

TR. DOWN, REC'D

JUL 25 1927

REPORT OF THE FIRST YEAR OF MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK OF  
THE CORNELIUS BAKER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
ANDONG, CHOSŒN (KORŒA)

ALMO EXPI

JUL 16 1927

21-2  
SECRETARIES

Ans'd

January 1, 1927

The Cornelius Baker Memorial Hospital was closed in the fall of 1920 and opened again on January 1st, 1926. During this time all the former precedents were forgotten and thus it was that at the time of the reopening of the hospital it was felt that this was the same as starting an entirely new work. Therefore in this report it is considered that our work started on January 1st, 1926.

However we wish to give our most hearty thanks to Doctor Roy K. Smith of the Chosen mission who, labouring under many difficulties, built the present hospital building, mostly with his own hands because he did not have at that time, as now, good contracting firms who could do the work. To the doctors before Doctor Smith, also, much credit is due for their willingness to go out into entirely untrod paths. It was about fifteen years ago that Doctor A.G. Fletcher, now of the Chosen mission hospital at Taiku, together with another missionary, wound his way over cow-trails on foot and on horseback bringing their goods by "jiggy" - journeyed on to a city whose name is translated from the Chinese characters as the "Eastern Capital" known as Andong. This city is the center of a district of 700,000 Koreans mostly the high class "Yang Ban" (Country Gentlemen), the center of Korean culture and of all things that were high and noble in Korean thought. Certainly a center for Korean education, with one of the most famous libraries of old Korea located but a short 40 li (15 miles) away.

Centering around this library and around a famous teacher, Ei Sun Sang, the students of all that was sacred and best in Korean life sat and studied the famous Chinese characters. Day after day they reflected on the past and on the good men and their good deeds of the past. But one day a new thought came up into that rich valley where lay securely sheltered the famous library, and with it came the idea of a new religion and new customs, a story of the Christ and there was a revolt in the minds of these scholars of the past. This was something new, at least to them, and to their Oriental minds it was a thing to be immediately crushed. But in their thoughts of the past they had not gone far enough into the past, for had they gone farther they would have heard of the Christ who was before Confucius, who was before Buddha, who was before the world was, who is the beginning, the continuance and the end of all things. But these noble men revolted and would have nothing of it and so to stop the coming of the knowledge of Jesus Christ into their valley they erected a great stone tablet on the banks of the little river that nourishes their fertile valley, and on this tablet in the greatest and most noble of Chinese characters they declared that the "Vile Western Doctrine shall not come here".

But time has passed and these noble men have died and their descendants live in their place. In the meantime the gospel of Jesus Christ, unhindered by a tablet of stone with noble Chinese characters written thereon, has progressed and advanced and has come into that rich valley; now almost within a stone's throw of that famous tablet rising far above it is the Cross of Christ in the form of a church which ministers to the entire valley. In addition in a little house in the shadow of the church is a place where the Cornelius Baker Memorial Hospital doctors minister to the physical needs of the people of the valley in one of our out-clinics.

RG 140-7-44

- 1 -

The "Western Doctrine" has come and brought with it a knowledge of our Master Jesus Christ - in its wake has followed the best we can give in medical knowledge and aid to the sick, suffering and dying of the district. Since the founding of missions in Korea more than forty years ago many changes have taken place. These are the result of the advance of the Kingdom of Christ here, education and many factors. Today medical missionary work is not the same as it used to be. They tell stories of doing operations on the mud floors with nothing suggestive of sterile technique; of the thousands and thousands flocking in to see the foreign doctor and be treated by his "magio". They continue to speak of the "good old days" and our hearts thrill as we listen to the stories. But today it is different. The foreigner is no longer a curiosity, and just because he is a foreigner the time is past when he can do anything, and it will be all right.

The objectives of medical missionary work may be briefly summed up as follows:

- (1)- To practice medicine and surgery in the country for the relief of suffering and saving of life.
- (2)- To be leaders and teachers to the younger generation of native Korean doctors who are graduating from our medical schools.
- (3)- To maintain an institution where the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be carried on continuously.

