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MRS. YOUNG PREFERS TO TEACH

Principal Of Secondary School Would Guide Young People

By AH HUNA TONG

"I would rather teach than do anything else." These words spoken by Mrs. H. S. Young, principal of the only S.M.C. Secondary School for Chinese Girls, in a casual conversation, more truely describe her than all that her friends and acquaintances have said of her.

It was this friendly conversation over teacups which led to what ended as an interview, though, as early as a year ago I had heard good comments from foreign and Chinese people of the person and her work.

Mrs. Young is a woman of slight stature, and standing beside her tall husband, who is building secretary of the Chinese Y.M.C.A. in Frenchtown, she is not to be compared in height. But for her size, one would scarcely dream of the ability within her power. She holds the position of headmistress of one of the best equipped schools here for girls in preparatory years.

Holding Position 4 Years

This position Mrs. Young has been maintaining since the beginning of this school four years ago, and which she won through fair competition of application and experience. Ever since its establishment, Mrs. Young has devoted time and energy to make it, now one of the best, having the highest standards. The school in late winter moved into its new quarters on Singapore Road, which now stands as a challenge to modern education in China for better housing, better teaching system, better standards, and better welfare for the students.

All of the teaching staff of the school are college graduates and half are foreign returned women. They co-operate harmoniously with the principal in carrying out her ideas of a high school education for girls.

A great deal of time is stressed for extra-curricular work, which Mrs. Young believes is a major portion of the training for young people to become good citizens.

Was "Y" Secretary

During the first year she was in Shanghai for permanent residence, Mrs. Young worked at the National Y.W.C.A., but gave it up, because, as she said, she found it "not as interesting as teaching."

When asked what she found so interesting in teaching, which I personally can not see at all, she said, "I like to see the children grow and develop, not only in body, which is natural, but also in mind and character." She takes great delight in having a "heart-to-heart" talk with one of her budding senior girls, who only a few years ago were small children, learning of their aims and aspirations, and in advising them in what steps to take as they leave high school.

In assuming her position four years' ago as principal of the school Mrs. Young brought with her six years' experience as vice-principal in one school, and five years' experience in another school in Nanking. In addition she has seen and studied a great deal of practical school conditions in America during the three times she has visited there.

Father Is First Minister

Mrs. Young, whose father is the first ordained Methodist minister in Central China, still living in Shanghai, is a native of Hupeh. She first studied English in the mission schools and in Kiukiang High School, from whence she left for college work in Albion College, Michigan. After graduation from the Michigan School, she went to Syracuse, New York, for post graduate work in mathematics and science.

Upon return to China, she took up teaching in her old Kiukiang high school. Her second trip to America was spent studying secondary school education at the Chicago University, and her third time crossing the Pacific was to attend the Methodist general conference and in traveling through the states to study school conditions there.

In addition to her school work, Mrs. Young has kindred other interests, which are given her because of the position she holds and for what she knows of educational conditions, and because she is so generous of time and for charity.

Recently she spoke at the annual conference of the Joint Committee of Shanghai Women's Organizations, her theme being a study of means of vocational guidance for girls in Shanghai.

At the annual meeting of the Shanghai Y.W.C.A. held three weeks ago, Mrs. Young was elected one of the members of the board of directors.

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