

Incorp. and

New York, March 15, 1915

My dear Sir:

For some time the Rockefeller Foundation has been considering the need of scientific medicine in China and how best the Foundation might assist in meeting the need. A tentative general plan of procedure was adopted nearly a year ago, after conference with many eminent authorities on the subject. A competent Commission has since then visited China and studied with great care present medical conditions in that country. The Commission has now made a comprehensive report and has offered a series of recommendations. These recommendations have been tentatively adopted by the Foundation, subject to such changes as experience and further inquiry may suggest.

Happily, the Foundation is not first in the field. Many and various missionary societies of America, Great Britain and the Continent have preceded it. Hundreds of physicians are now practicing in China under the auspices of these societies. Their patients number tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, annually. As rapidly as possible hospitals have been and are being established. In some cases these are fairly well equipped, but all of them are still very needy. Half a score or more of medical colleges have been started, partially manned and equipped, and these colleges are being availed of by hundreds of Chinese students, with such preparation, more or less adequate, as circumstances have admitted. The Missionary Boards have been most zealous in medical missions and have done everything possible with the limited resources at their disposal, toward making this work effective. With these societies and with the work undertaken by them, the Foundation from the first has contemplated the most cordial and sympathetic cooperation. We desire to supplement the work of the Missionary Boards where it is incomplete, to multiply it where it is inadequate, and always to engraft our additions in an entirely vital way. We cannot expect, even did we desire it, that the societies would materially change their principles or methods or the religious qualifications of their appointees, except as the societies may be self-moved to do so by experience and observation.

But the medical work of the Missionary Societies and Boards is confined to limited areas and is seriously restricted by lack of funds. In carrying out its comprehensive plans, the Foundation may find it desirable:

1. To assist Missionary Societies to strengthen their medical schools and hospitals by providing equipment and other facilities and by making annual grants, as may be found expedient, for the support of physicians and nurses selected by the respective Missionary Boards, subject only to the Foundation's approval of the professional qualifications of the appointees.
2. With the consent of the Missionary Boards, to reorganize and expand existing medical schools, with their hospitals, and to support these, wholly or in part, from its own funds.
3. To aid other medical schools that are not strictly missionary.
4. To establish, equip and support new medical schools and hospitals. In choosing its agents, physicians and nurses for independent schools or hospitals, the Foundation will select only persons of sound sense and high character, who are sympathetic with the missionary spirit and motive, who are thoroughly qualified for their work professionally, and who will dedicate themselves to medical ministration in China. Beyond these qualifications, the Foundation cannot properly impose tests of a denominational or doctrinal nature, such as are deemed desirable by Missionary Boards for their own medical missionaries or agents.

In entering upon its work, the Foundation will hope to avail itself of the long and valuable experience acquired by the Missionary Boards in the conduct of their medical missions, and will welcome their sympathetic counsel in all matters of procedure and administration.

While this work of the Foundation will be limited to medical service, we believe it to be the highest duty and privilege of all men to cherish the spirit of Jesus, and ever to live and act in that spirit. The desire of earnest Christians to communicate the spirit of Jesus to the Chinese and to the whole world we share to the full. We share with the Missionary Boards also their conviction that the teaching of Jesus must be imparted to the Chinese through preaching and by all other proper agencies for communicating truth, and we are constantly mindful that in so far as we may be able to assist the Missionary Boards in their medical service, the Boards will be enabled to devote added funds to the strengthening and enlarging of their educational and evangelistic work.

As its agency for conducting this work, the Foundation has formed the China Medical Board, with offices at 61 Broadway, New York, and has conferred upon this Board the necessary powers and the financial resources believed to be currently needed. The Chairman of the Board is John D Rockefeller, Jr., the Director, Wallace Buttrick, Resident Director in China, Roger S Greene, formerly United States Consul-General at Hankow, China.

The members of the Board are:

Messrs Wallace Buttrick
Simon Flexner
F T Gates
Jerome D Greene
Harry Pratt Judson
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John R Mott
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Francis W Peabody
John D Rockefeller Jr
Wickliffe Rose
William H Welch

In behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation,

(Signed) John D Rockefeller Jr

President.