

AN ALUMNÆ BULLETIN

October 1914

*Issued by The Alumnae Association of the New York
Training School for Deaconesses*

Officers of the Association

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NUMBER II

OCTOBER 1914

SINCE the last number of the BULLETIN was sent out, two regular business meetings of the Association have been held. At the meeting in St. Bartholomew's Parish House on October 17, the present officers were elected and a few by-laws were adopted. These are printed here for the information of those who could not attend the meeting.

BY-LAWS

I. **NAME:** The name of this Association shall be the Alumnæ Association of the New York Training School for Deaconesses.

II. **MEMBERSHIP:** All graduates of the School are eligible for membership, and all students who have completed one full year's work at the School.

III. **OFFICERS:** The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, to be elected at the fall meeting.

IV. **DUTIES OF OFFICERS:** The duty of the President shall be to call meetings, to preside at meetings, to audit the bills of the Association, to appoint all committees.

The duty of the Vice-President shall be to act for the President in her absence.

The duty of the Treasurer shall be to keep the accounts of all monies belonging to the Association, to collect all dues, to pay all bills audited by the President, and to make a report of the finances at the meetings.

The duty of the Secretary shall be to keep the minutes of all the meetings, to preserve all reports, to keep a list of the members of the Association with their addresses, and to send out the notices of the meetings.

V. **DUES:** The dues of the Association shall be one dollar, payable annually.

The minutes of the May meeting are printed in full.

Since the May meeting there has been a meeting of the Executive Committee, to which was referred, with power, the matter of suggesting to a committee of the Trustees changes in the literature regarding the Benefit Fund. After a full discussion, Deaconess Schodts was appointed a committee of one to confer with Mrs. Hand, the appointed representative of the Trustees. The enclosed leaflet shows the result of their revision.

In March Mrs. Hand invited all the members of the Association to her apartment, New York, to listen to an interesting informal address by Miss Curtis. The alumnae were the guests of Mrs. Roland Redmond on April 15, when Miss Ruth Draper gave several of her monologues. The great kindness of all these friends was sincerely appreciated by all who were able to accept it.

BERTHA M. GARVIN

President

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

A REGULAR meeting of the Alumnae Association of the New York Training School for Deaconesses was held at St. Faith's on Commencement Day, May 7, 1914, at 2 P.M.

The following members were present: Deaconess Garvin, in the chair; Deaconess Armstrong, Miss Binns, Deaconess Charlotte M. Boyd, Miss Coursen, Miss Flagg, Deaconess Fuller, Deaconess Hall, Deaconess Hildreth, Miss Holmes, Miss Hiestand, Miss Horne, Deaconess Hyde, Miss Hull, Miss Kawczynski, Dean Knapp, Deaconess Lovell, Deaconess Massey, Miss Matthews, Miss Munson, Mrs. Natali, Deaconess Nicholas, Miss Riebe, Deaconess Edith C. Smith, Deaconess Jessie Carryl Smith, Miss Sprague, Deaconess Schodts, Deaconess Thompson, Deaconess West, Miss Weston, Miss Young, and Miss Hopkins.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Chair then requested a report relative to the next number of the BULLETIN. The Secretary announced that notices had been sent to all the foreign members of the Association, in January, urging them to contribute letters of five-hundred-word length, for the coming issue of the BULLETIN.

Up to date three replies had been received—two from China and one from Hawaii.

The Chair requested that within ten days the members present send to the Secretary such notes as would be of interest to the readers of the BULLETIN.

The Chair then suggested the plan of arranging for a series of lectures to be given at stated intervals throughout the coming winter, for the benefit of the Association. The question of the expediency of this plan was thrown open for discussion.

Dean Knapp gave an interesting summary of the course of lectures along sociological lines given this past winter at the School by Mrs. Glynn as a part of the regular curriculum.