#### Summary of Patients in Hospital and Dispensary

|   |      |
|---|------|
| New Dispensary Cases, January 1st to December 31st, 1926..... | 1561 |
| Treatments in Dispensary.....                                 | 4090 |
| Charity Cases in Dispensary.....                              | 1092 |
| Admission Cases, March 8th to December 31st, 1926.....        | 249  |
| Total Admission Days, March 8th to December 31st, 1926.....   | 3282 |
| Operations (Hospital), March 8th to December 31st, 1926.....  | 95   |

This is a brief and inadequate summary of the activities of the hospital during the past year. We hope that in next year's report we will be able to give a better classification of cases, etc. Medically speaking, our cases have been exceedingly interesting. Our hospital does not have an isolation ward and as a result we cannot take contagious cases; however we have had a few which came to us in a dying condition, and even though we had no real place for them we treated them and had to put them in a room on a Korean floor.

Liver and stomach conditions comprise a large number of our cases. It is a rare thing to find a patient who does not come in and state that he "does not eat his rice well". It is common, and when you consider the food they eat, it is a real wonder that there are any Koreans alive. The liver conditions are mainly those caused by infections with liver flukes, due to eating a certain fresh-water fish and snail which is abundant in these parts. Our problem for the coming year is to see if something cannot be done to educate the people not to eat that particular food; in that way we may be able to help them in a preventative manner.

This report is not a medically scientific paper and thus I will not go into the more technical aspects of the types of medical cases which we see here. However the people are poor, they are ignorant and they need us; they do not know which way to turn. We think of how they try to drive away the evil spirits by cutting themselves and burning themselves, and we realize the fact that we can help them and do so when we have a chance.

Just a few days ago I was called to see a patient in a little village nestled up in the mountains. We drove in the hospital Ford for about 20 miles and then left the car by the side of the road as this man had his servants waiting for us with a Korean chair. I was invited to get into that and, even though I had never ridden in one of them before, I climbed in; they started up a narrow winding trail and finally, when it was so steep and the ice so slippery that they had me almost standing on my head, I decided to trust my own feet rather than those of the coolies who were assigned to carry me. We tramped on and up over the mountains and down another valley and then over another hill and all of a sudden, as we reached the hill, I heard a most terrible yell and, above the noise, my Korean name. This man had truly lifted up his voice and announced to the village on the other side of the valley that they had come with the foreign doctor. The people then came to meet us but when we arrived at the house we found an old man who had been sick for a whole week. All this time they had tried their old chanting and ancient rites but when I found him he was almost beyond hope and so weak that we could not even risk carrying him back to the auto to take him into the hospital. This case was one in which they did not know of the love of Christ and the work which was going on here until it was too late to help him. If there was only some way to teach these people and help them come to a better knowledge of what to do it would save many lives.

The effect of Christianity on the health of the people may be illustrated by another experience here within the past few days. A boy had put his hand at the wrist and the hand hung there by only a few strands. They were starting to treat the case by the old Korean methods of chanting and Korean medicines and burning etc. Along came a Christian, an elder in the church, and persuaded them that the boy would lose his hand if they did that way. Then he preached to the family and told them that Christ was the great physician and that Christ had a hospital located in the city of Andong. He told them to come here, but not satisfied with telling them, he came along with the injured boy and his uncle and brought them to us. We operated on the boy, finding the severed ends of the tendon and sewing them together again, and now the boy has the use of his hand and has been saved the awful tortures of the Korean burning irons and caustics. But better than that is the fact that they have heard of the love of Christ, in whose Name we minister here, for as our hospital name indicates when translated from the Chinese characters, "Hospital of the Holy Spirit". Ministering in His name and as your representatives we are carrying on the work.

One of the most interesting things which takes place all the time is the preaching of the Christian patients to the ones who do not know of Christ. So frequently is it that a Christian will be in the bed next to an unbeliever, and as they lie there day after day, the preaching goes on between the patients.

#### Out-clinic

One of the developments of the past year (began April, 1926) has been the establishment of several out-clinics in the market towns near Andong. We are located at the center of a district involving some 700,000 people. Many of them are poor and needy and busy and for various reasons they cannot come in to the city to secure the aid we can give them. But they need it anyway and so our hospital ministers to them by bringing our medicines and our doctors and nurses and the Gospel of Christ to the people in their own districts.

These out-clinics are located in the market towns. There are very few who cannot go to market on market day and thus we are reaching into the heart of Korean life by bringing the love of Christ into their market towns.

For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the Korean system I will mention that every five days the Koreans of a certain district gather in a village which is centrally located and they bring there each five days the goods they have to sell and buy what they need. At times there are undoubtedly exchanges for value received but for the most part it is a matter of selling for cash. It is a great day for the Koreans of the district and everyone who can possibly get out goes to market. In these villages several thousands of Koreans will gather in one place and it makes it one of the busiest in the district.

