre-medical science, as preparation for entering the Medical College. From present indications, between thirty and forty students in Yenching will elect these courses for 1921-22. This will give the Medical College a large entering class in the fall of 1922 under advanced standards.

A BI-LINGUAL COLLEGE

Mandarin, spoken by the vast majority of Chinese millions, is the chief medium of instruction and some courses are given in English to the end that students may read medical journals in English and thus keep in touch with the most advanced medical thought.

STUDENT-BODY

From an enrollment of two the first year, the student-body has grown to thirty-eight during the year 1920-21, these young women coming from eight provinces and from Manchuria and Korea. Eight denominations have representatives in training for their own medical work. In June, 1921, twenty-one young women completed the academic portion of their training and went out for practical experience in hospital work. At the expiration of a year of satisfactory service, diplomas and degrees will be given them.



Freshman Class in Histology

GRADUATES

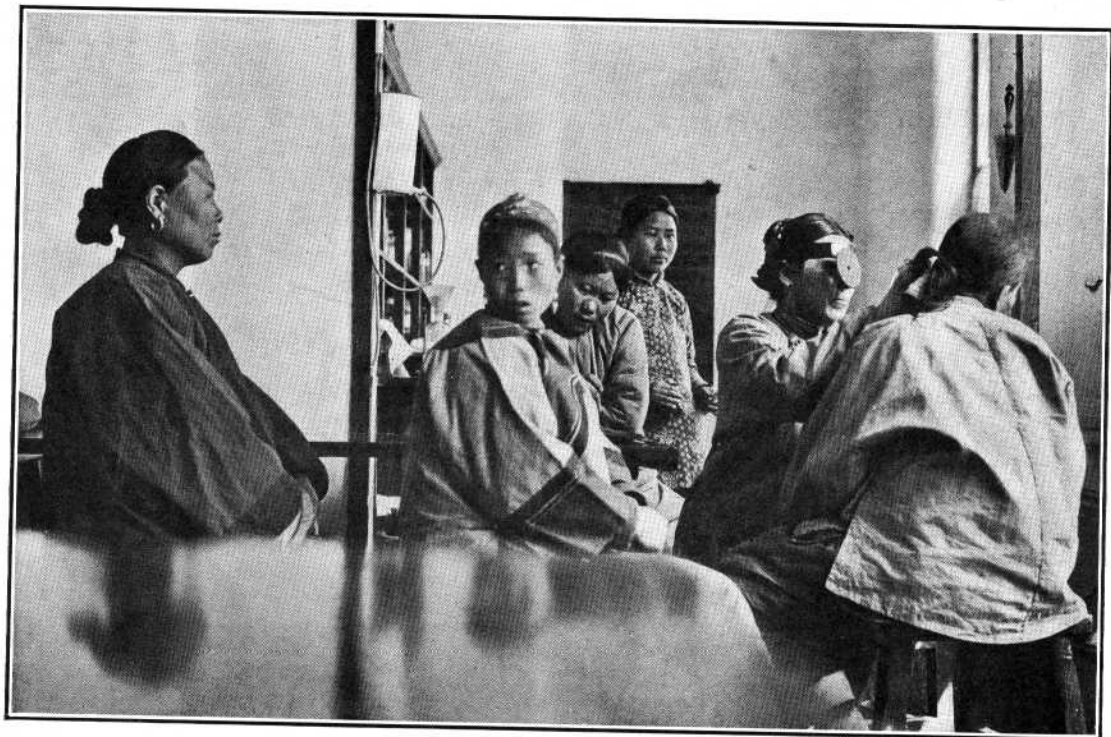
"By their fruits, ye shall know them."

Of the twenty-one young women, to whom certificates were given in June, 1921, one comes to America, and the remaining twenty go to hospitals in fifteen cities in seven provinces, in Manchuria and in Korea. This was the largest class that has ever gone out from the school, but the number was not sufficient to meet the requests for hospital internes.

The graduates of the school now number forty-seven. The large majority are identified with the missionary work of the different churches, and are scattered from Moukden in the North to Fukien in the South, and from the Pacific Coast to far Chungking.

Take a Chinese young woman of the East Coast, educated in the glamor of the capital city, Peking. Ask her to take a journey of a month through the dangerous rapids of the Yangtze gorges and go to Chungking, a city of the most western province, bordering Thibet. Chungking, with its strange customs, different climate and dialect, with its remoteness from "home," is almost as much foreign to her as is the Orient to a young woman of America. Yet to meet the need there, and to make possible the opening of the only woman's hospital in a territory of millions of people, Dr. Lydia Ch'en devoted herself and bravely undertook the journey and the task. Enthusiastic reports are received of her work in the hospital and of her reception in the best homes of the city. The surgeon-in-chief of the General Hospital in that city, refers to her as a "good surgeon and capable physician."

In Kiukiang when the Danforth Memorial Hospital was left without its head of many years, another Dr. Ch'en with faith and courage, took the burden upon her shoulders and nobly



Clinic at Women's Hospital

did she bear it. A medical associate of that city says "Dr. Ch'en has sound judgment and does excellent work in diagnosis."

