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14

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# THE CHINA MISSION YEAR BOOK 1919

(TENTH ANNUAL ISSUE)

Issued under arrangement between the Christian Literature  
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1920

**THE YEAR BOOK MAY BE OBTAINED**

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## PREFACE

THE year 1919 will remain a memorable one in Chinese history. The Shantung award at the peace table in Paris profoundly stirred the student and business classes in all parts of China, and set in motion forces the full significance of which it is impossible as yet to estimate. The student movement is the most hopeful sign of an awakened public spirit that has manifested itself in China in many years. It bids fair to become a force strong enough to bring about some urgently needed reforms. If wisely directed it may well usher in a new day in China. In fact to many it seems that the new day has already begun. The support given the students by the business classes throughout China not only encouraged them to persevere in their efforts but also to reveal how widespread is the dissatisfaction with the present government and with its foreign policy.

The growing interest in popular education is another illustration that a new spirit is abroad. The proposals that from time to time emanate from prominent (government educational) leaders are very far-reaching and aim at nothing less than the making of "mandarin" a national language that can be universally understood throughout the country and that will eventually make unnecessary the study of the present written language by students who do not pursue their studies beyond the first six or eight years. The leaders in this movement see clearly that without such radical changes as are involved in the above proposals the great masses of the people can never, under existing economic conditions, secure even those rudiments of education which are essential if China is to take her place among the democracies of the world.

The significance of these movements for Christian work is generally recognized. They have already aroused new aspirations in the hearts of many Christians. The students in Christian schools joined with those of government schools in the patriotic uprisings of the past year. The Christians have felt a new sense of responsibility for leadership resting upon them in this hour of their country's need. Christian patriotic societies have been formed in different parts of the country and more recently a "China-for-Christ Movement" has been started. It is an attempt to provide a means by which Christians in all parts of China may unite in efforts to bring to their country those moral and religious blessings which lie at the foundation of any strong national life and which they feel that Christianity alone can supply.

During the past year many of the missionary societies have found their work seriously handicapped by the absence from the field of an unusually large number of workers and by serious loss in income due to exchange. They see little prospect of any considerable reinforcements in the immediate future and are bending every effort to maintain existing work. Others, more especially the American and Canadian societies, have been challenged by the Interchurch World Movement of North America and by similar movements in China to state their needs in staff and money if they are to take the largest possible advantage of the opportunities before them. The

amount of the combined "askings" of all the societies that are planning to extend their work is not yet known, but enough is known to make it very clear that the next five to ten years are to be supremely critical years for the Church in China, as well as years of unbounded opportunity.

There never was a time when wisdom was more needed than now in order that these enlarged plans may make for the upbuilding of a strong indigénous Chinese Church, deeply spiritual and fired by a passion to win China for Christ.

The beginnings of these movements are described in this issue of the CHINA MISSION YEAR BOOK. The different articles when taken together make an inspiring picture. They reveal again the great virility and strength of the Chinese people and the hold that Christianity has already gained upon them. They show the constant, and often bold advance of the Christian forces.

The book follows the same general outline as in recent years. The general statistics of the missions have, however, been omitted in view of the publication in the autumn by the China Continuation Committee of the Missionary Survey of China, which it has been conducting during the last few years.

We regret the delay that has occurred in the date of this year's issue. The aim is to have the book appear in January of each year. The delay has been due primarily to the difficulty of finding the time amid the press of other duties for the necessary editorial work. One or other of the editors was absent from China during the whole of the year and this not only meant a change of editors shortly before the book went to press, but the necessity of one man trying to carry two men's work in connection with the China Continuation Committee and the added duties laid upon him by the launching of the China-for-Christ Movement. Several unexpected delays were caused while the book was in the press, the most serious of which was with the failure of the writer who had promised to send the opening article. It was finally found necessary to secure another writer.

The China Continuation Committee is responsible for the CHINA MISSION YEAR BOOK only in that it appoints the Editorial Committee and the Editors. When articles in the book are the expression of the policies or the views of the China Continuation Committee this fact is made clear; in other cases the writer of the paper is responsible for the opinions expressed.

The Editors desire to thank most heartily those who have so kindly contributed the articles which make up the book, and especially Professor C. F. Remer, who upon a few days' notice undertook to write the opening chapter. Special thanks are also due to Mr. C. L. Boynton who has again, as in former years, kindly seen the book through the press.

E. C. L.

*Shanghai, March 10, 1920.*

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