The Dean stated that this series of lectures might easily be planned to include members of the Association, and would prove of value to them, since each speaker was an authority on the subject under consideration. After considerable discussion it was decided that it would be advisable to accept Dean Knapp's kind suggestion rather than provide another course of lectures along similar lines.

It was moved and seconded that members of the Association consider themselves guests of the School at their morning series of Social Service lectures during the coming winter. So ordered.

The question of Alumnæ Day at the School was then introduced. It was the sense of the meeting that there should be one day in the week when Alumnæ and their friends might be especially welcome at St. Faith's, at the usual hour of serving afternoon tea, between half-past four and five, when they might feel hopeful of meeting the Faculty and other members of the Association.

After some discussion, Tuesday was formally adopted as weekly Alumnæ Day at St. Faith's.

The Chair then outlined the general scheme of the Association year, for consideration, as follows:

Business meeting in October; a second business meeting, on Commencement Day, at St. Faith's; not more than four social gatherings, to be held at such times during the winter as the Association might be so fortunate as to be entertained by the Trustees or others interested in Deaconess work.

The two business meetings, the four social gatherings, the weekly Alumnæ Day at St. Faith's, and attendance at the course of Social Service lectures at the School, presented a programme for the year which met with the cordial approval of those present.

It was moved and seconded that the annual meeting in October be held in a parish building, and that the coming annual meeting be held at St. Bartholomew's at the call of the President. So ordered.

The Chair then called for the report of the Treasurer, which was read and approved.

On motion, duly seconded, it was

Resolved: That By-Law V be amended to read as follows: The dues of the Association shall be one dollar, payable annually at the October meeting.

Members were asked to note that dues when paid even as late as in April, still applied to the current year, and that dues were again in order in the coming October.

The matter of the Pension Fund was then presented by the Treasurer. The urgent request was made that the word *Pension* be stricken out, and the word *Benefit* substituted, as more clearly describing the nature of the aid made possible by the comparatively small sum of money in hand. The Treasurer reported that the sum of about \$1,500 had been banked for purposes of relief, and that, as a fund of at least \$100,000 would be required to finance a pension fund proper, the word *Benefit* would far better be adopted as applicable to the sum at present at the disposition of the Association.

It was demonstrated that there was a technicality to be observed in the matter, since insurance companies objected to the term Pension Fund as applied to any such small sum of money.

The Treasurer instanced the Pension Fund of the Alumnae Association of Mt. Sinai Hospital, a sum of \$60,000, which yielded but \$5 per month to those who had given twenty years of service.

It was moved and seconded that the words *Benefit Fund* be substituted for *Pension Fund* in the printed matter pertaining to relief, and that this action be made known to the Trustees of the School. So ordered.

In this connection it was stated officially from Mrs. Augustus Hand that the sum on deposit was a little more than \$1,500. The matter of those eligible to relief from the *Benefit Fund* was then brought up for discussion. It was moved and seconded that the appointment of a committee to confer with the committee of the Trustees on the question of individual relief from the Fund, be referred to the Executive Committee of the Alumnae Association. So ordered.

It was decided that application for relief should be made to the committee, but only by those who had subscribed to the Fund.

Further discussion developed the need of revising the circular relative to the *Benefit Fund*. It was moved and seconded that changes to be suggested in the wording of the circular be referred to the Executive Committee, with power. So ordered.

During the afternoon it was the privilege of the Association to receive an official visit from Dr. Milo Gates, who came, however, to announce his resignation as warden of the Deaconess School. Dr. Gates' address was filled with words of encouragement for the organization so newly formed, and he brought, with the much regretted news of his resignation, a cordial greeting from the Trustees then in session, congratulating the Alumnae upon their movement in organizing in the interests of the School.

It was subsequently moved and seconded that a letter of appreciation be framed and sent Dr. Gates from the Alumnae Association. So ordered.

The announcement made by Dr. Gates that Dean Grosvenor had, at his earnest request, accepted the wardenship of the Deaconess School was received with great interest.

