

Via rickshaw to an eight o'clock class!  
Marjorie Clampitt describes classroom  
life and extracurricular activities in

# Coeducational China

AT the University of Nanking in China, the women students sit in the front row in classes, while the men sit alphabetically behind them. This is how Winnie Chu, home economics special student of Nanking, China, listened to lectures at the university. The ratio of ten men to one woman at Nanking is even more extreme than that of pre-war Iowa State. This situation is rather disconcerting to the Chinese women, especially when a lone young woman timidly peeks into a classroom and the men immediately start chanting "bring her in" in Chinese. The women know that quite often behind their backs the men are drawing caricatures of them—a favorite "doodling" art. Regardless of this seeming frivolity in the classroom, the Chinese students on the whole are more serious in their work than are Iowa State students, says Miss Chu.

"Book learning" is the main activity of a student at the University of Nanking. There are no home economics courses so the women take the same studies as the men, actively competing with them. But the women do above-average work, according to Miss Chu. The fine arts, science courses of chemistry, physics, mathematics, and biology, sociology and agricultural economics are among the courses available. Students in the first two years have little time for relaxation because basic courses must be mastered. Laboratory classes in physics, chemistry and biology; Chinese and European history, and Chinese and English grammar are included in their curriculum. Classes are conducted similarly to those in the United States. Many of the instructors are American, and English texts are used. At Nanking lectures notes must be taken in English because it is a mission rather than a government school.



Extra-curricular clubs similar to Iowa State departmental clubs are extremely active and compete in giving interesting intellectual programs. The botany club, for instance, displays a poster advertising its next meeting with a certain well-informed lecturer. Drawings and cartoons are used to attract attention. The agronomy club attempts to surpass the botany club in attendance at its meeting, so it issues a poster rivaling that of the botany group in attractiveness. The meetings are intellectual in nature, but refreshments always add the social touch. "Singing" clubs, orchestra and the debating organization are open for the students interested in those fields. Strong competition in the school between men and women stu-

dents and between clubs, as well as competition between schools encourages a lively school spirit. The students were proud of one record made in 1936. That was the winning of two championships in a speech contest with eight other universities—in English debating and Chinese public speaking.

YMCA is an active influence on the University of Nanking campus. Since the number of women is small, the YWCA works through its brother organization with a particular section of its own. The students have much fun, says Miss Chu, organizing and teaching night school classes under YMCA sponsorship at the University for people near the campus and for less fortunate children. Miss Chu taught the music class for night school during part of her college life. Another section of YMCA sets up a Sunday School for nearby children. As in the United States, delegates from the universities in east China meet for summer conferences sponsored by the YMCA and the Christian Student Movement.



Socially, the University of Nanking differs somewhat from Iowa State. Miss Chu reminisced about boating on the lake in Nanking on moonlight nights—wispis of song and music floating across the water. Exciting boat races were often held with the men and women competing in the contest on the lake. Picnicking is a favorite pastime at Nanking. YMCA and church groups sponsor several parties each year. At these students play games and eat. Private parties with dancing are often held in homes nearby. In sports, the students play soccer, basketball, tennis and volleyball. While the Chinese students put primary emphasis on studies, they enjoy many of the same activities as Iowa State students.

Riding to school in a rickshaw is common for the many students who live off campus. Only 30 women can be housed in the one dormitory on the campus. A residence director and a cook are employed and the students do the other work. Each week two students are asked to plan the meals and purchase the food. In this way their favorite dishes can be served. A familiar practice at Iowa State is carried out at the University of Nanking with the locking of the doors at 10:30 p.m.

Life at the University of Nanking does not differ radically from life of the average Iowa State student. As Miss Chu experienced it there is more emphasis upon competition and serious studying and less social life than at Iowa State.