

WOMEN and MISSIONS

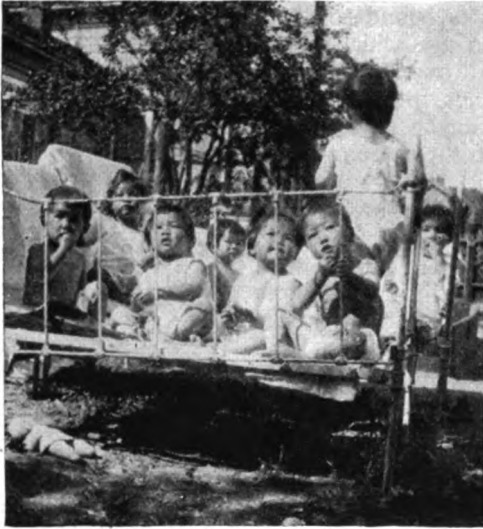
SEPTEMBER, 1925

Is There a Youth Movement in America?

By Florence G. Tyler

Miss Tyler was for six years joint student secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions and the Board of National Missions, and although she is now associated with the Women's Union Christian Colleges of the Orient as executive secretary, she still retains her interest in young people.

TO one who has been more or less in touch with the students of America for the past few years this question brings to mind a sign which appeared in one of our leading industrial plants, "If you want to know who's boss around here, just start something." It is the writer's conviction that we shall not know positively whether we have a youth movement or not until the issues which are before



PLENTY OF YOUTH MOVEMENT HERE
ORIENTAL BABIES IN U. S. A.

the country are a bit more clear-cut than they are at the present time. Whether you believe in war or not makes very little difference while the country is at peace; but if the overwhelming sentiment against war manifested by the 6,000 students at the great Indianapolis Student Convention becomes really operative in a time when the heads of government have decided in favor of war, then I say the world will know that America has a youth movement.

The same thing would apply in the

case of a number of other issues which are today merely matters of opinion. One constantly hears and sees statements like the following: "Student thinking is radical today." "Students are more conservative than their elders." "Students are thinking world terms." "Students do not think beyond America." All these statements are true, for after all students are only people and there are

many types. A speaker going into a college gathers around him a coterie of students who think as he does and he comes away feeling that he reflects the minds of the students of that college; whereas there may be hundreds there who differ, whom he has in no way touched. All this goes to show how difficult it is to make any general statement about students or "the student mind" or student thinking.

Indisputably there is, however, a desire among great numbers of students to study into the great economic problems before the world. There is less willingness on

heard in our land. There is the "Fellowship for Christian Life Service," "The National Student Forum," the student Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. and many other groups, all of which are endeavoring to study the problems and perplexities of the present age from their own particular angle.

It is easier to study the youth movements of other lands because they are more clearly defined; but let us not lose sight of what the youth of our own land are thinking and doing for in their hands is the future of our church and land. There is a deep seriousness, a willingness to face a task, and an ability to do it such as this country has never before known. It may not be called a "Youth Movement" at the present stage, but who knows what it may become? Its aim and motive are best expressed in that of the

"Fellowship of Youth for Peace."

"To our generation comes the challenge to abolish war. In rising to meet this challenge young men and women the world over are finding common ground Youth must courageously face the problems of race prejudice, economic conditions, education, our moral responsibilities and all human relationships and approach their study in a new spirit. Standing together, the rising generation can build a new world in which suspicion, hatred and war will be replaced by mutual trust, goodwill and fellowship. We believe that from our comradeship with youth throughout the world will spring the insight to keep our vision clear and the courage to be loyal unflinchingly to our ideals. Will you unite with us in this great adventure of youth?"

Prepare His Way

By Margaret E. Hodge

Miss Hodge is one of the two vice presidents of the Board of Foreign Missions, and from this and from her long association with other offices of the former Woman's Board of Foreign Missions is known to Presbyterian women all over the United States.

MRS. ROYS in the July number of **WOMEN AND MISSIONS** told of the happy closing of the year for foreign mission work and spoke of Christ walking in mission lands. As we look ahead to the coming year, let us remember how Christ called His disciples to Him and sent them out into places where He himself would go, to prepare the way for Him.

There are still so many places where He longs to walk and has never been taken, so many places where He has never been allowed the smallest entrance, that one of the greatest stimuli as we face the new year's work is that He has called us to prepare the way for Him to walk in *all lands*. There is yet very much land to be possessed and there are many women and young women in our own favored land eager to help Him come into His own, as well as many whose hearts His command to prepare the way for Him has not yet reached.

We think of this coming year as the

young people's year, as a year of prayer, as one of concentration on Latin America and Siam, because of the special plans for study which our church, in co-operation with others, have laid down.

Young People's Year. There has never been as close cooperation as there is now among all of the agencies of our church for reaching the young people. In its simplest analysis, the Presbyterian Program for Young People of all ages, from babyhood to manhood and womanhood, is an evidence of this. It means that instead of the mission boards and the Board of Christian Education all preparing plans for study and service, they have united in producing one plan with a unified approach through their own machinery to all the young people of the church. Now, missions is a necessary and natural element in the Sunday school lessons, it is a topic for Christian Endeavorers, and all the work of the Board of Christian Education; and the mission boards are tying their missionary pro-

gram to the broader one of Christian education, and all are uniting in suggesting definite plans of missionary service, study and giving. Synodical and presbyterial societies should work with renewed energy with the young people, helping them to assume the greater responsibility which has been laid upon them. Presbyteries will have put before them in a new way their responsibility for the young people, and by the cooperation of men and women, the greatness and joy of the missionary task will be presented to these eager boys and girls. How inspiring the phrases are—"Building with Christ," "World Friendship"!