Dr. Gates dwelt upon the fact that this action would have met with the keen approval of Dr. Huntington, the Founder of the School, since it had been his cherished idea to have the School as closely allied as possible with the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Further pleasure was in store for the meeting in the appearance, toward the close of the afternoon, of Mrs. Augustus Hand, who was welcomed with much enthusiasm.

Mrs. Hand brought further words of greeting from the Trustees, and she spoke informally regarding matters connected with the Benefit Fund.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned at half-past three o'clock.

EDITH R. HOPKINS

Secretary

A LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL

"LITTLE HERMON," HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS,

July 18, 1914

My dear Friends:

To write about the School in the midst of the summer vacation gives a good chance to look the ground over in both directions, forwards and backwards, and to give a little past history and a bit of a vision.

The most important event of the past year was the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Gates from the post of warden and the election of the Very Rev. Dr. William M. Grosvenor, Dean of the Cathedral, to be his successor in the office. Dr. Gates has won a place in the affection of all connected with the School and we remember with pleasure that he has not turned his back upon us, as he still remains a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dean Grosvenor has become the wise counsellor and dear friend of the staff of St. Faith's. He has drawn us into the life of the great Cathedral by giving us duties which have become very dear to us and by trusting us with many responsibilities. We felt that we belonged to him long before he adopted us; and now that he has proved his interest in us by becoming our Warden, we are looking forward to the future with bright and happy hearts.

The School sent out last May three Deaconesses and, in addition, a fine group of graduates and special students—eleven in all. They have

gone to the following posts: Deaconess Romola Dahlgren to be Diocesan Deaconess in the Diocese of Rhode Island—she will make her home in Providence; Deaconess Rachel Osborne Hemphill, to work for Bishop Greer; and Deaconess Amy Greer Thompson is already deep in the work of Grace Parish, New York.

The graduates not set apart, and the special students, are stationed in widely separated fields. Miss Dorothy Nevill Binns is in the House of Mercy, Boston; Miss Helen Gertrude Flagg is resident worker of the Chapel of the Intercession, New York. Last winter Miss Flagg devoted half her time to that work, the other half being spent at St. Faith's. Miss Olivia Matthews is taking a course in Columbia this summer; in the autumn she will enter the Sisterhood of the Transfiguration. Miss Matthews had made this decision before coming to us. It is interesting and gratifying that she should have decided, and that the Reverend Mother of the Order she was about to enter should have wished her, to take our course, or at least a portion of it, as a preparation. She decided upon taking the full course and graduated with honors. She leaves us with the warm love of our School in her heart. Mrs. Mortimer Matthews, her mother, has offered to meet the expense of a scholarship in the School—a generous gift, which we gladly accept. Miss Elita Williams Smith, after a year of graduate work with us, is living at her home in Trenton, N. J., and expects to do volunteer work there. Miss Mabel Frances Sprague is already at work in the Church Mission of Help. These are the graduates.

The special students are: Miss Jane Taylor Bowler, whose plans are not sufficiently matured to be reported, but who is destined for missionary work. Miss Marie Clark, stationed at St. Faith's Home for Unfortunate Women, Tarrytown, New York; Miss Frances Loretta Gress, at work in the mountains of Virginia; Miss Nellie McKim, returning to work for her father, the Bishop of Tokyo; Miss Marion Reynolds Perkins, at work in the Church of the Advent; Spartanburg; and Miss Margaritha Antoinette Ribble, who has entered Cornell Medical School to prepare for medical missionary work in China.

The staff at St. Faith's will be much altered next winter. Deaconess Gillespy has already gone to a most interesting post under Dean Sumner in Chicago, and I am really expecting to sail for the East with Dr. Grace Wolcott and Miss Ethel Lyman Paine on the 17th of next October.* Deaconess Fuller, assisted by Deaconess Lovell and Miss Margaret Howe, will take full care of the household; and with Dean Grosvenor near and a devoted School Committee, the School will be in good hands.

