

1925

院 醫 督 基 肥 合

LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

HOFEI ANWHEI CHINA

them in some good home. There is usually no trouble in doing this with babies well nourished and cared for.

But I must tell you something of their mother's history in child-bearing; a history that is quiet average among the poor country people of this district.

1st pregnancy	-----girl	-----now 22 years old and at home.
2nd	" girl	now 20 years old, given away as a slave girl in another home.
3rd	" boy	now 20 years old.
4th	" girl	drowned the day of birth. (by parents)
5th	" girl	drowned the day of birth. "
6th	" boy	now 11 years old.
7th	" girl	drowned the day of birth "
8th	" boy	now 3 years old.
9th	" twin girls	would have drowned them if we hadn't taken them off of their hands.

The reason for this infanticide, in the first place, is the extreme poverty of the people, and also to certain customs; namely, the fact that one must have sons to carry on ancestral worship and supply the needs of the ancestor in the next world; and also because when the girl grows up and is married she goes to another home to do their work and be the slave of that mother-in-law; and her own family loses all the money and food they have put into her all through the years. She loses all connection with her own family; she is as they see it a total loss to them. So why raise girls for others benefit? Then after the economic pressure once started the infanticide, it was easy, I suppose, to not consider it as really murder. They have come to think of it in the same light that we do of drowning a litter of kittens. It may be that this custom is especially bad in this district, because Chinese from other districts say that this is not done in their part of the country. There is still need for missionary work in China.

We are having some very interesting chapels in the hospital now. On Monday Grace or Miss Han give the students talks on food and health, for use by the students in talks they give about town. Tuesday and Fridays one of the students gives a worship talk in the wards for the benefit of the patients. (All of our students but one or two are now Christians). This helps the students more than it does the patients. On Wednesday and Thursday one of the preachers comes in for the chapel talk. And on Saturday I take the worship period. Mrs Goulter is giving music lessons to two of the girl nurses, and this week they will start playing for our hymns. For the last year we have had to sing without music; and it was pretty rotten. It certainly was singing "without music".

Love,

Douglas

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HOFEI - ANWHEI - CHINA

China is in a pitiful mess now. War and the militarists have bled her for money to carry on their war of selfish gain. And they have done it at a time when the north is suffering with famine resulting from the floods of last spring; and the south is suffering from an approaching famine resulting from a great draught, which is drying all water supplies up.

Last summer we spent our vacation north of Peking, where we completed our first year of language study with a private Chinese teacher, on the veranda of a seashore cottage where we could overlook the China Sea, to a point where the Great Wall of China runs down into the ocean. When we returned in the fall our train seemed to be running thru a series of great lakes. The fields were entirely covered with water with all crops gone. Occasionally we could see an isolated mud-walled, thatched-roofed house or group of houses on an island, and the people using tubs to get to and from their homes.

In contrast to what we saw in the north last fall is the dried up waterless country around here right now. It is now spring and we have had only three sprinkles of rain thruout the winter, our rainy season. Most wells are dry in town, and the country people who have almost no wells but depend upon ponds for their water, are desperate. Often there is no water within fifteen miles and that must be carried in two wooden buckets on the ends of a pole, over rough and winding paths. All of the buckets of the village are used. The men leave early in the morning and return in the evening with their one load of water. You can depend on it none is used for such wasteful purposes as bathing or washing dishes. All is carefully reserved for tea and boiling rice. There is none for gardens, so there are no gardens. Where they get their food from is more than I can figure out. The country people live in villages, the members of the village all being of one clan and of one name. There may be from sixty to six hundred in a village, so you may try to imagine the task of hauling water fifteen miles on the shoulders of men to supply such a mob.

I'll tell you a story which one of our Chinese doctors told me tonight. There was a poor woman out in the country who walked, or rather hobbled, seven miles on her aching bound feet for a small pail of water to use in cooking rice for her small children. After getting the precious liquid she had to hobble back seven long miles on her small feet. When she had almost reached home the handle came off of the pail and the water was all spilled out on the ground. She was so discouraged that she hung herself.

The streets are full of beggars, many more than usual. They are coming in from the country to beg for a few coppers to get food which their dried up land will not produce. We foreigners make it a rule not to give to beggars because if we start it we can't walk down the street for their insistence on our giving them money. Sometimes they pick on one of the women and keep falling down in front of her, bumping their heads upon the ground, until her path is so blocked that she can't go on.