

*Some gifted
Chinese women.*

Whatever may be one's philosophical presuppositions as to the relative excellence of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Christianity, one can scarcely lay down Miss Margaret E. Burton's little volume, "Notable Women of Modern China" (Revell), with any heart left to quarrel with the missions that have produced these particular specimens of modern women. The book consists of sketches of the lives and characters of six Chinese women, all of them Christians. Three of the women are physicians, one is the widow of a mandarin of high rank, one was a teacher, and one a former Taoist nun. The sketches vary somewhat in interest, but no one of them is lacking in value as a document to those who desire to weigh dispassionately the achievement of Christian missions in China. Readers who are at all familiar with the Chinese race will not be wholly surprised by the remarkable charm and attractiveness of nature attributed to all the women depicted, but few will be prepared to discover in a Chinese woman capacity and ability of such extraordinary degree as seem to be possessed by two or more of the subjects of the volume, notably by Miss Mary Stone, the Kiukiang physician. The Chinese are frequently called a passive race, capable of moving only in masses, and wholly deficient in initiative. Either the characterization fails to take account of the influence of environment, and of the change in race habits with the change in environment, or else the Christian religion begets traits contradictory of the habits of the race to which the individual belongs. Only in one of these two ways can we account for the initiative and individuality which characterize the subjects of Miss Burton's sketches. The men who appear incidentally in the book share these traits with the women. The most remarkable person of the six studied is Dr. Mary Stone. The daughter of a Chinese pastor, herself thoroughly prepared by missionary teachers for an American college education, and graduated with honor from the medical school of the University of Michigan, Dr. Stone has demonstrated, according to the testimony of many capable witnesses, extraordinary gifts as a physician, surgeon, administrator, and teacher. Beginning with her friend Dr. Ida Kahn, who later instituted a new work in another city, Dr. Stone has for years conducted a hospital at Kiukiang, securing the funds, designing the buildings, training all the assistants, organizing the staff, and achieving remarkable success as physician and surgeon. But her ability as organizer, her achievement as a teacher of nurses, her sway over the extensive work that she has de-

veloped, are no more impressive than are her personal character and her social attractiveness. As the central figure in the book, Miss Stone is surrounded by almost equally pleasing personalities, one of the most winsome being her younger sister,—victim a few years ago to tuberculosis, but leaving behind a record of unusual ability and achievement and of great sweetness of nature. Miss Burton's book should have a wide reading, and one may venture to hope that it will dispel at least a small part of the fog of misconception which clouds American thought in regard to the Chinese.