

NEED MATTRESSES FOR CHINESE SCHOOL GIRLS

Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown Makes Unusual Appeal to Winnetkans for Aid in Chinese School

Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown, who was a resident of Winnetka for many years, and who was known and loved by the children in the public schools because of her medical connection with the schools, is doing splendid and valuable work in China, where she conducts her medical work among the Chinese.

Dr. Brown has written a letter to a Winnetka friend, containing several comments on conditions in China, and a plea for help in providing mattresses for the dormitories in the college with which she is associated. Mattresses seem an expected and always-to-be-had household necessity, and it seems strange to Winnetkans that anyone is in real need of a mattress, but Dr. Brown is asking financial help, saying that \$5 will buy a Chinese-made mattress. Her letter, containing the request is in part as follows:

"There are 102 girls in the college and fifty-nine in high school or preparatory work, some for kindergarten, nursing or college preparatory. We have fifteen girls preparing to study medicine, seventy boys in the men's college. Every student is preparing himself for some earnest work for China.

Invites Visitors

"You should plan to come to China for a visit. Despite the civil war there are many visitors who come nearly every day. The Presbyterians have sent delegates on a tour of all their mission work, while Dr. Robert E. Spen is visiting the various fields in China. His wife, who is the president of the National Y. W. C. A., is visiting us, as her daughter is a member of the English department of the faculty. The dean and registrar of Mt. Holyoke are also visiting all of the women's colleges, as our own dean is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke. We have had them visiting us for several days. Mrs. Roys of the Yenching committee in New York, and Mrs. McKee of Pittsburgh are both attending the Presbyterian conferences.

"I wrote several days ago asking some of my friends to raise some money to buy mattresses for the girls' beds. Heretofore they have slept on wooden boards over carpenters' horses. The furnishing committee bought iron beds with springs such as the Red Cross used in France, but they could not afford to buy mattresses, and the girls are too poor to buy their own. They furnish their own bedding, but the beds are not warm. I interested one of the visitors who gave me a check for \$200 which has helped me to start them. I can have a good mattress made of grey coolie cloth and filled with cotton for \$5. As we need 160, you can realize how much I must have, and with my Winnetka enthusiasm I have guaranteed to raise it. So I am asking help from everyone here and at home. Just by giving one mattress one girl is kept warm for the winter. It is a good cause, as all are.

Prepare for Life Work

"Really, this college is preparing for their (the girls') life work. They are such a splendid group of young men and women. We have nine girls from the True Light school at Canton. Some girls are being supported by teachers. Some students are working their way, in part, to help out. When you appreciate the inner workings of their lives and how earnestly they are making every effort to be of service to their country, you wish that every youth in China could have the same

advantage. Those students that attend the government schools are having severe struggles, as money to pay the teachers is being diverted into military channels. Now that General Feng is back in China, we are hoping for a cessation in fighting. Yes, Wuchang suffered from bombs being dropped here and there. I did not hear that any serious damage was done to the hospital, but they suffered from lack of sufficient food.

Chinese Respect "Walls"

"Yenching university, being outside of the city walls, is unprotected as far as walls are concerned and the

deans' house, especially where we live. We are not far from the main road, where soldiers are continually passing, but somehow we are not afraid. The South Compound where there are six living is having a wall put up. The Chinese, from tradition, respect a wall, but barbed wire is trampled or cut down.

"—The Chinese are intensive farmers. No sooner is a field harvested than it is fertilized and another crop sown. No field lies idle.

"—I am trying to get a book of short stories written by those who have been born in China to send,

which will give an insight into the older life in China. Do write and tell me about the Community House, and the church (Congregational). Is the Messenger still published? If so, send me a copy now and then. I have had but one Weekly Talk in a year. I am going to write to them myself to send it to me, so that I can keep in touch with Winnetka doings.

Your friend,
Alice Barlow Brown.

Mrs. Emily M. Massman of 992 Pine street, is spending two weeks in New York and Boston.

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