It has been our plan to send a Korean doctor to the market towns to hold a clinic there each market day. With him we send a supply of drugs with which he can prescribe for ordinary troubles that are not serious enough to warrant the patients coming into the hospital. Also when it is essential for a patient to come into the hospital he is advised so.

The attendance of patients at these clinics is very large and the doctors who go out spend a very busy day from early morning till it is time for the auto to bring them home to Andong. At present we have only two such clinics established but we are now planning for a third. There are four large roads leading out of Andong. One goes east, one west, one north and another south. At present we have a clinic on the road going north. We hope within a short time to have another on the road going west and by next summer, when a bridge is in, we expect to establish one on the road going east. Our hospital is at the crossing of all these roads and, if you should look at a map, when this work is finally established there will be formed a cross. It is the influence of the cross of Jesus Christ that has spread over this district by the establishment of this hospital for the first time in Andong. Last Christmas eve, when electricity burned in the hospital amid the Christmas decorations we had built a large Korean gate on the big road at the point where where our hospital stands. In the center of this there was also placed a cross and this was lighted by electricity. It was the love of Christ on the Cross which prompted the donors to give the money for the lighting plant and electrical installation, and it seemed fitting to us that such love should be expressed by the symbol of Christianity, marking the location of Christ's work here in Andong.

"In the Cross of Christ I glory  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story,  
Gathers round its head sublime"

#### PEDIATRICS AND INFANT FEEDING

While this is technically a section of medicine it is of special interest to us here in Andong because so far we have aimed to reach the children in particular. The work with children during the past year has been the means of securing our best preaching opportunities.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me" said our Master, "and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Following this command of the Great Physician we are having the children come to the hospital that represents Him here in the land of darkness. What has it meant so far? To date our hospital records are not sufficiently well classified to make it possible to give a statistical report. However there are many children who have come into the hospital with different sorts of diseases, who have gone out healed of their physical troubles and the parents have heard the story of the Christ who loved little children.

Due to the generosity of the Sunday School of the North Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Rochelle, we have been able to maintain a "Dryop cow" from whose wholesome blue body we have been able to nourish the little ones who have come to us in need of food. So far this cow has not gone dry, due to the generous gifts of milk, and so far no child has been refused the nourishing milk it needed. There is one child in particular, whose mother died following an operation, and who has never known anything else except the milk for our children's work. We hope that in the coming year we will find still greater fields of service for the Master through the agency of the milk we have on hand.

Another phase of our children's work has been the large number who have come to us with serious infectious diseases and especially diphtheria. It evidently happens that we are the only hospital around here that maintains a stock of diphtheria antitoxin. The cases are those who have been turned away from the Oriental hospital either because they looked as though they were dying or because the families had no money. But our Master turned no-one away for such a reason and, following His lead, we have always accepted these cases even though our isolation facilities are not complete. I am thinking just now of the case of two little boys who were brought into the hospital gasping for breath, our Korean doctor on duty that night made the diagnosis of diphtheria of the larynx. He did not stop to ask if the family had money, he could tell by their ragged appearance that they had not. He did not stop to consider the price of the antitoxin but gave it promptly and by so doing saved the children's lives. Another similar case came in the following night and just as I have been writing this report I was called to take our hospital Ford and go out about 15 miles into the country and there attended a baby who also had diphtheria. Is there anything more worth while than such work for these little lives which would be entirely lost if it were not for the mission hospital? The last case cost our hospital Yen 100 for the antitoxin only but the life of the baby was well worth many times that.

Along with our work of feeding and treating children we find that our most useful adjunct to the hospital is cod liver oil. Many think of this only as a nasty smelling and tasting drug but I wish you could come out here with me and see the wonderful results from the doses of cod liver oil which we give. These babies and children know nothing about vitamins. I wonder that any of them live. If you could see their terribly distended little abdomens and wonder what is in them, and wanted to know bad enough, I should inform you that they are filled with a lot of half-cooked rice, some four smelling kinds of "Kimche" and worms of all sorts.

Our main job is to free them from the worms, and then to institute a system of feeding the children which will give them the necessary nourishment. Our greatest adjunct is cod liver oil and we surely use lots and lots of it - gallons. The more we can use the healthier our Korean children will become and as we can give more out more mothers and fathers will come to the hospital for the "bottled sunshins". Our hospital is here life and to save life, to give life to these people and ministering in His name we give each a dose of cod liver oil. If you are interested in giving helping to make the lives of these children better, of bringing to them an essential for growth and healthy development, your opportunity lies in helping us to put in a supply of cod liver oil. During the past year one group of friends has made possible our supply of milk, next to the milk the important thing for these children is cod liver oil.

