

China Medical Commission
601
47001

MEETING OF TRUSTEES
OF
THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

January 16, 1947

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Rockefeller Foundation was held in the offices of the Foundation on the 64th floor, 49 West 49th Street, New York, N.Y., on Thursday, January 16, 1947, at 10 A.M.

PRESENT: Walter W. Stewart, presiding, Chester I. Barnard, Lewis W. Douglas, John Foster Dulles, Raymond B. Fosdick, Douglas S. Freeman, Herbert S. Gasser, Henry Allen Moe, John J. McCloy, William I. Myers, John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, Arthur Hays Sulzberger, Norma S. Thompson; and, by invitation, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Thomas M. Debevoise, Thomas B. Appleget, George J. Beal, Chauncey Belknap, C. Sidney Burwell, Alan Gregg, Harold H. Loucks, Edward Robinson, David H. Stevens, Andrew J. Warren, Warren Weaver, Vanderbilt Webb, and Joseph H. Willits.

ABSENT: Winthrop W. Aldrich, Karl T. Compton, Harold W. Dodds, Walter S. Gifford, Thomas Parran, Robert G. Sproul, and Harold H. Swift, who were excused.

A written call of meeting as follows, mailed to each Trustee under date of January 2, 1947, was reported:

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. C. Sidney Burwell, Dean of the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Harold Loucks of the China Medical Board, Inc.

The problem to which this Commission addressed itself represents one of the oldest interests of the Foundation. The China

1/16/47

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 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 of \$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.

SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

1/16/47

Attention was called to the action of the Board of Trustees, taken at the meeting of April 3, 1946, authorizing the Chairman to appoint a Commission of three or more to proceed to China and study on the ground the problem of the development of medicine and public health, reporting its findings and recommendations at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees or of the Executive Committee; and further to the report to the meeting of the Executive Committee of The Rockefeller Foundation at its meeting of May 17, 1946, of the appointment of Dr. Alan Gregg, Director for the Medical Sciences, Dr. Harold H. Loucks, formerly Professor of Surgery, Peiping Union Medical College, currently Representative, China Medical Board, Inc., and Dr. C. Sidney Burwell, Dean of the Medical School, Harvard University, as the Commission.

The Report of the Commission, sent to each Trustee with the President's letter of notification of the Special Meeting, is filed as D.R. 680.

Discussion was preceded by a statement by the President, setting the historical background for the Foundation's establishment of the Peiping Union Medical College, with quotations from a report, "The Rockefeller Foundation, the China Medical Board, and the Peking Union Medical College," presented to the Trustees at their meeting of December 5-6, 1939, and filed as D.R. 552; and by statements by members of the Commission, particularly bearing upon effects of the School upon medicine in China.

Discussion centered chiefly around the following topics and questions:

1/16/47

47004

Objective of Recommendations:
Maintenance of a high-standard medical school;
Independence of RF for the future.

1946
CHINA
COMMISSION -
REPORT

Amount needed to realize objectives.

Influence of form of grant on attainment of RF
objectives:
Annual support vs. lump sum;
Eliciting a sense of responsibility and future
support from Chinese;
RF's regional program in the Far East.

Timing of financing under present conditions.

Organization of China Medical Board:
Function
Permanence
Freedom of Action

There was agreement on the interest of the Foundation in the work of the Peiping Union Medical College; the necessity for strengthening the China Medical Board, Inc., and the desirability of its continuing to have all present freedom of action and responsibility; and upon the appropriation of a single sum, rather than separate sums for term and for unspecified expenditure.

It was on motion, unanimously

RESOLVED that the sum of Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) be, and
RF 47001 it hereby is, appropriated to the CHINA MEDICAL BOARD, INC.,
for its corporate purposes*, payment of this appropriation to be made at such time in the discretion of the Executive Committee as the Committee shall consider proper, this upon due ratification to be a charge against the Principal Fund.

*The corporate purposes of the China Medical Board, Inc., are as follows: "The Corporation shall not be conducted for profit; the purposes for which it is formed are exclusively charitable, scientific and educational and are

1/16/47

47005

to extend financial support to the Peking Union Medical College and/or other like institutions in the Far East or in the United States of America, as the Corporation may from time to time deem best, but only to institutions organized and conducted for exclusively charitable, scientific and/or educational purposes; to apply the income, and if the Corporation so decides, the principal of such funds or property as the Corporation may have at its disposal for the benefit of such institution or institutions; to transfer in whole or in part the said funds or property of the Corporation to such institution or institutions; provided, however, that neither the Peking Union Medical College nor any other institution, shall have any right to any assistance, support or benefit of or from the Corporation or its fund or property in the absence of appropriate action by the Corporation giving such right...."

1946
CHINA
COMMISSION -
REPORT
(Continued)

ADJOURNED 12:45 P.M.

NORMA S. THOMPSON

Secretary

1/16/47