THE CONDITION OF THE HOSPITALS IN CHINA

To the Editor:

As far as it has been possible, up to date, to gather information with regard to the present condition of the hospitals in China, it is presented below.

The data have been gathered for the most part through the office of the Secretary of the China Medical Association, who has given a great deal of time to keeping in touch with the hospitals as far as this has been possible. In many places where the hospital work has been taken over by Chinese members of the staffs these colleagues have been too busy to keep us in touch with the hospital, and some have not grasped the importance of keeping the office informed.

While over 80 per cent of the missionary staff in China were withdrawn during the spring and early summer of this year, some of these workers have already returned to their work and stations, and many of those returning have been the medical workers, so that the figures may not be absolutely correct in every case; however, they will give a good idea as to how medical work has been treated by the fighting factions in China.

The provinces where the Nationalist party, and especially that part of its army which was predominately "Red" or Communistic, suffered most from the depredations of the Nationalists and there most of the hospitals are closed. On the other hand, in the province of Szechwan, where the Nationalistic party was not so tainted with Communism, the hospitals were able to carry on wherever they had Chinese who were capable of doing the work. In only five of those reported, was it necessary to close down, on account of insufficient staff. One or two of these have since opened with supplemented staff, and more will open as the foreign missionaries return to the fields. This province has suffered the least of the eighteen provinces, and work has been carried on steadily. Had it not been for the pressure of the consular authorities, the missionaries would not have had to leave this province.

While the appended list is not complete, it covers over 75 per cent of the hospitalization

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of China, and will give the reader some idea of the scarcity of hospitals in China with its population of four hundred million.

	No data	*Taken over by Government*	*Looted or Destroyed*	*Closed*	*Temporary Arrangement*	*Running Normally*	*Number of Hospitals*
HOSPITALS IN:							
Manchuria	..	..	..	..	..	14	18
Chili	..	..	1	1	4	14	20
Shanshi	..	..	..	1	5	4	10
Shenshi	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Kansu	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Shantung	1	..	..	..	7	11	19
Honan	..	..	..	12	1	..	13
Kwangtung	..	..	..	6	10	2	18
Canton and Swatow	..	1	..	1	..	6	8
Kwangshi	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Kweichow	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Szechwan	..	..	..	5	12	2	19
Yunan	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
Fukien	..	..	..	5	18	7	30
Hupeh	..	..	..	2	5	..	7
Hunan	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Kiangsi	..	..	..	3	2	2	7
Chekiang	..	1	..	1	4	3	9
Kiangsu	..	1	1	9	7	1	20
Anhwei	..	1	..	4	3	1	9
Totals	1	4	3	51	83	62	222

Remarks.—Some not reporting.

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