To those whom I hope to greet during the coming winter I send my

* Since this letter was written the Dean's plans have been unavoidably changed.

love as a forerunner. I am longing to see each and all of you. To all others I send my love also with a sincere hope that I may have the happy chance to greet each one of you before very long.

Very faithfully yours,

SUSAN TREVOR KNAPP

LETTERS FROM ALUMNÆ

1902. Deaconess Jessie Carryl Smith writes: "During the long, hot summer days of the East Side in New York the little park known as Stuyvesant Square, with its great trees casting such refreshing shade upon the masses who crowd its benches, lies like an oasis breathing restfulness upon the tired thousands who call the old ivy-clad church on the corner of Sixteenth Street home.

"In the halls of the Memorial House of St. George's a busy life goes on, for to the clergy, deaconesses and workers the summer months, during which the young people of the parish are much scattered, are fraught with many responsibilities and problems of which the winter months are quite free.

"Sixteenth Street, between Third Avenue and the park, is, morning after morning, by tacit consent of guardians and traffic, given over to the children of St. George's—happy little people who, culled from the ranks of the public schools at the closing of these last named, are kept busy and off their mothers' hands during the morning hours by the summer school.

"We of St. George's are very proud of our summer school, which, under the direction of Mr. Safford, organist, choirmaster and individual friend and instructor of every child, young and old, of the parish, has attained to a very high standard of organization and work. The morning opens with a short service in the great assembly hall, followed by a twenty minutes' instruction in singing, during which the specially selected juvenile songs are the children's great delight.

"Every boy and girl is given his or her choice of the work they wish to take up. The boy scout company has many recruits. The wood-carving and carpentering classes are also popular. Sewing attracts the girls, while the classes in designing and painting, in basketry and hammock-making appeal to both alike.

"Every Friday finds the school under the charge of the members of the Rector's staff in Van Cortlandt or the Bronx, more than two hundred and fifty of them spending the day in games and the always fascinating task of exploring the woods for wild flowers.

"The evenings at the Memorial House are always busy, for the large halls, always cool, with the great windows open to the sky, form welcome refuges from the heated, over-crowded tenements—and so the different organizations are quite as occupied providing rest and recreation for their members in summer as in winter.

"No description of the summer life of St. George's could be complete without mention of the work at Rockaway, of the dear old cottage, which has come to mean so much of rest and recreation to the over-worked people of our city, where fifty mothers with their children are housed for a week at a time. When, one day last week, I went with the party to Rockaway and saw the tired ones whom I have so often found hard at work when I toiled up their stairways during my long afternoons of visiting, saw them sink into the big rocking-chairs and just sit looking out on the ocean quiet—at rest—I thanked God, as I looked, for this short respite in their hard lives, so nobly lived.

"Back of the cottage and close to the bungalows where the young married people with their children can go for two weeks at a time, is the Tent Colony—the latest feature of the work. Five tents, and one for the use of the deaconess in charge of them, have been erected, in which twenty girls can be accommodated for the week-end. On Saturday afternoon, by the earliest possible train after the closing of the shops, the girls arrive, and, after the short ceremony of assigning the tents, a great rush is made for the beach and a bath in the surf, after which a jolly tea party serves to make all acquainted and at one. Such a novelty to sleep in a tent, to lie in the comfortable, springy cots and look out at the sky, and then to fall asleep to the sound of the surf, only to awaken again to the same music and to the knowledge of another day to be spent by the sea!

"Sunday is a great day at Rockaway. A short service is held in the pavilion of the cottage in the morning, and then all are free to enjoy the open. Soon after ten the members of what is known as the 'summer club of St. George's' commence to arrive. A tent is erected on the beach and coffee is made by the members of the committee, while upward of two hundred members of the organizations of the parish spend the day camping on the beach, enjoying the surf and gaining refreshment and strength with which to return to the labors of the week to come.

