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At Woman's Society

BY OBSERVER

The Woman's society of the Congregational church met Wednesday, December 1, in most interesting session. In spite of the fact that no definite program had been arranged for the morning, it became filled with matters of interest.

The brief business meeting was followed by a ten minute skit, entitled, "Dr. Cure-all" which proved to be an amusing and forcible reminder of the value of the Missionary Herald and papers of similar nature as aids to world vision and understanding. Mrs. Shewry of Rogers Park graciously gave of her services in the presentation of the play.

Rev. Walter Spooner, assistant state superintendent of the Conference of Congregational churches, told of Tower Hill camp in which the Woman's society and other Winnetka organizations are interested. Mr. Spooner drew a strong picture of the growth and usefulness of the camp and also touched upon the expanded program of

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The address of the day, following the luncheon, was given by Rev. Phillip D. Dutton of Taiku, Shansi, China. Dr. Richards in his introduction of Mr. Dutton stressed particularly his statesmanlike attitude in regard to China. This breadth of vision and tolerance was evident throughout the address.

"China is our neighbor," was Mr. Dutton's rather startling statement, which he elucidated by saying that students of history expect the Pacific to be the center of action and change for the next decades.

"Is there any hope for China?" is a question asked him repeatedly, said Mr. Dutton, a question which he answered most decidedly in the affirmative, saying in part, "The surface conditions of China are of course terrible and chaotic. Since the departure of the Manchus there has been a game of grab everywhere. Petty politicians lead mercenary armies and fight, not for a principle, but for personal gain.

"The reasons for hope lie beneath this troubled surface. The material changes have been great. Whereas six years ago in the Province of Shansi there were no modern flour mills, no electric lights, no conveyances and no passable roads, now Shansi boasts a 1,000 miles of road, innumerable bicycles, a few automobiles, and electric lights.

"The change from the hand lantern to the well-lighted street is great, but it is not in these material changes, but in the changes of the spirit that hope lies," said Mr. Dutton. First, in the national or student movement. Where formerly government belonged absolutely to the powers at Peking, and meant nothing to the people, now they are beginning to understand such things and to care and consequently demand fair play.

"Second, in the new thought movement. Of old the Chinese thought of their Golden Age as behind them, referring every question to the teachings of Confucius and frowning upon new ideas. Now there is a movement saying, "We Must Change." As Mr. Dutton pointed out, such ideas are explosive.

Third in the movement for mass education. Whereas formerly 95% of the population was illiterate, now, with the selection of 1,000 most needed characters from the tremendous number in the Chinese language and the instruction in these characters given to all classes, the man in the street is beginning to understand national and world issues. These are the things that give hope that China will successfully build a new civilization, taking the best from her own fine civilization and from the West. Moreover, she has fine men to lead her."

Another question often asked, said Mr. Dutton, was, "What of Missions?" Here again there have been changes. Where formerly the missionary must lead in everything and be everything, now there is a strong body of Chinese ready to serve. Most of the work is managed by committees, usually two-third Chinese and one-third foreign in composition. There is no attempt to preach western civilization, only to be friends. In illustration of this point Mr. Dutton described the contacts formed by the missionary service in the small city of Taiku. There one finds a boy's school serving 250, a girls' school for 100, a hospital and community church for 1,000, serving both Christian and non-Christian in friendly Christ-like labor.

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