

M E D I C A L   M I S S I O N S  
I N   K O R E A

THE STORY OF SEVERANCE

1884 to 1957

SEOUL, KOREA

## SEVERANCE MEDICAL CENTRE

### HOW IT BEGAN

Among the first foreigners to enter Korea seventy years ago, September 1884, was Dr. H. N. Allen, a medical missionary, who won the confidence of the Emperor by saving the life of one of the royal princes. In gratitude the Emperor built a hospital for Dr. Allen. Thus the story of medical missions in Korea began.

Nine years later Dr. O. R. Avison, another medical missionary, became the head of the hospital. Under his leadership great development took place, resulting eventually in the medical centre of today.

### WHEN WAR CAME

During the Second World War great difficulties were faced due to the domination of the Japanese who interfered much with the affairs of the institution. In addition, supplies were used up and equipment wore out without any possibility of replacement.

When the Korean War broke out there was no time for escape and many of the staff were caught in the city. At the second onslaught when the Chinese communists swept over the land there was more warning. Most of the staff and some of the equipment were removed south to Koje Island where a relief hospital was set up among the refugees congregated there.

In 1952 in the midst of the Korean war the hospital was ordered back to Seoul and the doors opened to the public in March of that year with what staff and equipment could be assembled and salvaged.

About 80% of the plant was destroyed and most of the equipment lost. There was shortage of power, water, and fuel. The roof of the main hospital block, ~~the only part left standing,~~ leaked so badly that the two upper floors of the building could not be used, and on rainy days buckets had to be placed to catch the drps on the lower floors.

## REHABILITATION

Photograph of war damage

Thanks to the various churches that help to support Severance, The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., The Presbyterian Church in the U. S., The Methodist Church, also in the United States, The Presbyterian Church in Australia, and the United Church of Canada, and also to U.N.K.R.A., the U.N. <sup>Armed Forces</sup> ~~Armed~~, and other friends, much rehabilitation has taken place.

Photograph of reconstructed building

Photograph of former out-patient dispensary

Photograph of present dispensary

#### OUT-PATIENT DISPENSARY

A visit to the dispensary impresses the visitor with the over crowded conditions that make the best work impossible. Waiting patients have to sit in cold corridors and often are examined in rooms uncomfortably cold because of the scarcity and expense of fuel.

In 1955 out of 87,641 patient visits to the dispensary, 12,045 were free. The emergency room cared for 406 victims of accidents. More free work for the poor should be done but budget limitations prevent it.

In this department the social service worker gives much assistance in guiding patients to the proper clinic, finding out their financial circumstances, and getting free treatment for those who require it.

## THE CHEST CLINIC

Tuberculosis is the greatest public health problem in Korea and has been becoming worse since war conditions increased poverty and overcrowding. There are estimated to be about 400,000 cases of this disease and only 1,250 sanatorium beds.

Prior to January, 1954, there were no out-patient clinics for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. In that year one was started by Korea Church World Service to which over twenty churches in the United States and Canada have contributed. Room for this pilot tuberculosis control project was made possible by a gift of building materials from KCAC (Korea Civil Assistance Command, under the U.S. army) together with funds to the extent of \$21,000 from UNKRA.

With Severance as a base, staff were trained, and clinics now numbering 10 started in other hospitals and cities.

In three years 4,476 new cases of active tuberculosis were discovered. Under treatment some have recovered, over 70 per cent show improvement in the x-ray picture, and only 5 per cent have got worse. Deaths have been few.

In 1955, 10 tons of food supplies were issued to needy patients and in 1956, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  tons.

The treatment and instruction given at the clinic is supplemented by a Home Visiting program in which 2,400 homes have been visited by graduates nurses.

X-ray examination and treatment with the new drugs are given free to the poor, and they are encouraged to send the other members of the family for free x-ray examination.

## IN-PATIENTS

The hospital has 155 adult beds, 25 children's cots, and 16 bassinets. Of the children's cots about half are free, some supported by church groups. Of the adult beds 35 are free. There are also many patients who make a payment on admission but not sufficient to cover the cost of their treatment.

The hospital has departments of internal medicine, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, chest surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, urology and dermatology, pediatrics, eye, chest diseases, ear, nose, and throat, dentistry, X-ray, laboratory, physiotherapy, amputee rehabilitation, and social service, the last three new in Korea and introduced by Severance.

