

HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Turning Point In Social Structure In Colony

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

"This school means more than the realisation of a dream to us women; it marks a turning point in the life of women and the social structure in Hongkong. It is like a beacon that lights the road to progress. It is a sure sign of equality—the equality of opportunity for education for girls," said Mrs Li Shu-pui at the Ho Tung Technical School for Girls yesterday.

Mr L. G. Morgan, Deputy Director of Education, presided at the function, the school's Annual Speech Day.

Mrs K. E. Cheung, Headmistress, said in part:

"Vocational education not only prepares a person to live a full and efficient life and to make the most of her natural abilities, but also develops skills for specific forms of employment. Secondary technical education, likewise, makes provision for the wide differences among individuals and prepares students for an occupation as well as for further studies. It differs from grammar school education in spirit and method of approach rather than in curriculum but, of course, in technical education there is a keener sense of practicalities and

"Therefore, the curriculum of a technical school must be general as well as specific. The students should emerge with the necessary knowledge and skill which will make them readily trainable in a variety of occupations so that they may become round pegs in round holes.

"For this reason, if technical secondary education is to be successful, a technical school must not be considered as designed to accommodate rejects of grammar schools or for problem cases. Girls selected for technical schools should not be less able than those selected for grammar schools, but should be girls who have special aptitudes for the types of courses provided in technical secondary schools. Although technical education

Education throughout the world for the purpose of technical education is to answer the challenge of changing social conditions. As Hongkong continues to make social, industrial, cultural and educational progress, it must also keep abreast of the times in providing a good and an up-to-date technical education for girls—for women are playing a more and more important part in the affairs of the world to-day.

"But we cannot be successful in achieving all our aims without the support of the employers of Hongkong. We need that support to guide our courses to meet the needs of the community in which we live and work—or we may be moving in the wrong direction; and we need that support to provide progressive jobs for our girls when they leave us. No school can succeed without the goodwill of its community; a technical school needs more than goodwill — it needs active support."

Good Work

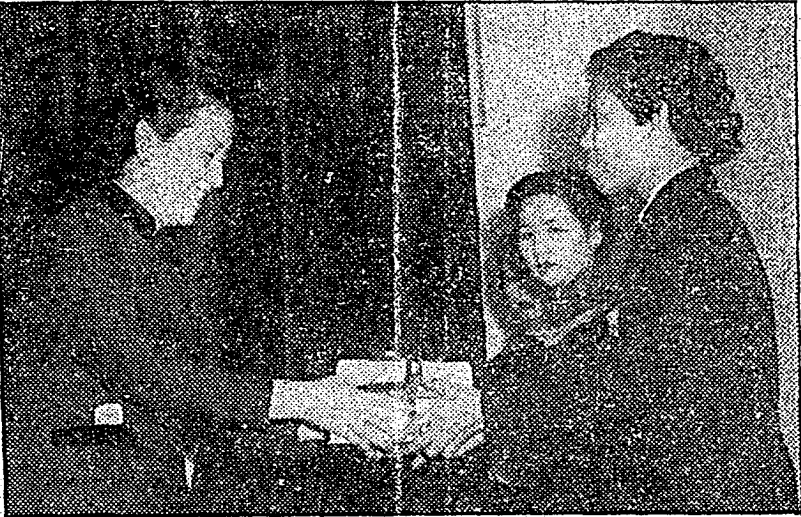
Mrs Li Shu-pui said in part: "I agree with Mrs. Cheung that there should be numerous openings for employment and some industries suitable for Ho Tung girls and I am confident many more will be opened to them when the general public realises the good work you are doing in this school. Although we are aware that certain amount of prejudice still exists in Hongkong, it is up to us to gradually break down the male resistance by training the kind of persons they need, be it a good wife, a good secretary, a good book-keeper or a good nurse. I have yet to see an intelligent and good business man deliberately pass up a good bargain.

"Although the school offers only three streams of studies at present, it is providing the girls with an all-round education sufficiently adequate and useful for the numerous business employments opened to them or any further specialised training such as teachers' training, nursing or laboratory technicians as well as for marriage, which, I think, should also be considered as an important and attractive career for girls. The success of this school therefore cannot and must not be measured by the success of employment alone, like the Technical school for boys. The subjects taught in the school can lead them to a successful business career and at the same time prove most useful at home.

"Hongkong is still very far behind in many fields of progress. Some of our laws and business practices are definitely antiquated, but in the field of education we are certainly

catching up very fast and on the right path. This school is a shining example of the progressive advancement we are making in education.

"Although this school is only three years old, her future development and success is unlimited. It will grow and expand with the community and its needs, but it will need all the support and encouragement from the community — not in terms of any financial assistance but practical and active ways and means of support such as opening their business doors to girls and do away with unfair prejudices."



Miss Yeung Wai-ye receiving a prize from Mrs S. P. Li at the Ho Tung Technical Girls' School prize giving yesterday. The Headmistress, Mrs W. M. Cheung, is in the centre. — (Staff Photographer).

an awareness of applying science to industry and life.

"It is sometimes thought that only skills are taught in technical education, but this is not true because knowledge must be an inevitable accompaniment to skill. It is the "why" that explains the "how." Some knowledge of science, a mathematical solution, a working drawing, all these may be essential factors in enabling skill to do its work. The skills of communication, such as speaking, reading and writing, are fundamental to success in most vocational fields. In fact, efficiency in communication often decides the occupational level of the worker.

is to train girls to work, it must not be mere training, but a combination of practice, knowledge and social attitudes. Work must be taught, not as hard labour or drudgery, but as directed activity with a purpose joyfully pursued, and stimulated to a higher achievement. For example, girls should be taught art and not only how to appreciate it, but to apply it and so enrich their lives with beauty. They should also learn to live with and to co-operate well with others and develop a sense of responsibility.

"In this school we try to bear in mind all the principles I have just mentioned. We are providing a five-year Course in the medium of English leading to the H.K. School Certificate Examination, giving our main attention to creative activities rather than to traditional subject matter.

Creative Activity

"Apart from training for employment, technical education is also of great benefit to girls who are not going to take up a career, but who will stay at home. In this school they can find opportunity for creative activity that they can use and develop for their own benefit and pleasure. A housewife's work combines many jobs—that of house-keeper, cook, dress-maker nurse and handyman—all of which are taught in this school.

"This school is a pioneer project and has not yet emerged from the experimental stage. Therefore its organisation is flexible and capable of great adaptation to local conditions, but this applies to Technical