We are thankful to be able to report at this time the gift of an "Abts Electric Breast pump". This instrument is on its way here from America now and is the gift of the North Avenue Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle.

When it arrives it will be installed in our children's clinic room and will serve the mothers of the district who have difficulty in nursing their babies. There have been an unusual number of cases of women who have lost their babies because of insufficient milk and we have felt that if these cases could be stimulated and exercised with this machine it would go a long way to bringing happiness into the homes and save many lives. We hope that by next year we can give you a more detailed report of this work.

#### Educational Work

One of our definite aims is to carry on a real educational program which will bring to the people of our district to a knowledge of how to live. This is being carried on mainly at present by lectures and studies with those who come into the Bible Institute for the regular institute courses. These lectures are given by members of our Korean staff. Our Korean doctor gives the full lectures to the men and at the time of the women's classes one of our Korean nurses gives a series of lectures to the women too.

We hope within a short time to start another and broader educational campaign among the people of the district, because of the large number of infections with liver flukes, causing liver diseases. The causative agent is transmitted through the intermediate host of certain fresh-water fish which is quite abundant in this section of Korea. Our plan is to try and get before the people the dangers of eating these fish, this will be done by posters, etc.

#### Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ

In the final analysis this is the real job for which we came. Granted that preaching has gone on in Korea for forty years with remarkable success there is still a lot more to be done. Our Korean staff formed a society which is called the "Preaching Society". The object of this is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in those places where His name has never been mentioned before. The members of the staff are busy and are not trained for preaching. Thus out of their salaries they give enough money with which to pay the salary of a minister (Korean pastor) who can go out and preach for them; also they are supporting a Bible-woman. These two people are preaching every day and all the time and they have gone out into the villages from which we have had patients.

This work began last summer. It all started by our having a poor Korean boy in the hospital with an infected leg. There was nothing unusual about that, for our most common complaint here is osteomyelitis. However at that time there was also in the hospital a Bible-woman whose business it was to go in and out of the wards preaching. She preached to this boy and told him about Christ who loved boys and so it was that the boy soon came to know more about Christ and loved Him too. When the boy left the hospital he went to his home in a village about ten miles from here. The Bible-woman soon after followed the boy to his village and there found him. She then began going in and out of the houses in the village, making herself known to the women and telling them her message. Gradually, and after many hardships, she won their hearts for the Master. It was after that only a matter of time to continue the preaching work there. We have received many requests from them to send an evangelist to finish up the work and bring it up to the completion of a church there. The entire village is changed and there is a large group of believers ready. When I was there a couple of months ago some of the villagers took me to a hill overlooking the valley and showed me the houses and the people and pleaded with me to send an evangelist there to preach to them.

Since then every few days they come and ask if I have been able to find money for an evangelist but, alas, I still have to tell them I have not and they must be patient. It is an open door and the people are asking for the Gospel of Jesus but they must be denied because of a lack of funds for the evangelist.

Following her experience in that village our Bible-woman was sent to a place which was considered the hardest in the district. It was one from which we had a patient last summer. The patient had died of liver disease after being mistreated by the Oriental practitioners. We had the boy in the hospital for a few days and then he had gone home, but in the days he was in our hospital he had learned to love our Christ. The evangelist of the hospital and the Bible-woman and myself, when talking about it, wondered whether she should go to that place or not. "But", the evangelist said, "there is not one single person who is a Christian in that place". I listened to his description and my heart burned for the people for Christ through the agency of our hospital. The old lady was afraid, and she did not want to go, but I talked earnestly to her and finally the evangelist helped me to convince her. We prayed together in my office and I promised that if she would go out we should be with her in prayer as she went. The first month passed and she came back and told of the way God had led her. Her first experience was with a woman who was about to be delivered. Her other children were all dead and finally, after many years, she was to become a mother again. This means much for the Korean woman for a childless woman is an object of reproach. The Bible-woman found her and at that most trying time came into her room and talked with her and prayed with her. Her prayers were answered; the beautiful boy baby was born. What could be better? Not only a baby but a boy - most prized and loved of all in the Orient - for it is the boy who would lead the ancestor worship in the years to come. But that little wee baby had another mission to fulfill, coming as he did, and with our Bible woman at hand, he created the opening in the stone wall of heathenism that let our woman through and she took the opportunity so that before the month had passed six houses had decided to believe. She came in and made her report and we all thanked God and sent her out again for another month.

