

恭賀新禧

Dear Ginling Alumnae:

Having failed to send you greetings last Christmas, early this year I decided that I would keep a diary for you and send it out soon after Founders' Day. I've only half succeeded but such as it is I send it on with the hope that it will be of interest and will draw you even more closely to the life of your Alma Mater of which you are even now such a real part. And so I begin the narrative —

January 17, 1934. It is final examination week and everybody is busy. To our surprise who should arrive this morning at seven o'clock but our own Dr. Wu. We knew that she had sailed from America and had arrived in Shanghai yesterday but because of educational meetings there she had written that she could not come up to Nanking this week. The temptation to see all of the students and faculty before they scattered for the midyear holiday was evidently too great for her so she left Shanghai last night and arrived in Nanking this morning. When she entered Faculty House a shout went up that brought all but the soundest sleepers from their bedrooms. What greetings followed! Before she took off her coat she went to all the student dormitories to greet the students and also to East Court where nine faculty members are living this year. A very large group of students came to chapel this evening - we are having chapel at 6:30 during examination week - to hear her talk about her impressions of America. Somehow she made us all feel that it is only a Christlike loving and forgiving spirit that can unravel and solve the many difficult problems in the world today, both in the East and in the West.

February 7. You will be interested in the announcement party and feast which the "old faculty" attended last night at the home of Mary Chen (1923). We half suspected that it was to be an announcement party and sure enough it was. When Mary's mother stood to offer thanks at the beginning of the feast she very beautifully asked for a blessing upon the newly engaged couple. When the blessing was finished we all arose and offered our hearty congratulations to Bao Dji-lih (1924) whose engagement was announced to Mr. Gao who teaches psychology at the Catholic University in Peiping. The romance started in the psychology laboratory at the University of Michigan.

February 9. The first assembly of the new semester was held at noon today. Dr. Wu gave a very inspiring talk, almost a confession, telling how she seemed unconsciously to idealize China and Ginling while she was travelling in the United States. She told us how in many of her talks she stressed the three things which Ginling students through the years have possessed, namely, (1) An earnestness of purpose in their studies, (2) A spirit of cooperation and responsibility in the life on the campus - the family spirit of which we are justly proud, (3) A spirit of service to others as revealed through neighborhood activities. She urged the students to strive even harder to live up to these high ideals of our college life.

February 11. I am reminded today of a chapel service which took place in the spring of 1924 - just ten years ago. Today the service was given over to a group which is planning for a new Neighborhood Project. A campaign which has been carefully planned for months is being started to raise \$2400.00 for a Neighborhood House and \$3300.00 for a Neighborhood Health Center. Some of you to whom I am writing will remember that in 1924 less than one hundred students raised more than nine hundred dollars for our

Neighborhood Day School which we built in the following summer and which has been faithfully serving the children of our immediate community since that time.

February 13. This evening at 6:45 a new course was started at Ginling. It is called Educational and Vocational Guidance. Its purpose is to help freshmen choose their major courses and consequently their future professions more intelligently and thoughtfully. During the semester each department in college will present to the freshmen the openings and needs in its field and the ability needed to major in that field. Also outside speakers will be invited to present the professions of nursing, medicine, writing etc. All freshmen are required to attend these lectures.

February 14. Today is the old China New Year but the old festivities are gone, at least in Nanking. Personally I miss them for I found great delight in your old China New Year customs. Many of them, having grown up slowly through the centuries, have great social value and it seems to me should be preserved, especially for the sake of the common people. I believe the Government would do well to make a careful study of these customs and try to preserve those that make life happier and brighter for those who toil so faithfully throughout the long year.

February 16. We are keeping the World Day of Prayer today. Dr. Wu is leading the union service in Chinese in the city and Mrs. Thurston is leading the service in English at Ginling. The program which we shall use was written by a woman in South Africa. It is inspiring to think that the women of the world will be united in this service of prayer and praise today.

March 1. I have just returned from my second movie in Nanking. Twice in fifteen years is not a very good record judged by modern standards, it is? The movie was "The Sign of the Cross". If you have an opportunity to see it, you should go by all means. Most people left the big theater sad and silent although many in the audience were not Christians. It made vivid what our spiritual heritage cost the Christians of the first few centuries. It is comparatively easy these days to become a Christian and we sometimes forget that many have had to pay a tremendous price for the faith and the message which we receive at so little cost.

March 2. The Ginling Board of Directors is having its annual meeting today. Twenty members are present, thirteen Chinese and seven Westerners. Eight of the thirteen Chinese members are women. It looks as if we are facing quite a large deficit in the budget for next year.

March 22. I found the chapel talk today particularly interesting. Mr. L. C. Cheng, head of our Economics Department talked on the Pei Hwa movement in China which as you know was started some years ago by Dr. Hu Shih. He showed how it has become flowery and ineffective as a tool for expressing ideas. He then read a passage from the New Testament, which in 209 characters portrays vividly and clearly the story of the owner of a vineyard, each sentence carrying forward the meaning. In closing his talk Mr. Cheng told the students that if they wished to master the national language they could find no better way than to learn a chapter from the New Testament each day. Twice in the last five years I have heard speakers say that, and yet when I came to China more than twenty years ago the Chinese of the New Testament was looked down upon by all