A Year of Prayer. The books, *Prayer and Missions* and *Brave Adventurers*, bring before us a new summons to the one source of power, the source on which Christ Himself relied. For instance, we are reminded that before He sent His disciples to prepare the way where He Himself would go, He spent the whole night in prayer. And that was not exceptional, but His custom. And there has seldom been such a presentation of the power of prayer and the possibility of the children making it a part of their daily life, as Mrs. Cronk has given in her book, *Brave Adventurers*. Every mother has a wonderful opportunity to reach her own children with this.

In the *Expectation of Siam*, Dr. Brown impresses upon us our responsibility as Presbyterians for this land that has been assigned to us in which to prepare the way for Christ. Intelligent Presbyterians should master this book. Dr. and Mrs. C. B. McAfee of our Board of Foreign Missions have recently visited Siam and write of their joy in the work that has been done and of the eagerness of the Siamese Christians to carry the news of Christ to those who speak their own language in South China. Dr. McAfee says:

"Then came the recognition and dedication of a group of Siamese missionaries starting the next day to Yunnan. There were eleven adults in the group, all of them former students or graduates of Dr. Gillies' training school here in Chiengmai, and all receiving at least partial support from the native Siamese church. This group set off during the

next two or three days on a walk of 45 days and on commissions ranging from one to three years. They took some of the children with them, and allowance was made for carrying all under ten years of age. The others would walk with their parents! But if I can measure the light in men's eyes, it is certain that they went with a sincere purpose to make Christ known to the world."

South America is in the foreground this year because of the remarkable congress held in Montevideo last spring, when South Americans and North Americans together considered the needs, the successes, the resources of the Church of Christ in the southern continent. When one looks back only nine years to the congress held in Panama, the progress is evident. Then the language used for the different sessions was practically always English and the chairman was a North American. This year the language was Spanish or Portuguese, with the briefest summarizing in English. The chairman was Senor Erasma Braga. The Protestant Church is now indigenous in South America as it is in North America. It is strong and vital, ready to take the leadership in making Christ known there, but needing the cooperation, the friendly sympathy and assistance of its sister church in North America. There are plenty of dark spots yet. Millions have not yet heard of Christ; millions are in the bondage of superstition and the twilight of Christianity; millions have little or no education; political liberty is still largely a matter of paper instead of fact; and the separation of church and state is still a dream in most of the nations. But Christ is beginning to walk in South America, and if we in both Americas who love Him will hasten to prepare the way, He can soon enter.

Enthusiastic letters have just come from missionaries who left early in the year for Persia, telling of the new openings there and the friendliness of the Persians. Already they love these people with whom they are to work. As they passed through Baghdad, they saw the beginnings of the United Mission (the Presbyterian "family" mission), where a start has already been made to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Our

Presbyterian young people are responsible for our own church's share in carrying this important work. Surely Christ, who was a young Man, is glad to know that our young men and young women are sharing in the preparation for His entrance.

In all the seething turmoil in China, the outstanding fact is that its leadership is in the hands of students who have studied in America. Some of them are Christians; why not the most of them? Is there any greater challenge to the Christians of America than the fact that this movement, led by students, is not thoroughly Christian? Who better than the students should be able to discern between true Christianity and western civilization—which is still so lacking in evidence of real Christianity? What a reproach to us Christians in America that we did not make some effort to win

the leading Chinese men and women to Christ, who to know is Life abundant! As we pray for China, let us pray that the Christian students may be loyal to Christ and help their fellows to see Him in His beauty. And let us in America realize that we must do all in our power to reach the foreigners in our land with the real brotherhood of Christ. There is an open door of opportunity in every school and college and city and town where foreigners are studying or living temporarily. Let us open the doors of our homes and hearts to them.

It was a non-Christian who said, "The only person who is making a serious bid for the leadership of the world is Jesus Christ." Christians in America, women Christians, let us make a highway for our Lord, that He, the Prince of Peace, may walk thereon into all hearts and lives in this world of ours!

Here Goes My Boat

By Katharine E. Gladfelter

Director of Young People's Work for the Board of National Missions.

IT WAS the last night of a summer conference. We had had vespers overlooking the lake where we could watch the sun go down behind a snow-capped mountain. We had seen the outlines of the hills soften and merge into a black silhouette against an orange sky in which the evening star shone with a soft white light. We had watched the blue of the water darken and turn finally to a sheet of shining silver. And as we watched we thought of One who walked twenty centuries ago beside a lake on the other side of the world.

It was the speaker who had taken us back in mind and spirit across the years, for he talked of Jesus beside the Lake of Galilee. We could see Him walking beside the water; we could hear His voice as he spoke to Simon and Andrew saying, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," and we could feel their joyous response as they left their nets in response to the call that would not be denied. We could see Him again with His little company walking beside that same lake with the crowd pressing around so that He entered a boat and sat down

to talk. We did not know the name of the owner of that boat, but we did know that when the time came he must have given it gladly for the service of his Lord. And as we listened to the simple, direct words of the speaker we knew that the call which came to Simon and Andrew beside the sea of Galilee was sounding in our ears. We knew too that even as some unknown fisherman of the long ago had given his boat to the Master, so to each of us came the same opportunity to give all that we had.

Then in the dark we went down to the beach. We formed a great circle around the fire, the sacred fire of friendship, and one by one cast a fagot into it as we told what the conference had meant to us. Many promises and pledges were made, but there was one which I think will stand out always when I recall that night. It came from a boy, a boy whom we had come to know during those seven days for the spirit of earnestness and sincerity with which he had entered into all the work and play of the conference; a boy in his sophomore year at a far western state university. He hesitated when his