Two weeks ago I went out there with our hospital evangelist and another Bible woman and our foreign nurses (Miss Sharrocks) and the people welcomed us with open arms. Preaching was held twice that day. It happened to be a warm day and we could hold preaching out in the yard near the house where we were guests, where one family had decided to believe. As the evangelist was preaching I counted 70 people within the range of my eye and I do not know how many more were within the range of his voice that I did not see. We walked down the road to the larger village just below there, and as we went outside the straw fence which lined the path the people within the village began to wonder what it meant to have foreign men visiting there and just walk by without saying anything. Finally, as we came to one gateway, a man stopped us and demanded to know who we were and what was our business. Our hospital evangelist being a Korean answered them that we were doing the work of God and if they would be patient they should hear very shortly about God. So we walked on to the end of the village and then came back to the auto road about a mile or more away. We had seen a large village with about 1000 people in it and of that number not one single person knew of the love of Christ. In the adjoining village there were about a dozen who knew Him as a result of the preaching which had gone on for the past couple of months. Then in came the Bible-woman again and this time with a report that the whole place wanted to hear about it and to know something about God's work. If we would send an evangelist there now it would be the ideal moment, as the field was entirely ready, so our preaching society - composed of Koreans on the staff who have taken

money out of their salaries for several months to help save enough for an evangelist - finally said that they would send a man out there for as long as their money held out. And now in that place there are two faithful workers, one this godly Bible-woman and a young minister filled with the Spirit of God, and they are preaching in that village representing you and me in a work that we ourselves cannot do.

I am not a preacher, but I feel that it is doing God's work to make it possible for preaching to take place through this hospital. Among the things to be thankful for during the past year is the safe arrival here of our nurse, Miss Ella J. Sharrocks. She arrived here in September and then went on to Seoul for language study. She came back here in December and for the next few months until April 1st will be busy with language study and organization of the nursing staff.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the good people who have been sending us boxes of hospital supplies from time to time. These have been duly received and are being used in the work of God here. In this, too, He has surely answered our prayers and has supplied through these good people the necessary dressings just when we had to use our last bolt of gauze, and you may be sure that it is rather difficult to keep a hospital going without gauze.

There are many interesting experiences about which we could write but of course in a report of this sort there is no space for them.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT

During the past year we have been the recipients of an electric lighting plant for the hospital. This is one piece of hospital equipment which is most necessary and for which we are more than ordinarily thankful. The plant was ordered in May but due to mis-shipment and other delays did not arrive here until December 15th, and lights burned in the hospital on December 24th evening for the first time. A real Christmas present. We are thankful to the donors of the lighting plant and to God for putting it into their hearts to send it to us.

#### X-RAY

During the past year (October) we received information of the gift of money for an X-ray plant for this hospital. This, as in the case of the lighting plant, is a direct answer to many months of constant prayer and we are thankful both to the donor of the money and also to God for sending this to us. The X-ray machine will be here this spring (we hope before the end of March, but do not know exactly). This will increase our ability to serve God and the people here more efficiently.

Our aim for the coming year is to serve God and the Korean people better and to be your better representatives out here on the field. We hope we can continue, as up to this time, to turn no patient away from the hospital for either financial reasons or because of their being exceedingly sick. This last remark may seem peculiar to come from a hospital, but when you realize that it is the Oriental custom not to take in a patient who is very sick, because he might die you will realize what it means. One of our hardest fights still is the matter of patients coming in sick and possibly dying in the hospital. To the Oriental mind it is a great disgrace and a black eye for the hospital, but our object is to relieve suffering and prolong life and, ministering in His name, we attempt to do our best. We only wish we could be like our Master, the Great Physician, who never lost a case, but we cannot because we are only human.



- 9 -

Thus our report for the past year may be summed up in the statement quoted from Christ, that the sick are healed, and the Gospel is preached to the poor.

For the coming year we hope to branch out in our work and if possible reach more people than ever before, both with medical aid and in the preaching of the Gospel. We hope that this will be a banner year, with the electrical instalation complete and also the coming of the X-ray and other physical equipment we should be able to do far better work than in the past.

We ask for your constant prayers and interest in the work here. We will more than welcome your letters and any questions you may have to ask we will be more than glad to answer.

As ever faithfully your representative,

Z. Beroovitz, M.D.

Andong, Chosen (Korea)