

COPY

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
49 WEST 49TH STREET
NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

January 2, 1947

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

I am enclosing a copy of the report submitted by the Commission which the Trustees of the Foundation sent to China in May 1946 to study the problem of medical needs. The Commission consisted of Dr. Alan Gregg, Chairman, Dr. Sidney Burwell, Dean of the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Harold Loucks of the China Medical Board.

The problem to which this Commission addressed itself represents one of the oldest interests of the Foundation. The China Medical Board was created in 1914 as an operating division of the Foundation, on a par with the International Health Division (or International Health Board as it was called in those days). It was through the instrumentality of this China Medical Board, and after a series of careful studies in China, that the Foundation erected the Peking Union Medical College, spending nearly \$10,000,000 for land, buildings and equipment. In 1928 the China Medical Board was incorporated as a separate entity, and the title to the Peking property was transferred to this new body. In addition, \$12,000,000 was given to the Board by the Foundation as an endowment fund. When this endowment fund was set up, it was hoped that while current budget subsidies from the Foundation would undoubtedly be necessary over a period of years, receipts from Chinese sources might ultimately take their place. This hope had not materialized when the war broke out in 1941. For the five-year period preceding 1941 the

January 2, 1947

annual subsidy from the Foundation to the China Medical Board for the work of the Peking College averaged about \$345,000.

Beginning with the opening of the College in 1921, the operating budget subsidies provided by the Foundation have amounted to date to \$12,847,491, which, with the building costs and the \$12,000,000 endowment, brings the total expenditures by the Foundation for the Peking Union Medical College to \$34,652,490. This represents the largest contribution which the Foundation has ever made to any single project.

The question raised by the report of our Commission - indeed, the question that was in our minds when we sent this Commission to China last spring - comes down to this: What do we do now? The war has interrupted the work of the College for five years, and we have the opportunity now to consider from a fresh point of view the medical situation in China and the nature of the obligation assumed by the Foundation.

The economic dislocation in China at the present time is a complicating factor which makes decision difficult. Our Commission has returned with definite recommendations to which a great deal of careful study has been given. The subject is so important and the necessity for some kind of decision is so immediate that I believe a special meeting of our Trustees is justified. With the consent of the Chairman, I am, therefore, calling such a meeting, notice of which is attached hereto.

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK

Mr. Winthrop W. Aldrich
18 Pine Street
New York 5
New York