"While all these happenings are occupying the time and making possible a weekly rest and recreation for the people, in and through all permeates the influence of the services in the great old church, the church which by reason of the consecrated lives lived there for so many years has become greatly endeared to the people of the East Side. The early morning services before starting out, and the quiet Sunday evening

ones, as the tired boys and girls come flocking back to the city, serve to emphasize the keynote of all and to lift the thoughts to Him without Whom our labour is but lost and in Whose Name all is done."

1905. Deaconess Katharine Elizabeth Phelps writes from Wuchang, China: "I have been wondering what to write in answer to your request for a letter for the next number of the BULLETIN. As I am a wretched letter writer and have written to very few of my old friends at St. Faith's, perhaps an account of my work from the time I came out will be most suitable.

"Seven years ago I was put in charge of St. Hilda's School in Wuchang, knowing very little Chinese and having had no experience in teaching. Not one of the teachers in the school had any idea how to teach, and none of the girls knew how to study, so altogether it was a problem. The first years were very hard, perhaps as hard for the girls as for me, as I was getting my experience as I went on. But gradually discipline was introduced, and one by one I got some better teachers, till now I think we compare very favorably with any other school. We have graduated ten girls, eight of whom are now teaching—the first trained day-school teachers we have had. They are such a help to the ladies in charge of day-schools, who have had to put up with utterly untrained women with almost no education. We hope from now on to keep up a steady supply of day-school teachers. The majority of them will probably marry after a few years, so the supply will never meet the demand. This winter we have started a high-school class with three pupils. They are able to take all their subjects in English except Chinese Literature and Mathematics. Four years hence we hope to have them as teachers for St. Hilda's.

"Many of the girls come to school when they are fifteen or older, and they don't stay long enough to graduate. After a few years, four or five, they go to a hospital and take a nurse's training, or, more frequently, marry. One girl, after graduating as a nurse, is studying medicine. Another, who was well over twenty when she came to us knowing almost nothing, is acting as a Bible-woman, receiving unlimited praise from my sister, who is working with her. This young woman wishes to become a deaconess, and perhaps may do so some day.

"Of course, there are failures and many discouragements, as everywhere; but on the whole the results are most satisfying. One of the most interesting things in the work is noticing the daily development of newly-arrived girls who have never been to school before. They so often have utterly blank faces and pasty complexions, particularly the non-Chris-

tians. Little by little they change, so that by the end of the year they are hardly recognizable. This is hard to realize in America, as even the most ignorant immigrant child has seen more of the world and had more to think about than a sequestered Chinese girl.

"This year we have borrowed an old house on the compound for the little girls, as it was too heart-breaking to turn away applicants in such numbers. We have twenty-four children there under fourteen, who have never been to school before and have probably never had a chance to play. When they study, they study hard; but the shrieks of joy that come from their playground after school hours would do anyone's heart good. A Chinese girl never has a chance to have a good time till she comes to school.

"We are building a new school with ample playgrounds and a big gymnasium—a special gift. We hope it will be ready for occupancy in the autumn. Then we shall not have to turn away applicants, as we shall have room for three hundred."

1907. Miss Hilda Van Deerlin writes of the work at St. Mary's Mission, Moiluli, Honolulu: "Honolulu is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, and the Church here is ministering to many people in many tongues. We have St. Peter's and St. Elizabeth's for Chinese, Trinity for Japanese, St. Mark's for Hawaiians, St. Luke's for Koreans, St. Andrew's, St. Clement's and Epiphany for English-speaking people, while St. Mary's Mission opens its doors to all races and we have as many as seven nationalities represented, though Japanese are largely in the majority.

