

# CHINESE 'PROF' ALSO HAS HIS SOBRIQUET

Rev. Paul R. Reynolds, Winnetka Missionary, Tells of Chinese Campus Life

## CITES EXPERIENCES

Begins to Appreciate Fine Chinese Character

Campus life in Chinese schools is not unlike that in any university in America, if one may judge by a letter received in Winnetka recently from the Rev. Paul R. Reynolds, foreign pastor of the Winnetka Congregational church, stationed in China.

There, as here, the "Prof." usually comes by some affectionate sobriquet typifying some characteristic of the person.

Such terms as "Dearest," "Dimples" and "Waddy" are enlarged upon pleasingly by Mr. Reynolds in the accompanying letter. Other details of the letter, pertaining to the methods of instruction in teaching the Chinese language, together with interesting insights into Chinese life and customs, should be of extreme interest to the reader.

The letter follows:

### The Letter

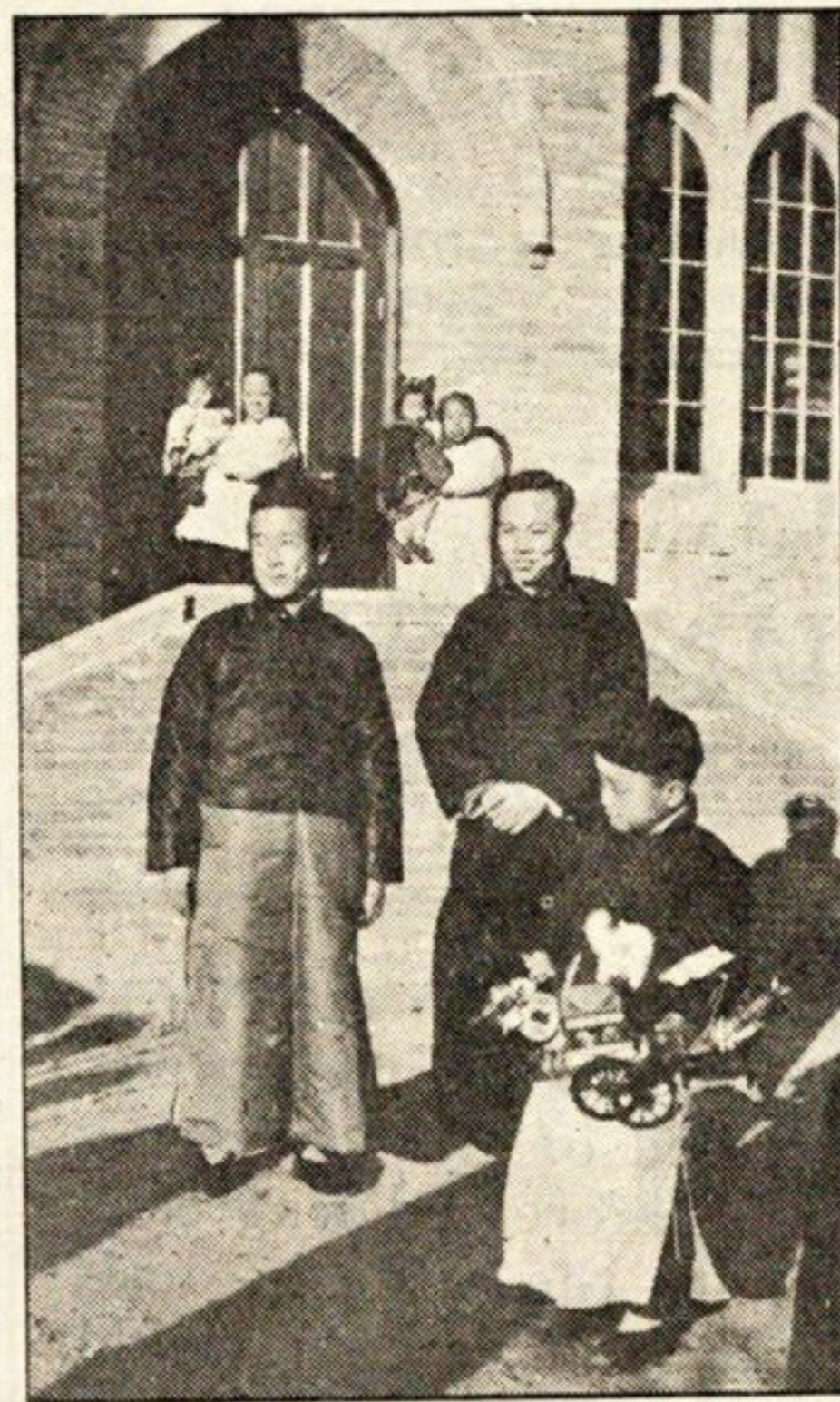
Peking, China, February 26, 1922.—Dear Friends,—If you will turn to the advertisement section of the January "Asia"—(1922), on page 70 you will find some information concerning the school in which we spend our days. Mr. Pettus has been in America raising money for the new quarters and it is hoped that in the next few years the school will be adequately housed.

