

THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF CANTON, CHINA, 1838

Records, 1836, (1838)

Charities Collection - CC 8

1 folder	Processed March 1994 by Nanni Deng
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ACQUISITION: In 1911 the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local, national, and international welfare and charitable organizations. With passage of time this collection took on historical significance and in 1991 it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Because neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social Work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College Archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

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HISTORY:

The Medical Missionary Society of Canton, China was founded as a result from a pamphlet issued in 1836 by Dr. Peter Parker. It contained valuable suggestions as to the desirability and the possibility of increasing the work of furnishing gratuitous medical work for poor Chinese, and "looking to the formation of a society for the furtherance of this special objective." (Stevens., p. 134)

On February 21, 1838, in a largely attended public meeting held in Canton, The Medical Missionary Society of Canton was officially founded with Dr. T.R. Colledge as President and Dr. Peter Parker as a Vice President.

The objective of this society is to encourage gentlemen of the medical profession to come and practice gratuitously among the Chinese by affording the usual aid of hospitals, medicine and attendants : but that the support or remuneration of such medical gentlemen be not at present within its contemplation. (Stevens., p. 135)

Dr. Parker played a prominent role in the work and development of the society. Parker was the first medical missionary in China and was integral to the establishment of commercial and diplomatic relations between the United States government and China. Parker died in 1888 at the age of 83.

Due to lack of information, the date when the Medical Missionary Society ceased operation has not been determined.

All information taken from :

T.R. Colledge and Peter Parker, Address and Minutes of Proceedings of the Medical Missionary Society Canton, China 1838. Printed at the Office of the Chinese Repository.

Goerge B. Stevens. The Life, Letters and Journals of the Rev. and Hon. Peter Parker (Wilmington, Delaware : Scholarly Resources Inc., 1972)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The records of the Medical Missionary Society of Canton, China contain an address and minutes of proceedings in the form of a report issued in 1838.

The first part of the records consist of the minutes of two public meetings which were held in February and April 1838. The discussions of these meetings centered around the formation of the regulations and resolutions of the Medical Missionary Society and set forth the objectives and fundamental principles of the society. The address was authored by the Society President T.R. Colledge, Vice-president Peter Parker and Vice-president E.C. Bridgman.

A copy of the proposal of the Medical Missionary Society of Canton, China, published in October, 1836, appears in the appendix. This collection also includes lists of officers and members, trustees, directors for life, members for life, annual subscribers and foreign agents. Also included are a list of subscriptions and donations and a record of accounts.

The records also contain a copy of the ninth report of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton which includes a detailed report on the hospitals operation for the quarter term ending December 31, 1838. The report has break down of the expenses for the term covered.

Also included is a tabular statement of the numbers of each disease that have come under observation of the hospital.