Dr. Chao Shu-Lan has for some time had full charge of the woman's department of the Church General Hospital, Wuchang, and is reported as "doing splendidly." The head physician says, "I cannot speak too highly of the work and character of Dr. Chao. She has never disappointed me."

Dr. Li-wang Pao Ch'en has for a number of years been assistant in anatomy and associate in surgery in Peking Medical College. Of her work, none speak but in praise.

Dr. Wu Jei-Ling has done three years of good work in Sleeper Davis Hospital. During the third year, she was General Anaesthetist for the hospital and associate in obstetrics.

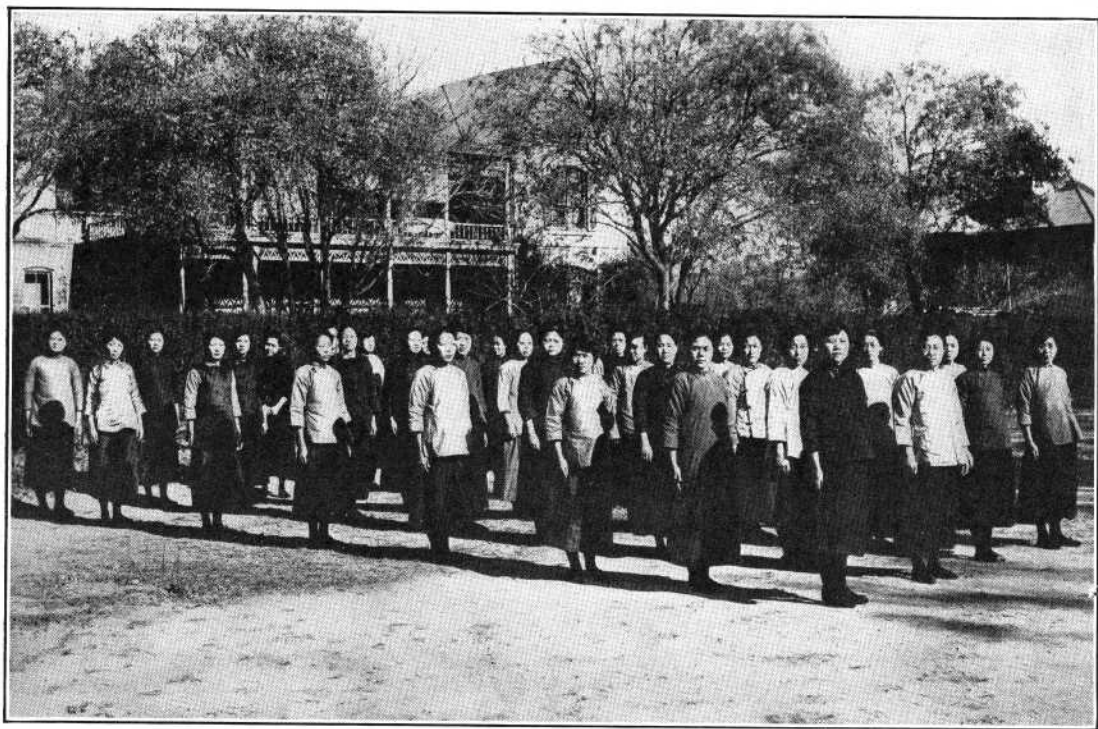
At this writing, two women's hospitals of the North China Presbyterian Mission are kept open by graduates of the Medical School.

THE NEED

China with a population of 400,000,000 has 372 mission hospitals, 328 dispensaries, 267 men and 93 women medical missionaries. China has one doctor for 1,200,000. At this ratio, the United States would have 92 doctors.

THE CHALLENGE

One of the great sights of Peking is the famous Temple of the Great Bell, which enshrines the deed of a Chinese maiden. Twice had her father, the bell-maker, failed. The astrologer said that only the blood of a maiden could fuse the metals and save her father from the emperor's wrath. At the moment of casting, with the cry "For thy sake, O my



North China Union Medical College for Women. W. F. M. S. Home in the Rear

The North China Union Medical College for Women

father," she threw herself into the glowing metal, and the perfect bell came forth, sounding in mellow, far-reaching music the praise of her filial deed.

Today, Chinese young women, as noble as she, stand ready to cast themselves into the melting pot of China. They are ready to devote arduous years in study and to face dangers greater than any battle field. Recall the fearful epidemic in North China, in 1911. See the record—43,942 cases, and 43,942 deaths. It may be their part, like young Dr. Arthur Jackson, to throw their lives across the path of the onward sweep of some great pestilence and stay it at the cost of life, as he did. They venture their all in order that from pure homes, blessed with happy motherhood, radiant with well-born childhood shall ascend the music of thanksgiving and praise into the ears of the All-Father.

THE CALL

The North China Union Medical College is the only existing woman's medical college in China, giving instruction in Mandarin and English, and it is the only woman's medical college with the exception of the Hackett Medical College in Canton where the instruction is in the more limited Cantonese dialect. To meet the requirements of a first class medical school, North China Union Medical College needs \$450,000 for building and equipment.

Chinese young women, facing a great task, say "For country's sake, for our sisters' sake, for Christ's sake" and hold nothing back. Shall this devotion be wasted, because we fail to equip them with the very best?

Is not the Voice which commissions them, "Go, preach and heal," saying to us, "Freely ye have received, freely give?"