One of the inclosed pictures shows two of our favorite teachers. The picture was taken just in front of the American Board parish house upon the occasion of the Christmas party given by the Language School students for the teachers, their wives, and families. The boy in the foreground has already received his toys and

candy. In the background you see other samples of the 138 youngsters we had to provide for. The race of teachers in China is not at present threatened with extinction.

### Teachers are Popular

The teacher on the right is known as "Dearest." Were it not for the fact that he has a wife and a couple of youngsters, there might be another



"Dearest" and "Dimples"

edition of "My Chinese Marriage" (copy "Asia"—1921), for he certainly is popular with all the girls in school. I did not mean to imply that he is unpopular with the men although that might follow if he were not married. Really I think he is one of the most pleasing personalities I ever met anywhere. He can come in for group class at the fag end of Friday afternoon and before the half hour is up everybody is cheerful, the meanings that have been eluding you all week are quite clear, we all have decided that maybe we can learn this blooming language after all,—and almost wish it were Monday so we could go right ahead.

The chap on the left is "Dimples," for rather obvious reasons. He is a fair rival when it comes to popularity. He has a wonderful sense of humor and a bubbling laugh that is better than a rest cure.

### The Why of "Waddy."

There is one other chap that I want to get some day. He has been dubbed "Waddy." He looks just like the laughing Buddha.

The school uses the conversational method and no English is tolerated. (Of course only one or two of the teachers know any English anyway.) For the first two weeks we do nothing but listen. The purpose is to get ground into our ears and brains, the Chinese sounds. The method seems to work for we never have gotten away from those first few simple words that were dinned into us hour after hour. But it is a painful process. By the end of the day, you feel ready to explode. With the third week, the method changes and there is opportunity to try to speak and to move around from class to class. The strain eases up quite visibly.

### An Arduous Task

The school day is from 8:45 till 4 o'clock. We have Saturday and Sunday off just as in most schools. We have fifteen minute recess time in the middle of the forenoon and also fifteen minutes for chapel. The first thing in the morning we all gather for general class and the Head Teacher gives us the new words for the day. We are not allowed to put them down in note books or look them up in the dictionary but must get them by word of mouth. The remainder of the day is divided into thirty minute periods. Two periods each day each one of us has an individual teacher. The other periods are spent in small group classes. In these group classes and in conversation with our private teacher we go over the new words and review the old ones and try our luck in phrase making.

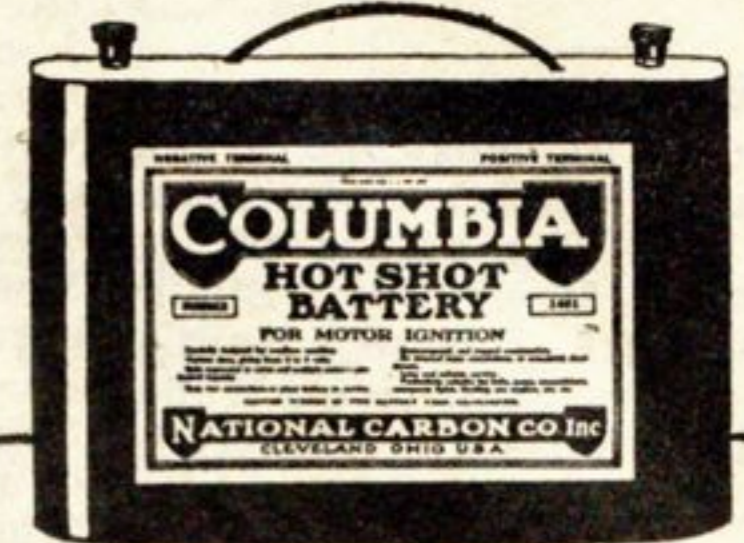
Later on we begin to try and read Chinese characters and now we are trying to learn to write some of them. It is a long and arduous task. No one ever finishes the study of Chinese character but we hope by the time our furlough period comes around we will have learned enough to tell the boy to bring some more coal for we are freezing to death. That seems a long time to wait for coal but there is always the sign language so do not worry too much about us.

Twice a week we have lectures (in

English) upon some subject of interest. Chinese history, philosophy, economics, and politics are discussed by able leaders. Thus by the close of the year, it is expected that the students will have a grounding in all these matters as well as a beginning in the language.

Our station is not to be decided until the annual meeting of the North China Mission and since this meeting is held late in May, we are to remain in Language School until the close of the year, June 9. We are to go either to Fenchow as originally planned or

(Continued on page 16)



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