

Chapter Nine

Flourishing growth

Dr Chung was always thinking about ways to extend Lingnan's fine traditions to other places, and seeking to attract talented young people to Guangzhou for direct entrance to the studies on the main campus. Following the principle of mutual benefit, it seemed fitting to establish branch campuses so that the educationalists trained at the main campus would thereby have job prospects. He hoped that once the branch schools had prospered and begun to earn surpluses, they would be able to compensate the *alma mater*, thus quickly expanding the university's scale.

Dr Chung also considered the critical view that Lingnan provided education for the social elite to be unfounded. This was because private schools were obliged to charge tuition, and were necessarily dependent on students from families with means. If students were not responsible for tuition fees, then the school's income would be in arrears and Lingnan would thus be unable to survive. To reduce tuition fees and expand enrolments extravagantly would inevitably have negative effects

on the quality of the teaching staff and facilities. The only solution was full enrolments in the middle school and primary school, along with immediate extension to other locations. Although Lingnan would rather have been able to increase its number of tuition-free enrolments in consideration of students who had excellent records but came from poor families, Lingnan's principles of operation could not easily be sacrificed.

As described in an earlier chapter, the Overseas Chinese School was one of the types of schools founded by Lingnan.

The affiliated middle school was the original predecessor of the university, and was also called a preparatory program, which was formally established as a middle school with a five-year program. Not long afterward, the school changed to the four-year system, and was finally established as a junior-middle and senior-middle six-year program. Those who served the longest at the school were Principal Graybill and the Dean of Students, Sun Hung. Mr Graybill's scholarship and experience were both extensive. His *Mastery of English* achieved rapid results and was the most popular textbook at the time. In 1926, Mr Graybill applied for permission to retire and return to the United States. He was succeeded in his important post by alumnus Ho Yam-tong.

After Sun Hung resigned, he was succeeded by Tsang Chiu-sam and

then by Lai Shau-bun. In addition, Chan Man-chu and Yeung Chung-kwong worked as head teachers of the affiliated middle school. The other teachers included Kwok Man-bun, Lei Man-kee, Chan Yee-king, Chu Tse-ban, Auyeung Chun, and Hui Po-chiu. Enrolment at the middle school rose to over four hundred students. Thus before the anti-Japanese war, plans had been drawn up to build a new campus for the middle school on a tract of two hundred *mu* in the eastern district of the campus.

The affiliated primary school was founded in 1908 by the young alumna Szeto Wai and formally inaugurated in 1911. Over the succeeding years, six buildings in all were built on the middle and the left side of the site, including the Assembly Hall and classrooms. In later periods, Yeung Kwok-chuen and Lei Tung-ching were the head teachers, succeeded later by Wu Siu-to, former Dean of Students, and enrolment exceeded four hundred students.

The affiliated school in the West Gate district of Guangzhou was headed for many years by Ho Hung-ping, and over three hundred students were enrolled.

The Hong Kong branch school was founded in February 1922, and was headed by Szeto Wai, who obtained the assistance of former students Chan Chau-on, Chan Fu-cheung, Lau Kwei-cheuk, and the wealthy

businessmen Lam Woo, Lei Che-chung, and Mok Kon-sang, along with Dr Ng Tin-po, who sponsored the school. The teachers included Yeung Yuk-shu, Cheuk Yau-hang, and Wong Yu-hang. The school moved three times. Its first location was Brockwood Terrace, and from there it moved to Fung Fai Terrace. Its final location was on Stubbs Road. The site of about 8,000 square feet in size was purchased in 1933. There were sixty-six students, and their number increased to two hundred and ninety-seven. Alumni Chan Yu-yui and Chien Nai-hsin later served as principals of the school.

The Yangzheng School in Singapore was set up by the Cantonese Clan Association with the support of Dr Chung, who sent alumnus Lam Iu-cheung to serve as principal. Organized in 1918, it was established in 1922, and is still operating today. In 1933, alumnus Ko Koon-tin was sent to Singapore to set up a Lingnan branch school with a student enrolment of over two hundred. Ko Wai-tit, Lung Hok-fan, Lei Muk-lung and other alumni helped in this venture.

The Shanghai branch school was located in the Gaochang Temple in Shanghai's Jiangwan district. In 1928, it sought to acquire its own property through Principal Szeto Wai, with sponsors including Soong Ch'ing-ling, Kwong Fu-cheuk, Chan Bing-him, Law Kun-sam, Wu Yiu-ting, and Tang Chung-leung, along with alumni Ma Man-gap, Kwok Lam-shong, Kwok Tai-wut, and Wu Luen-tak. Alumni Lei Yam-lung,

Wan Yuen-yan, and Hung Ko-wong served as teachers. During the war, the principal was Lei Yam-lung and there were one hundred and fifty students.

The Macao branch school was founded in 1937. Alumni Szeto Wai, Law Chok-cheung, Lei Tung-ching, and Lai Cho-kam served as principals. It was first set up in Luke Garden, and then a villa on Wangyang East mountain was purchased. It was sponsored by influential local people including Lau Shui-tong, Cheung Tse-kwong, and Ho Yin. Alumni including Lei Hung-fan and Chow Man-kong served as teachers, and the students numbered about three hundred.

The branch school in Haikou on Hainan Island was founded in 1929 by Wan Iu-bun, with the sponsorship of a local influential person, Wong Keung. Wan was succeeded by alumnus Leung Tai-pang and by Yeung Kwok-chuen. There were over one hundred students.

The branch school in Saigon was founded by Kwok Wai-tong and sponsored by alumni Chau But, Lam Meng-kit, and Lau Cho. There were over two hundred students. Alumni who assisted in this venture included Lei Kwan-lam and Szeto Kwong.

In addition, alumnus Ma Ting-wai in Rangoon and alumnus Auyeung Sai-chun in the Philippines also made plans to found branch schools.

According to postwar records on the source of Lingnan's new students, most of the more than 1,300 undergraduates had transferred from affiliated schools after passing a qualifying examination. On the basis of the numbers of students they recommended, the schools may be listed as follows: Lingnan's affiliated middle school, Pui Ching, Pui Ying, Pui To, Wah Ying, True Light, Hip Wo, Che Yung, Ling Ying, the First Municipal Middle School, Wah Yan, Kwong Nga, Lingnan's branch school in Saigon, Sacred Heart, the affiliated Overseas Chinese School, and Saint Paul's. In this record we can see how Lingnan flourished in accordance with Dr Chung's ambitions.