"We are situated in a part of Honolulu which is called Moiluli, where there is a large Oriental population. These people, though heathen, prefer to send their children to Church schools rather than to the public schools; so all our mission schools are full to overflowing at all times. One hundred and forty-five boys and girls attend St. Mary's morning session. Sixty of these are in Miss Chung's class, where she has the difficult task of starting them in their English education. A part-Hawaiian girl also assists us in school. In the afternoon Miss Chung has a class of Chinese children, which she instructs in reading and writing the Chinese language. We have also a night-school for men and boys who come to us to learn English. We take the opportunity of teaching them Christianity at the same time, and we have had many Baptisms and some Confirmations as a result of the night-schools. Our Japanese catechist has classes in the evenings. The day's work begins with a short service with the children and closes at nine o'clock with Evening Prayer with the men.

On Wednesday evenings we have a short session in school and then have service and instruction. On Sundays we have Sunday-school at nine o'clock, with service in English, followed by instruction in Chinese, Japanese and English. At seven in the evening a bright service is held in English, which is attended by young Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiians and others, who all have a good knowledge of English. These young people are fond of singing and take great interest in the musical part of the service, so we are able to have a full choral Evensong. At eight o'clock a second service is held in Japanese. Once a month a priest comes to St. Mary's and celebrates the Holy Communion.

"A free dispensary also forms an important part of our work, and we have been fortunate enough the past two years to have the services of a trained nurse every afternoon. Our beautiful large playground gives pleasure to young and old. On Sunday afternoons the tired mothers love to come and sit under the trees and let their babies roll about on the grass; and as soon as the babies are old enough to walk they come by themselves every day. They don't even wait to be dressed in the mornings, for as soon as it is daylight the little ones who live near come running in their night-clothes to play on the slide and the swings, and here they remain till their mothers come to look for them and take them home to be dressed. They are soon back, however, for the remainder of the day, and only when darkness comes on are they ready to go home. Between five and six, or a little later, in the summer months the men and boys who are at work through the day come in for a game of ball. So from early morning till late at night they come to St. Mary's—the sick and the well, the young and the old—for help, instruction and recreation.

"It is seven years since Miss Chung and I left St. Faith's to take up our work here in what is well named 'The Paradise of the Pacific,' and we feel as King David did when he said, 'The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places', for we think that nowhere else could we find such magnificent scenery, such delightful climate, such beautiful flowers, and, above all, such dear children and such interesting people. May we have grace to do our work faithfully."

1911. Miss Mary Shepard writes: "A Sunday-school, an evening Bible-class, a tiny Girls' Friendly Branch, and a public library and reading-room comprise the activities of this little mission of the Church at Plain City, a Utah farming village, where the population is overwhelmingly Mormon. Over thirty years ago a number of English immigrants broke away from Mormonism and, desiring to return to the Mother Church, requested the rector at Ogden, ten miles distant, to establish a mission

here. At that time a substantial brick building was erected, to serve as both church and schoolhouse. There has been only one resident clergyman in Plain City, who died years ago, and since then services have been irregularly and infrequently held. Death and removals have reduced the number of Church families to about a dozen, but our library serves as a point of contact with the Mormon population.

"My home, a little adobe house of three rooms, is very cozy, and I have found my neighbors and all the people exceedingly kind and friendly. Part of each week is spent in Ogden doing parish work under the direction of the rector. A Girls' Friendly Branch, Woman's Auxiliary and Junior Auxiliary have been established, and are doing good work. It is cheering to note an increasing missionary interest."

1912. Deaconess Schodts, whose work is in St. Thomas's Parish in New York, writes: "By June 1st the rush and strain of the winter's activities are over, and we begin to think of the hot and humid days of July and August and to plan how we can give to the greatest number of mothers and children the pleasure and relaxation of a two weeks' visit to the country. This seems almost enough to keep two or three people busy, when parties of from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty are sent off every two weeks; but other pleasures are carried on during this time. As we do not have any large Sunday-school picnics, from fifty to seventy-five children are taken every Saturday to the Bronx, where a happy day is spent.

