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Commission on Medical  
Education

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

346 HAMILTON HOUSE, SHANGHAI

No. 28.

MEMORANDUM:

CHINA PROGRAM:

SUBJECT: Commission on Medical Education.

SHANGHAI

PLACE: November 11, 1938

DATE: JBG

FROM: SMG

TO:

The effect of the war on Medical Education is almost incomprehensible. Only 5 of the 33 medical, pharmacy and dental colleges existing before the war continue unaffected. The remainder have either been suspended, destroyed, or forced to remove, in instances thousands of miles. This is an almost complete national disruption. Consequently it is all the more surprising to find that the majority of institutions have maintained their identity and reestablished themselves successfully, particularly in the instance of "national" schools, with the exception of the one formerly located in Peiping.

The work of the Commission on Medical Education, although much disrupted, is continuing along much the same lines as pre-war policy. Its headquarters have moved with those of the National Government from Nanking to Hankow, and now Chungking. Fortunately most of its teacher training program was being undertaken through fellows assigned to the P.U.M.C., which have been able to continue uninterruptedly. The additional war-time program of the Commission has been directed particularly towards conserving competent teachers left without means and to a lesser extent, assisting senior students whose studies were on the point of discontinuance because of loss of support. A serious interruption occurred in the Commission's work of editing and printing of textbooks. Despite this, seven texts have appeared in the period under review and the work has been reorganised to permit of its active continuance.

The Foundation's policy of conservation has had one positive result. The establishment of the Commission in the Ministry was without precedent in the organization of the Ministry. Had the Secretariat not existed, the effects of the dispersal of medical institutions would have been much more disastrous and the process of reestablishment would have been slower and in instances, entirely lacking, without the helpful cooperation of this body in the Ministry of Education.

The future of the Commission depends obviously upon the outcome of the war. Its main function of coordination of national educational policy to provide minimum standards that necessarily in achievement of objective would utilise the P.U.M.C. effectively, depends upon restoration of full Chinese sovereignty.