



Inventory

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Personal papers of Dr Ruth M A Tait (1898-1988), a Baptist medical missionary in the Jenkins-Robertson Memorial Hospital in Sian-Fu, Shansi, North China, from 1925-1950, aside from a spell in India during 1927-1928. The papers consist mainly of Dr Tait's diaries covering her last years at school in Golspie and her medical studies in Edinburgh, then a period ending in 1932 when she is working in China. Many of the diary entries were written in time of war, though experienced from very different perspectives. In Golspie, the First World War touches her life only indirectly. The focus is on family, school, church, reading and a life of healthy activity – long walks, cycling trips of a day or more and a real pleasure in the natural world. In Shansi in 1926, however, Dr Tait is living and working in a war zone, as Chiang Kai-chek's Northern Expedition of 1926-1928 attempts to unify China. Aside from Dr Tait's matter-of-fact recording of the war as it impacts upon the hospital, there are her vivid impressions of travel through China as it was in the eventful 1920s.

Bought, 1988.

- 1 Diary, 4 February 1916-25 March 1918, with a few subsequent entries dated September-October 1920. Golspie and Edinburgh. Some concert programmes, a school time-table, war-effort flags and other items are loosely inserted.
- 2 Diary, 7 February 1925-22 June [1927]. China. A Chinese printed item and a cutting from a greetings card of more recent date are loosely inserted.
- 3 Diary, 24 April – 29 October 1932. China. A programme of 'A Retreat to be held in Peitaiho, August 8th to 11th 1932' is loosely inserted.
- 4 Loose papers, 1922-1950, n.d. Includes notes from services attended in Edinburgh, 1922; one letter to her parents (1939); 4 letters to mission supporters (1947-1950); transcribed poems; presentation letters of thanks, evidently given after Dr Tait had spent some months working in an Indian hospital; *Report of the Jenkins-Robertson Memorial Hospital ... 1925.*