

St. Joan's English Night School

By MARCUS MAK

Shortly after the Second World War, the members of the former St. Joan of Arc Catholic Association, seeing that many people were deprived of their education during the war, began planning to start a night school, which, with the help of His Lordship Bishop Henry Valtorta and Rev. Mother Angelica de Piazza, the present headmistress of Sacred Heart School, came into existence at last on the 21st February, 1949 and was named St. Joan's English Night School.



The school is run on the self-subsistence principle and is therefore, a non-profit organization. The ultimate aim of the school is to help those adults, daily workers and those pupils who have no opportunity of studying in day schools to combat the English linguistic difficulty when they land on the world.

school is to help the daily workers, many day-school students, who want to be enrolled, have been turned down.

The teachers, numbering 21, are zealous educationalists. Most of them are teaching during the day. Every evening, they donate two hours to come to teach in the school. Under the able



Classes, ranging from Class 8 to Class 3, are conducted in Nam Wah School. Unlike other night schools, which are conducted in unaccommodative streets and flats, St. Joan's English Night School possesses a good position, being far from the city and its noisy and dusty streets. On its right are the Botanical Gardens and on the left the Catholic Cathedral. The classrooms are well-ventilated and lit with florescent lights. Besides, they are well-equipped. No doubt, it is an ideal place for any kind of school, day or night. In 1949, when the school was first founded, there were only six classes, but now, owing to the increase of pupils, there are ten classes. After one and half years of existence, the number of the pupils has jumped up from 100 to over 350. As the aim of the

guidance of the headmistress, Miss Nellie Seu, the school has progressed in its methods of education and is still progressing.

The syllabus, consisting of Catechism, composition, translation and General English, is framed to give the pupils a comprehensive knowledge of English. Literature and essay-writing, however, are most welcomed by the higher-class pupils.

Every evening, the pupils receive both oral and written lessons. They are made to speak English during conversation. Above all, they have debates and speech competitions.

Another notable thing is the school library run by the Class 3 pupils. At the moment, it consists of about 150 volumes, most of which are fiction, and there are many regular readers.