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Meharry Medical College
47216
General Support
MEHARRY
MEDICAL
COLLEGE -
CURRENT
EXPENSES

It was, on motion,
RESOLVED that the sum of One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000),
RF 47070
or as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it here-
by is, appropriated to MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE, Nashville,
Tennessee, for current expenses for the year beginning
July 1, 1947, any balance remaining unexpended as of
June 30, 1948, to revert to the Foundation.

The following were the considerations presented:

Medical Sciences: General

Previous Interest: None, except that Foundation officers have advised with the General Education Board which has contributed to Meharry since 1916-1917 a total of \$8,313,000. This total includes a contribution toward land, buildings and equipment in 1931, continuous grants toward current expenses, and in (1940 and) 1944 an endowment of \$4,000,000, with a contingent fund of \$300,000 effective July 1, 1944, which has been used at the rate of \$100,000 annually to safe-guard current budgets.

General Description: In the training of Negro doctors Meharry Medical College easily occupies first place. More than half the country's Negro practitioners are its graduates, and the College's present enrollment is greater than the total of Negro medical students in all other American medical schools.

Meharry is also contributing more than any other single institution toward the continued education of the Negro practitioner. This activity takes the form of a comprehensive program initiated five years ago through a liberal grant from the Kellogg Foundation. The program includes short refresher courses, long-term specialty training, and extension work through affiliation with Negro hospitals in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

While the governing bodies of Southern states are slowly coming to recognize their indebtedness to Meharry for an educational service which should be their responsibility, such contractual arrangements as have been made by Tennessee and Virginia and are contemplated by North Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana may offer hope for future stabilization of the College's support, but do little to meet the immediate need.

6/13/47

Finances: Meharry has about \$5,000,000 of endowment from which it derives \$140,000 of income annually. Other large items of income are tuitions, fees, and hospital income.

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(Continued)

For the current year \$100,000 has been received from the General Education Board and \$79,958 from the Kellogg Foundation, neither of which contributions is assured for next year although it is likely that the Kellogg Foundation will continue to contribute. The expected deficit for 1947-1948 is about \$350,000. Increase in hospital income and contributions from alumni and local sources are hoped for.

Future Implications: It is understood that there is no commitment for aid beyond the year covered by the grant. The Meharry Trustees plan to bring together soon, probably in July, 1947, representatives of the various agencies concerned with Negro medical education, including the U. S. Public Health Service, the Social Security Agency, and Departments of Education of the interested Southern States, to discuss ways and means of assuring the continued operation of the Medical College.

It is agreed that no request for further support will be made to the Foundation until the proposed joint study has been completed.

Comment: The financial difficulties at Meharry differ only in degree from those of most other institutions of higher learning in both the North and South. The marked postwar rise in operation costs has not been offset by a corresponding increase in income either from tuition or endowment. On the contrary, a fall in fixed income has to be contemplated. Income from Meharry's endowment is exceptionally low due to the fact that four of the five million dollars in this fund was received from the General Education Board in 1944 when investment of the greater part in Government Bonds seemed advisable to a conservative finance committee. Another unbalancing factor lies in the greatly increased demand for well-trained Negro doctors, making it exceedingly difficult for Meharry to hold its staff, even with substantial salary increases. The competition is particularly keen with Howard Medical School which, through Government support, can offer larger salaries and even more with the Veterans Bureau which has numerous vacancies in its several large new hospitals for Negroes, carrying a remuneration double that of professors and chiefs of clinical services at Meharry.