

Hwei Wen School, Nanking  
June 21, 1946

Dear Sisters:

Tragedy seems to dog my footsteps recently. First I tripped in getting out of a ricksha and bumped by head on the corner of a house. I had always supposed that the bumps that appears on the heads in the funny pictures were exaggerated but I can state from experience that they are not. In true Wolkott tradition, I first felt of my glasses to see if they were broken, and then finding they were not I felt of my forehead and to my great horror there was a lump there as big as an egg or at least it felt that way. I just received from that when I got sick with a kind of dysentery. I thought it was intestinal flu which I caught from you from reading your letter about the epidemic you were having, but Shu-liang came to see me and began doctoring me for bacillary dysentery, that being the kind of medicine I happened to have on hand, sulphaguinidin and as the medicine seemed to help I suppose that is what it is, but it has certainly been a stubborn thing. Then the greatest tragedy of all was that my typewriter broke. (This is a borrowed one which doesn't know how to spell.) When I come to the end of a line I have to stop right in the middle of a word because no amount of jiggling will make it go a few more letters. We are having a Field Committee next Tuesday and I always prepare a budget and some financial reports, so I shall have to borrow a typewriter to do the typing. The string which brings the carriage back and forth broke. I never heard of such a thing happening but it did. As soon as I get caught up again I shall see if my former cook can fix it for me.

You will be interested to know that the green dishes which you mailed in Febr. finally arrived last week. When I saw how the box was telescoped, I feared the worst. It nearly broke the cook's heart to see all those lovely green plates come out piece by piece. He thought it was a dreadful shame and I think he has a very low idea of my younger sister's intelligence. It also broke my heart because the tag said "packed in old clothes" and I needed some rags to start house cleaning and lo and behold it was packed in cut up paper.

Enough of tragedy, I shall now turn to the brighter side of life. I just got from the post office slips for 10 packages of used clothing and one book. After I got your letter, I was really a little worried that I might go bankrupt paying duty on things, but these are all marked "free" so I shall take the cook and go after them tomorrow. I think we will have to get a ricksha to bring them home as I don't believe that we could carry that many. When I saw how long the green glass took to get here, I expected the clothes next winter sometime. I am glad they are here for summer vacation so that the mamas can work on making them over. I think I shall appoint a committee to arrange for the distribution of them.

You don't know of anyone who would like to take over the support of some twins. Although their papa is a univ. graduate, he is still not able to buy milk for them and feed his other six children and his wife. According to his sister who is one of our Bible women at Wesley Church, it costs about 100,000 a month to buy milk powder for them. Her brother is an engineer and has some sort of govt position. That is approximately 50 dollars a month, u. s. money. Well, just see what you can do. They are about 7 or 8 months old now. What you can do is to write me some instructions as to how to feed them, as I suspect they are eating more milk than they need to, that they could be eating porridge and other things if their mamma knew enough to give it to them.