Several of these departments are adequately staffed with well trained physicians and surgeons many of whom have had training abroad in addition to their education in Korea, but other departments are weak and still without a qualified head. Doctors are now in training for the radiology and anaesthesia departments as well as that of obstetrics and gynecology.

The medical staff numbers 38 doctors and 13 interns. There are at present no residents. There is considerable overlapping between the staffs of the hospital and medical college since many persons serve both.

In 1955 2,546 in-patients received 48,795 days of hospital care, 12,045 days of which were free. Births in the hospital numbered 227.

## PROBLEMS

Lack of sufficient water makes it difficult to keep up proper standards of cleanliness. Lack of power has been overcome to some extent by an auxiliary generator. Financial limitations hamper work in various ways. Great efforts have been made to cope with some of the difficulties and it is hoped that the water problem is now on the way to solution.

REHABILITATION FOR AMPUTEES AND POLIOMYELITIS  
VICTIMS

Thousands of civilians including many children lost limbs in the war. The government cared for veterans but there was no provision for civilians. Four years ago Korea Church World Service in cooperation with Severance began making artificial limbs for these people and giving training in their use. The I. Corps U.S. Army gave a sum of seventy-five thousand dollars to provide artificial limbs for children, which is more costly than for adults as the children outgrow their limbs and have to have new and bigger ones. Six hundred persons have been provided with artificial limbs and trained in their use. Those who have become incapacitated for their former occupations have been taught new skills whereby they can earn their living.

Poliomyelitis is becoming more common in Korea. Many crippled children were left uncared for in their homes until a program for them was undertaken at Severance in cooperation with Korea Church World Service. Physiotherapy is of great help. Braces are made for those who need them and many who were unable to walk are now doing so as a result of the help they receive. As this work becomes known the number of children brought to the clinic is increasing.

Plans for the future include a small hostel for crippled children who cannot attend the clinic and where they will have regular school classes as well as treatment.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY

The Physical Therapy department has just completed its first full year of operation. It was viewed at first by many of the staff with a distinct lack of enthusiasm but more and more patients are now being referred to it by staff doctors. Nearly five thousand patients, mostly from the out-patient department, have been treated.

Weak muscles are retrained and developed, stiff joints become supple once more, stumps are trained to carry an artificial limb and the patient taught to use it properly, which is not always quite so easy as one might think.

The staff has grown from three to five, one of whom has had some training in the United States. The one small room that at first served as both office and treatment room has been superceded by an office and four treatment rooms.

For the large number of polio patients new equipment has been designed to provide the exercise that hastens their recovery.

It is always kept in mind that those who endeavor to heal the body are mirrors of God's love.



# M E D I C A L   E D U C A T I O N

## SEVERANCE UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE

Realizing that adequate medical services for Korea could never be provided by a few foreign missionary doctors, Dr. O. R. Avison at the turn of the century began training a group of young Korean men by the apprentice method at Severance Hospital. The first class of seven graduated in 1908. From that beginning developed the present medical college which has graduated 1,418 doctors, comprising about one third of all the medical school graduates in Korea.

There are at the present time 256 students of whom 21 are women.

Twelve years of school and two years premedical work at a university are necessary for entrance to the medical college where the course is a four year one, followed in many cases by a further year of internship.

The staff consists of 12 professors, 3 associate professors, 5 assistant professors, and 17 instructors. Of this number 10 are now studying abroad.

The cost of a medical education in Korea as elsewhere has become so great that many worthy students cannot afford it. At the present rate of exchange the cost to a student per year is as follows:

Tuition	Hwan 123,100	\$ 246
Books	50,000	100
Room and board 10 months	<u>200,000</u>	<u>400</u>
Total	Hwan <u>373,100</u>	<u>\$ 746</u>

## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

In the busy life of a medical centre it is not always easy to remember at all times that as Christians His followers should be like the Great Physician. With few exceptions medical staff, teachers, nurses, students, ~~and employees~~ <sup>and employees</sup> are Christians who try to carry out in their daily tasks something of the spirit of the One who went about doing good.

Nurses, medical students, and staff begin each day with a chapel service. Attendance is voluntary but most make a habit of being there. Services are led in turn by members of staff and students and by visiting speakers.

The student choir is an excellent one and is in demand for various special occasions. The student nurses' Y.W.C.A. has a relief program for refugees. The medical students' Y.M.C.A. has become the Student Christian Association so as to include the women students.

The nurses begin each day by singing hymns in the wards for the benefit of the patients. The woman evangelist and the chaplain do much to comfort and inspire the sick and their friends and to preach the Good News of a God of love. Those who become followers of the Lord of all while patients in the hospital number not a few.

