

Excerpts from Paul Moritz's Letters

"...., The students have a magnificent spirit. Despite the constant threat of air raids and the difficulties and inadequacies of their life, they go along in a calm, determined, and often enthusiastic manner which puts to shame some of our American student's attitudes."

"Winter clothing is badly needed. Buildings are usually in the open, Chinese style and without heat. In some cases they are built on stilts in the middle of a lake (Kwangsi University)."

"The old temples of China have been taken over in some of the centers and are being given new life. Sometimes one finds devout Chinese worshipping grinning Buddhas, while in the same room, at the same time, classes are being held, and modern scientific terms mingle with the heavy odor of incense."

"Dormitories are very crowded and clean, although bats flit through the open woodwork carving (for temples also serve as dormitories in some schools)."

"Athletic equipment is woefully inadequate. One university of nearly 1000 students has one basket ball and no other equipment. Tennis balls are \$20.00 a piece, other things of comparable price. Less important than other needs, these things are still very important, for with so little leisure time Chinese students must use their time well."

"The health of students is very poor. At Fukien University 8 out of ten students had malaria, and at other schools the percentage was almost as great. Dysentary is very common, as are various types of fever. Surgical cases may mean death, although now doctors can be found in most communities."

"China! exotic land of enchantment! Of pagodas, philosophers, mountains,--and basketball. Any traveller in war-torn China cannot fail to be impressed with the widespread popularity of the game. The basketball goal, in fact, has become an almost essential feature of the Chinese landscape--even more common than pagodas. Schools, colleges, hospitals, army camps, play grounds, everywhere, the square backboard rears against the sky--for all courts are out of doors.....

"Each time when in some small village, stumbling through narrow crooked streets, we happen upon a spirited game, as I hear the familiar shouts and calls delivered in a strange tongue, I realize keenly again how widely the game has spread in the short span of a generation since Dr. Naismith invented it. Each time, I thrill with the thought that this quite, unassuming gentleman has given the world a game which from all indications will continue to increase in popularity and influence...

"So, with each new village and its basketball game or games, in thought I bow to Dr. Naismith. It's 'only a game'. But it bids fair to be recognized as one of the great contributions of the modern age!"

"Fellowship groups are springing up spontaneously in which Christian students meet in worship and meditation. There is nothing unrealistic in such groups. When at any moment the air raid alarm may sound, one is constrained to say something which will not sound foolish upon reflection in a dugout." (Continued on back)