"Planning pleasures, however, is not all that fills our time during the summer months, for trouble, sorrow and distress are no respecters of seasons, and frequently we have days when our resources and strength are heavily taxed. The hungry must be fed; the troubled and unfortunate must be comforted and given a helping hand; the sick must be relieved and strengthened spiritually and physically; and I feel sure that the summer of 1914 will go down in the records of most New York City parishes as a most distressing and heart-rending one."

1913. Miss Mary Alethea Bremer writes from the American Church Mission at Yangchow, China: "There is hardly any work I can describe as my own for the present, except for teaching some three classes a day (branches in English) in the Mahan School, an academy for boys. Some of these boys are fairly proficient in English; some, alas! think they are; and it is not so simple as it may sound to steer an even course between them.

“But I am glad to have had such an opportunity before undertaking next fall, if all goes well, the new school for girls. This is being situated on an adjoining compound. It is most inspiring to have, in plain view from your window, your work getting ready for you as you daily trudge on to the point where you can meet it. I refer only to the building whose progress I can note from day to day; but the girls are somewhere, I know: a few at present in the day-school, some passed on the streets, others met in the homes. Meantime it is a joy to see nearing completion the home where we shall dwell together—another St. Faith’s.”

1913. Extracts from a letter written by Miss Annie Brown to Dean Knapp from Wusih, Kiangsu, China: “We have a very lovely ‘compound’ here in Wusih—quite a few little fruit-trees and an old-fashioned flower-garden with a hedge of hollyhocks and rambler-roses all over one side of Mrs. Mosher’s porch. Our house is a little bit new for climbing roses, but there is a lovely little peach-tree laden with fruit just outside my study window.

“On May 28th the Chinese Woman’s Auxiliary held their annual meeting at Jessfield (St. John’s), Shanghai. All of the foreign women were expected to attend, and Alethea came down from Yangchow. We were invited to stay at ‘Ladies’ House.’ So we had a nice visit in Shanghai, and then Alethea came to Wusih for a couple of days before returning to Yangchow. The ‘Woman’s Meeting’ was interesting and inspiring. First we had the Holy Communion in St. John’s Pro-Cathedral; then a business meeting at 10:45, which lasted until one o’clock; then the Chinese guests had luncheon in St. Mary’s Hall, which reminded me of some such affairs in St. Faith’s. The foreign women were divided up among the ‘compound families,’ and Alethea and I were guests of Mrs. Graves. After luncheon there was a sort of missionary mass meeting in St. John’s Church, and the offering was taken up. Altogether it amounted to over nine hundred dollars. Most of it had been earned by the Chinese women by embroidery and plain sewing. Half of the offering was voted to go toward the next Triennial Offering in America, and the other half was divided among the needy stations. I received fifty dollars toward fitting up an operating room. Everyone was happy over the result of the year’s work, and, I am sure, went back to begin another year much encouraged.

“Perhaps you have already heard that all three of us have passed our first language examination, and feel as though we had passed the probation period. Alethea is the only one really doing any work so far, and she has been teaching English ever since she arrived. Louise is beginning to undertake supervision of the day-school, and I occasionally do a

small stroke in the Hospital. But the Bishop says that I may begin next fall to work half of each day and study the other half. . . .

"The family of one of the babies I have cared for are very well-to-do, and they gave a Chinese feast in my honor as an act of appreciation. . . . We had about forty courses at that feast and everybody enjoyed it except the guest of honor. The mother of my baby did not appear at the feast—she felt quite unworthy—but she sent a servant to us to say, 'Eat lots. Please don't be polite.'

"The other day we went to call on a very honorable and wealthy Chinese family. They have a house of about one hundred rooms. Each member of the family has a private apartment, and the library is in a separate building. There is a private theatre and ever so many beautiful little gardens. We were invited to go all over the house, and it took us two hours or more to make that call. First of all we had a feast. What interested me most was a very beautiful gate at the entrance to the ancestral hall. The gate was built of stone and had wonderful carving of figures all over the top, and across the top was an inscription. I asked what the interpretation was and was surprised to hear that it read, 'Heaven's blessing on our family.' These people are heathen. Inside the gate was the ancestral hall containing all the family tablets, and there must have been more than a hundred of them."

