
SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTE.

A direct connection can be traced between the Women's Conference held in January, 1920, and the Social Service Institute conducted by the Shanghai Young Women's Christian Association in December, 1920. The Institute was an outgrowth of the conference commission on social service, which formed a Union Committee which is doing laboratory work in conducting in Shanghai, over a considerable stretch of time, a Better Homes Campaign. Thirty of the leading social and religious organizations of Shanghai and the vicinity are co-operating in this work, among them: the Social Service League, the Kiangsu Educational Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Kiangsu Homes Daily Progress Club, the **World Chinese Students' Federation**, the Shanghai Students' Union, the Medical and Nurses' Associations and the Council on Health Education, and the various church organizations of the city.

The Social Service Institute was the special contribution made to the campaign by the Y. W.

C. A. The Institute was held on ten successive afternoons, in the compound of the Y. W. C. A. About one hundred Chinese women and girls registered for it, and the attendance was steady in spite of bad weather. The four leading themes were: *Home Hygiene and Health*, in connection with which classes were held on Baby Welfare and the Care of the Mother, Home Nursing, Preparation of Food and Home, and Personal Hygiene; *The Home and Home Life*, under which lectures were given on Home Decoration, Recreation and the use of Leisure, Discipline and Order in the Home, Home Finances, and Housing; *Home Relationships*, which comprised lectures on Marriage and Betrothal, The Mother in the Home, The Daughter in the Home, and Employers and Servants; and *Religion in the Home*, to which the two Sunday afternoon sessions were given, with lectures on the Keeping of the Sabbath and Family Prayers, and The Underlying Basis of all Right Relationships. The most successful feature of the Institute was the exhibit day when all of the principles which the Institute was attempting to promote were dramatized to a fascinated crowd of about four hundred Chinese men and women. The intense and appreciative attention given to the public health poster exhibit, the play illustrative of recreation suitable for family life, the model children's book room and the tables full of people playing the right kind of games, proved again that this method of propaganda is probably more effective than any other.

Future plans of the Better Homes Campaign include the enlisting of groups of volunteers who by keeping accounts will

demonstrate the making of household budgets: the preparation of a Chinese house, the use of very full questionnaires on home conditions to be filled out by such heads of families as are willing to do so, etc. As successful as the Institute was in Shanghai the chief test of its effectiveness will be its adaptability to other centers, for it is the desire of its promoters that from this enterprise an impetus for education and reform will be carried back into the constituent societies, the various girls' schools, the churches, and other centers for women's interests.