

ARCHIVAL COPY

January 31, 1914.

Dear Doctor Judson:-

On Wednesday of this past week, the New York members of the Rockefeller Foundation held a conference, at which were present in addition Mr. Mott, Mr. Speer, Dr. Tenney, Mr. Abraham Flexner and young Dr. Peabody, Professor Peabody's son. Dr. Peabody, as you know, is a Harvard man, who subsequently spent several years at Johns Hopkins Hospital and was in the Rockefeller Institute for a year or two. He is now related, I think, to the Brigham Hospital in Boston, and is awaiting the right opportunity to become a professor of medicine, for which everyone who knows him says he is preeminently and exceptionally fitted.

At this meeting, Mr. Gates presented his plan, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. We asked the guests to express their opinions, both as to the plan and as to its desirability in relation to other present needs in China. All agreed that the plan in itself was admirable, comprehensive and practical. Dr. Tenney, while favoring it, thought grants to higher educational institutions should be made at the same time, and gave it as his opinion that if he had to choose between Mr. Gates' plan and the assisting of higher educational institutions, he should regard the latter as the more crying need of China today. Mr. Mott spoke unqualifiedly for Mr. Gates' plan, adding some minor details which would doubtless round it out. He thought it the best possible thing for China at the moment. Mr. Speer was favorably

impressed with it, but hopes grants to educational institutions of a secondary character might be made a part of the plan. As a plan for the development of medical education and a body of native doctors, Dr. Flexner strongly favored the plan, as did his brother.

It seemed to be the unanimous opinion that the work should be undertaken in at least two centers, one Peking, because of its governmental prominence, the other one of three centers mentioned, to be selected after a study of the field, any one of which is from a medical point of view, that is because of the number of hospitals, schools of medicine and medical missionaries in the vicinity, a more promising field than Peking.

The result of the conference was that it was informally agreed by the members of the Foundation that a deputation should be sent to China to study the field intensively, that the data accessible in this country should be obtained, and that upon these two reports future plans should be laid. It seemed clear that these studies ^{would} be well worth while in themselves, even if the Foundation did not proceed with the plan when they had been completed. We agreed that at this juncture and with medical education bulking so large on the horizon, Dr. Tenney would not be the man to represent the Foundation, and that the deputation should consist of an able medical man and an educator of the highest standing, with great breadth of mind and of vision. Dr. Peabody we all agreed would fill the bill for the former admirably, and if the result of the study should be to go ahead with the plan, he might be just the man to organize the work and himself be at the head of one of the medical schools in China. The matter is being laid before him.

For the other position, which is so important a one, we were a unit in feeling that you are the ideal man, and the purpose of this letter is to inquire whether it would not be possible for you to be granted a year of absence from the University, to take Mrs. Judson with you, and, in company with Dr. Peabody, if he considers the matter favorably, make the study proposed. It would not be our thought that you would necessarily visit all of the hospitals and medical schools or missionaries yourself as Dr. Peabody would, but that you should go to the several possible centers and, coming in contact with all of the institutions and men in the vicinity, give the Foundation the benefit of your own observation ^{as well as} ~~and~~ the more detailed findings of Dr. Peabody as to the right places in which to locate the work and the method of procedure. The opinion was expressed by some that it would be better to have this investigation made in the name of the University of Chicago, which would be most appropriate in view of Dr. Burton's tour several years ago. We some of us feared that if it were made in the name of the Foundations, great hopes for the future might be aroused in the minds of both native and foreign people in China, which would be embarrassing should the Foundation decide not to go ahead with the plan. But this is a detail. We all thought the trip would probably take something like six months, but that it would be wise to go at such a season that more time could be given if necessary. Certainly, nine months or a year would be more than adequate. It would appear that the study could not be entered upon now until the late summer or early fall. It would be our hope that the trip would be a rest and change to you and, at the same time, be of the utmost value to the Foundation.

4.
Will you not give the subject very serious consideration
and let me know how it strikes you, quite at your convenience?

Very cordially,

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.