PERSONALS

DEACONESS AFFLECK, who has served for five years in Mexico, has accepted a call from Bishop Spalding and will go to Salt Lake City in the autumn.

Miss Mabel Holgate has returned from Alaska.

Miss Winifred English has left St. Mark's Church, New York, to become assistant at the Orphanage in Concord, New Hampshire.

Deaconess Routledge completed her work in Manila in June and will return to America very soon. In a letter written in April of this year Bishop Brent says that during her service in the Philippines she has "won and held the affection of every one who has come in touch with her" and that "her patient industry, often in tasks which were not congenial to her temperament, has laid foundations which will abide."

Miss Elsie Riebe is to be set apart on October 30th at the Church Missions House by Bishop Lloyd, and expects to sail for China the end of

November to take up work under Bishop Roots at the Bible Teachers Training School, Hankow.

Miss Elizabeth Coe is to be set apart on November 1st at All Saints' Church, Worcester, Mass., by Bishop Davies, and is to continue her work in this parish.

THE CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

ON September 21st, the annual Conference and Retreat for Deaconesses opened at St. Faith's, and, though the numbers were not great (twenty-five, of whom fifteen were our graduates), it was very generally agreed that in interest and value both Conference and Retreat were worthy to succeed all that have gone before.

The Conference begins on Monday evening and continues until Wednesday evening, when the deaconesses go into retreat until Saturday morning. Such a division of the time gives many opportunities to meet friends and to talk over the doings of the past year before the time comes which is exclusively set apart for devotional exercises.

The subject chosen this year for discussion was Church Unity, and we had the advantage of notable speakers, expert students of present-day developments. Professor Hall, of the General Seminary, contributed a paper dealing with the essentials of Reunion rather from the intellectual standpoint, and, when he was unable to come himself to read it, we were fortunate to have a friend in Dr. W. Lloyd Bevan, who took his place and greatly illuminated the subject before us by his far-reaching and comprehensive commentary upon it. Deaconess Goodwin led a discussion of a very practical sort on the opportunities of deaconesses to promote Unity. In the heat of Tuesday evening we all deserted the library and sat on the porch to listen to Mr. Gardiner, who came down from Maine on purpose to tell about the origin and work of the Commission on Faith and Order, a venture of faith thrilling from its very outset and already so wonderful in the wide scope of its influence. If there are any of the Alumnae who have not yet read any of the literature issued by the Commission, they would do well to send for copies of some of the leaflets, that they may not fail to know something of so inspiring a phase of the effort towards reunion. (The leaflets are to be had on application to Mr. Robert H. Gardiner, Gardiner, Maine.)

Bishop Parker also came especially to spend Wednesday at the Conference to speak about the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the many interesting points of contact which we have with them, as also about the great opportunity in this country to improve relations between those

Churches and our own by individual as well as by corporate understanding and sympathy. His address was quite a revelation to many, even as to the existence of some of the branches of the Church Catholic of which he told, and he brought out strongly the advantages we have as a reformed Church in view of the binding conservatism of the East.

At the business meeting the following committee were elected to prepare the next Conference programme: President, Deaconess Mather; Secretary, Deaconess Woodward; Deaconess Brooke, and Deaconess Hotchkiss. Dean Knapp and Deaconess Carter are members *ex-officio*. It was decided to open the lectures of the Conference to alumnæ of both schools, should they wish to attend them, an action which, it is hoped, will result in a large attendance at future gatherings.

Of the Retreat it is difficult to write adequately. The Rev. George L. Richardson, of St. Mary's Church, Philadelphia, was the conductor, and his addresses were more than helpful—inspiring. His subject was "Fellowship," and surely there went with his words a spirit of fellowship which we may hope and believe will continue with all who heard him as they scatter to their varied posts for the winter's work.