

W.A. 118

AN ADVERTISEMENT

Month by month THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS contains stories which will be of interest to those who are working for the United Offering. Many of the articles are written by United Offering workers and tell of the practical work which is being accomplished by them. Subscription price \$1.00. Address 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

AN ADVERTISEMENT

By Deaconess Hart

HAVING spent much of my life in the environment of a printing office, I have always believed that it pays to advertise. Why not try it now?

Wanted: Ten young women between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five for work in the Missionary District of Hankow. Applicants should possess a good digestion, a sense of humor and an amiable disposition. Hours long; work hard; salary small; compensation wonderful.

When the answers to this advertisement come pouring in, I am sure the secretaries at the Missions House will be asked over and over again, "But why only ten?" I admit that it is an absurdly small number to ask for when we think of the resources of the Church and the needs of the field, but there's a reason—indeed there are two! First of all, it is expected to make a profound impression on the Church at home that we are at once so modest and so exact in our de-



DEACONESS HART AND SOME OF THE BIBLE-WOMEN

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mands. Ten workers means an average of three and one-third for each of our three departments of work. Now if we asked for a dozen, a score or a hundred workers for each department—and I am not saying that we could not use that many—there are some people who would think we are extravagant in our demands, and some others who would assume that we are simply speaking in round numbers, in a vague, indefinite way, and do not really know what we are talking about; but anybody knows that nobody would ask for just three and one-third missionaries unless they just *had* to have them.

The other reason we ask for so small a number is because we fear it would be too much of a shock for the present workers if they were to awake

some morning and find that there really was an adequate force to take advantage of all the opportunities open to us just now. Take the medical work for instance. Even in the old, cramped quarters, there never has been a time within the memory of man when the force has been half large enough for the work that was crying to be done. Now that they are to have a real hospital with a roof over their heads, a floor under their feet and four hygienic walls on every side—well, if they also had all the doctors and nurses they need for the work which will now be multiplied many fold, there is grave danger that Dr. James and Miss Dexter might sit down and grow fat, proud and lazy! The addition of three and one-third only, to the medical staff, will prevent

undue pride on the one hand or unnecessary anxiety on the other—two good points, we think.

So, too, in the educational and evangelistic departments of the mission work. A year ago we thought we had barely enough to keep the wheels going and yet within that time the women workers have been reduced by six—one death and five resignations—with no new ones in sight to take their places. And so, from one end of the diocese to the other, there are patients waiting to be healed, workers waiting to be trained, pupils waiting to be taught, candidates for baptism waiting to be instructed—a multitude waiting to be won for the Master. How long will they be content to wait? Yes, I know the Chinese are a patient and a long-suffering people, but I wouldn't

advise you ten to try their patience too far. Children like these for instance cannot be expected to wait forever to grow up!

In crossing the continent recently I found that practically all of my fellow passengers were going to Los Angeles for work in the moving picture studios in which that city now abounds. After one of them had diplomatically ascertained that I did not regard "movies" as wicked, we became very good friends and exchanged confidences as to the lights and shadows of our respective callings. I learned a great deal about the joys and sorrows of a "movie" actress, and she (I trust) knew more about missionaries than when she started on her journey! After describing to me some of the discouraging features of her

life—the men who feel privileged to be impertinent to her because of her calling; the difficulty (sometimes the impossibility) of pleasing the managers and amusing the public; the weariness of spending one's life amidst make-believe surroundings — she said rather wistfully, “Of course there's lots of money nowadays in being a 'movie' actress, but if I didn't have a family to support, I'd so much rather do something *real* in life—something interesting—like being a missionary, for instance.”

So there you are! If you want work in life that, in everything except money, pays better than being a

“movie” actress, just answer this advertisement and see what happens!



WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU, TOO!

The United Offering supports 217 women missionaries in many parts of the world. At the General Convention of 1916 the Offering totaled \$353,619.76. Can we make it \$500,000 in 1919?