## SEVERANCE COLLEGE OF NURSING

The training of nurses in Korea was begun by Miss Esther Shields fifty years ago. Since that time 508 nurses have gone out from Severance School of Nursing to give service to the sick and suffering of this land. One hundred and forty-six student nurses, 16 of them under the ROK army, are now in training. Eighteen were graduated in 1956.

The cost to the student is one hundred dollars for the three years course. This covers expense for books and uniforms, the hospital providing living expenses in return for the services of the student nurses on the wards.

That nursing has finally succeeded in winning recognition as a profession is due to the good work and persistent efforts over many years of the nurses themselves.

The standards of the School have been raised from time to time, present requirements for admission being twelve full years of school. For five years efforts have been made to raise the three years course to a four years one, bringing the School to a College level. Permission was received from the Minister of Education in March, 1957, to become a College of Nursing, and a new class of 47 students were admitted to the first year of the new four year course. This year 18 graduates of the three year course and for two more years the present students in training, and also the graduates of the last five years, will have the opportunity to take the extra year at Yonsei University. This in addition to six weeks further advanced hospital training will enable them to earn a college degree.

The extra year at the university will of course add considerably to the cost of the training of a nurse, the three hospital years are expected to remain about the same as at present.

The present building has long since been outgrown. Plans call for a new one on the new campus near the new hospitals. It is hoped that additional funds besides those promised by the Women's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church and the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada may be forthcoming in order to make the new College of Nursing a reality.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Severance Union Medical College has united with the Chosun Christian University. The combined institution is now to be known in Korean as Yonsei University, a name which incorporates the names of both the former institutions. This union brings the medical college into line with modern educational systems and should be of benefit to all concerned.

The Eighth U. S. Army donated to Severance \$400,000 worth of building materials for a Memorial Hospital for chest surgery together with \$70,000 worth of equipment for it. Any surplus materials may be used in the construction of the new General Hospital beside the Chest Hospital at the new site on the university campus. This generous gift brings the total contribution of the army to Severance to more than half a million dollars. In addition to funds realized from the sale of part of the present property and local contributions, The Cooperating Board for Christian Education is providing money for the cost of labor and locally unavailable construction materials. The Chest Hospital is more than half completed and the foundation of the General Hospital has been laid.

The U. N. Armed Forces continually show their interest by gifts and payments for patients whom they bring to the hospital.

The American-Korean Foundation has contributed generously to the Rehabilitation of Amputees and Polio Projects.

Funds amounting to \$450,000 for a Medical Sciences building for the Medical College have been promised by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

When the Medical Sciences building and the new School and College of Nursing are erected, Severance will at last have an adequate plant in which to carry on medical work and train doctors, nurses, and technicians.

Unfortunately for the institution, work has had to be interrupted on the building program until such time as a more realistic value for the dollar can be obtained.

## A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

### NEEDS

Some of the needs of Severance are:

1. Endowment for the college.
2. Scholarships for needy students.
3. Equipment for the new General Hospital. All equipment cannot be removed from the old hospital because the dispensary will have to be carried on until patients learn to go to the new site which is considerably further away. A good deal of the equipment in the old building is well worn and out of date. The new hospital being larger will require more in the way of furnishings and equipment.
4. School of Nursing and residence for student nurses. Quarters for graduate nurses.
5. Staff residences.

### ESTIMATED COSTS

1. Endowment. Gifts of any amount will be received with gratitude.
2. Scholarships. Donations of any size will be much appreciated.
3. Equipment. Individuals or groups might furnish and equip a private room, ward, operating room, delivery room, nursery, or some such unit. This can be done ~~in many ways~~ by a relative or friend, in which case a plaque to that effect will be erected.
4. School of Nursing and Residence for Nurses. The estimated cost is \$300,000. In addition to the generous sums promised by the women of the Methodist and United Churches, it is hoped that the women of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. will also be able to carry out their desire to share in this.
5. Staff residences. Residences for both Korean and western staff are needed. At least one for the administrator and one for a surgeon, an obstetrician, and a medical man should be ready when the hospital is opened. This is important as both communications and transportation are unsatisfactory, the new site is outside the city, and competent people must be on hand to deal with emergencies and serious cases at any time.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO SEVERANCE

Many friends have come to the aid of the institution, especially since the destruction of the Korean War. These friends are so numerous that it is impossible to mention them all but the donors of larger amounts are noted with great gratitude. If any name that should be included is inadvertantly omitted, apology is hereby made. Amounts paid in Korea are in Korean currency but for the convenience of overseas friends are here given in dollars. Since the rate of exchange has not been constant during the past few years, there may be some apparent discrepancy in the figures. If so, it is hoped the reason for this will be understood and no one feel unhappy over it.

