

THE CHINESE CHIMES.

Return Number

American Board Mission, T'ungshien, Peiping East .
November, 1947.

The Event of the Year:

As we review the events in our lives since we sent out the Rainbow Number of the Chimes the most outstanding one is our return to China. When we left in 1940 little did we think that it would be seven years before we could be back here together. At times during those seven years we wondered whether we would ever get back. Not only were we held up by the world conditions and lack of transportation but the Medical Secretary of the American Board would not give his approval of Mary's return until January, 1947.

We left Auburndale February 3, after having visited Harold and Julie in their Vermont home at Christmas, and visited James and Hope in Philadelphia where he is resident physician in the Pennsylvania Hospital. Then we went to Norfolk, Virginia, to spend two days with Elizabeth and John. He is still in the navy but they are now living at Portsmouth, where he is glad to have a chance to get some medical work in a navy hospital. He hopes to get out of the navy by the end of this year. It was good to see all six of our children in their own homes, busy, well and happy. We are grateful for the opportunity of having those final visits before starting out on our return to China.

Delay in California:

The American Board was not able to get transportation for us across the Pacific as soon as they had hoped but if one has to wait for a boat from February 13 to May 4 there are lots of places less desirable than Southern California at that time of year. We had hoped to have at least two weeks there so as to make more secure our own acts with the Bay Shore Church of Long Beach, which had adopted us as their representatives in China. They arranged very satisfactory living quarters for us and their hospitality was greatly appreciated. Mary's only brother and his wife, Guy and Bess Stambaugh, live at Fallbrook, south of Long Beach and we were glad to have a chance to spend some time with them on their avocado ranch. I can think of a lot of places less desirable than Fallbrook ~~as a place~~ to spend one's evening hours of his earthly existence. To dig in the earth and see things ^{grow} seems to be good tonic for my tranquility. We also enjoyed visiting old China friends and others in National City, Claremont and Whittier.

Our request for used clothes and other articles which we made in the Rainbow Number produced much more than we expected. Thank you all for such generous response. We had four trunks full and five large packages (the latter were sent by mail) and we are still giving out clothes and will turn over most of what remain to a Relief Committee which has recently been organized. Even as I wrote this paragraph Alice Reed came in and said that two students in the boys school need some warmer clothes and I agreed to see them this afternoon.

The Road Back:

One reason for our delay in getting transportation was that the Medical Secretary ruled that Mary was not to travel on a transport such as many missionaries had used and found difficult. We were fortunate finally to get booked on the Contest, a freighter with refrigeration for carrying perishable goods. There was space for ten passengers but a man with his wife and six children had to cancel their sailing because of the illness of one of the children. We were the only passengers and had a very comfortable journey. Our first stop was at Yokohama and a kind U.S. Army officer arranged for us to go ashore so we were able to visit

Tokyo. The only person we saw whom we knew was a former Honolulu student who was for many years in the International Labor Bureau of the League of Nations, Dr. Iwao Ayusawa. He is now doing an important job helping to direct the labor movement in Japan. As a member of the Society of Friends he didn't fit in with the military regime that ruled his country but he is a valuable person for these reconstruction days and we were glad to see him again.

Our next stop was at Manila where we thought we knew no one. By calling the Presbyterian Mission on the telephone we got in touch with friends with whom some of our North China colleagues had stayed when they got caught there in 1941 on their way home. They must have made a good impression on the Presbyterians for we were welcomed most cordially. Mr. Christy took us around Manila and out into the country and then home for supper. There we met Dr. and Mrs. Garson whom we had known in Shantung. He is now president of Silliman University.

The destination of the Contest was Hongkong and by ^{sending a radio} to a British S.S. Company we learned before we landed that we could leave the following day on a boat for Tientsin. We had our baggage transferred from one boat to the other without taking it ashore and after we were settled on the British boat we had a few hours to spend in Hong Kong. Fortunately we were able to contact a Chinese father whose daughter I had known in Chengtu and whom we had visited in Berkeley. He took us in a car to his home near Stanley prison and we were glad to have a chance to see so much of the island. We had hoped to do some shopping there but it was not important enough for us to wait two weeks for the next boat.