### THE COOPERATING BOARD IN NEW YORK

Reconstruction present dispensary	\$ 18,000
Maintenance past two years	66,190
Rehabilitation telephone switchboard	2,200
High pressure boiler	4,200
Construction reservoir	3,000
Toward cost of labor Memorial Chest Hospital	92,625

### UNITED NATIONS KOREA RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY

Fifth story and roof, main hospital	12,000
Rebuilding Avison Hall	10,000
Rebuilding old dispensary for chest clinic	21,000

### KOREA CIVIL ASSISTANCE COMMAND

Materials for rebuilding chest clinic

### UNITED STATES EIGHTH ARMY

Building materials for Memorial Chest Hospital	400,000
Equipment for Memorial Chest Hospital	70,000
Salvage, miscellaneous drugs, etc., valued at	200,000

### AMERICAN-KOREAN FOUNDATION

REHABILITATION	10,000
Scholarships	6,000
Amputee hostel	5,000
Rehabilitation Nurses' Residence	3,000

### KOREA CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Relief supplies on many occasions

FIFTH U.S. AIR FORCE

Materials for rebuilding valued at \$50,000

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U.S.A.

Special gift in addition to contributions  
through Cooperating Board 7,000

METHODIST CHURCH

Special gift in addition to contributions  
through Cooperating Board 8,450

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Special gift in addition to contributions  
through Cooperating Board 4,000

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Donation 550

AMERICAN WOMEN'S HOSPITALS 5,200

OTHERS 906

COST OF MAINTENANCE

SUMMARY OF

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

	MEDICAL COLLEGE	HOSPITAL	SCHOOL OF NURSING	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Income from students and patients	\$21,103.30	\$199,832.12	\$16,668.13	\$237,603.55
Grants from mission Boards, etc.	19,596.00	16,073.15	5,240.08	40,909.23
Accounts payable	2,469.94	10,016.19		12,486.13
	<u>\$43,169.24</u>	<u>\$225,921.46</u>	<u>\$21,908.21</u>	<u>\$290,998.91</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Salaries, supplies, maintenance	\$35,664.73	\$218,850.07	\$ 21,782.70	\$276,297.50
Accounts receivable	7,491.70	5,427.92		12,919.62
Cash on hand	12.81	1,643.47	125.51	1,781.79
	<u>\$43,169.24</u>	<u>\$225,921.46</u>	<u>\$ 21,908.21</u>	<u>\$290,998.91</u>



## AID TO SEVERANCE

M Many friends have come to the aid of the institution especially since the destruction of the Korean war. Among these friends are;

	1955	1956	
THE COOPERATING BOARD IN THE U. S. A.			
For reconstruction present dispensary	\$ 18,000		
For maintenance yearly	HW 14,595,000	HW 6,000,000	\$12,000
Special gifts	29,190	\$ 9,200	
(For the cost of rehabilitation of telephone switchboard \$ 2,200)			
(For the cost of high pressure boiler \$ 4,200)			
(Construction of reservoir on old Severance site \$ 3,000)			
Cost of labor for Memorial Chest Hospital		\$ 92,625	
UNKRA			
For roof main hospital	\$ 12,000		
Repairs to Avison Hall & former dispensary	\$ 10,000		
Eighth ARMY Materials for Memorial Chest Hospital		\$ 400,000	
AMERICAN-KOREAN FOUNDATION			
For rehabilitation	\$ 10,000		
For Amputee Hostel	\$ 5,000		
KOREA CHURCH WORLD SERVICE	HW175,000	350	
Fifth AIR FORCES Materials for rehabilitation	\$ 50,000		\$
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION IN U. S. A.	HW256,830	513,66	HW2,230,000 4,460
METHODIST MISSION	HW 1,133,743		HW2,100,000 4,200
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA	2,267,20		HW1,000,000 2,000
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION IN AUSTRALIA			HW 275,000 550
AM. WOMENS' HOSPITALS	HW 1,463,500	2,927	HW1,100,000 2,200
OTHERS	HW 210,500	421	HW 242,500 485