

Mr R

Sept. 10, 1942

This report was sent Mr. Debevoise.

He thought it might interest you as he thinks it is the long memo referred to in Dr. Lobenstine's letter, copy of which Mr. Fosdick has just sent you.

jw

File

Received in Office of China Medical Board, Inc.,
August 27, 1942

Peking,
May 15, 1942

REPORT ON THE PEIPING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE

Shortly before eight o'clock on Monday morning, December 8th, a detachment of soldiers entered the hospital, closed all gates, and threw a cordon around the premises so that no one could go in or out. The burden of meeting the situation as the occupation took place fell on the nursing service and resident doctors of the hospital, who all remained at their regular work and kept themselves and their patients calm in a way that deserves the highest praise. Fortunately Miss Whiteside, Superintendent of Nurses, had come on duty early that morning, and was in the hospital before the soldiers came in. The presence of so responsible and senior a person as she, helped greatly to prevent any panic. Later in the day Dr. S. T. Wang succeeded in getting into the hospital although it was still closed off. From that time on he served as liaison officer between the staff and the unit of occupation, and thanks to his tireless efforts and patience, at no time did the situation get out of control.

December 8, 1941 - January 31, 1942.

Staff

Simultaneously with the occupation of the hospital, soldiers went to Dr. Houghton's residence at Ying Compound, found him, Mr. Bowen and Dr. Anderson at breakfast, and took Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen to Lockhart Hall. Dr. Snapper was also taken there from his house on Wai Chiao Pu Chieh across from the North Compound. Lockhart Hall was used on that day and for the next week as the district headquarters of the Japanese Gendarmerie. During the morning HSH and TB were taken over to the main buildings for an hour or so, presumably to hand over keys and answer questions; then they returned to Lockhart Hall, where they were kept for the rest of the day along with Dr. Snapper and several non-P.U.M.C. Americans. In the evening they were taken to the American Embassy Guard Compound, where they were housed for the next four weeks with a number of other Americans and Britishers in a section of the large barracks. Among the British held there was Mr. W. G. Alston, Chief Engineer of the College, who had been taken from his home in the British Embassy Compound.

On January 10th, Dr. Houghton, Mr. Bowen, and Dr. Snapper were transferred from the Marine Barracks to Ying Compound, together with Dr. Leighton Stuart. The reason for their transfer was the removal of the American Marines to Shanghai and the vacating of the barracks. All other civilians, American and British, were unconditionally released at that time. No explanation of the continued detention of these four was given. Guards were stationed in Dr. Houghton's study, and the four detained men were not allowed to leave the compound or receive visitors. Otherwise they have been free to move around the house and garden. They have been allowed to visit the dentist and the barber, accompanied by a guard, and on a few occasions special permission has been given to Dr. Hoeppli and a few members of the staff to call on them. They have remained in good health and spirits and it has been possible to keep them supplied with books, games, etc. for their amusement. They also received the daily newspaper. Dr. Houghton's servants have continued on duty and meals have been served as usual. In December and January each of the detained men received from College funds FRB \$500 like all other enemy aliens on the College staff, from which they paid for their maintenance.

Dr. Anderson was confined to Ying Compound without outside communication for three days; he was then allowed to go on duty, accompanied each time by a guard who later

called and took him back. This lasted until December 16th when he moved to the South Compound to live with Dr. Loucks, and was then free to move about as he wished.

Dr. Loucks was confined to the South Compound for three days, but on December 11th was given permission to go to the hospital to work.

All other members of the staff, enemy aliens included, were permitted to report for duty on Tuesday, December 9th, and were even urged by the Military to do so. They were left undisturbed in their own homes. Guards were placed at the gates of the residence compounds and dormitories for the first week, but on December 15th they were withdrawn and everyone was allowed to come and go as usual.

Students

December 8th was the first day of the Second Trimester, but during that first week of occupation there were no classes, although students were unmolested in their dormitories. On December 13th, Major Suzuki, the officer in command, gave permission for the students to come to work beginning Monday, December 15th. Later it was stated that this attendance was considered of an informal nature, and that the school actually had been closed on December 8th. Whether formal or informal, regular class work was carried on from December 15th through January 19th. For the first and second year students no change in program was necessary. Some adjustments were made for the students in the clinical years since the out-patient department was closed and no new in-patients were being received in the hospital, but profitable work was laid out to take the place of the normal schedules.

On January 19th, Dr. S. T. Wang was informed by the commanding officer that classes should be discontinued on that day, that the preclinical departments should be closed by the end of the week, and that all students must leave the main hospital buildings not later than January 21st. On that day they were allowed to take away any books and instruments which were their personal property. Before leaving each student had to turn in the identification card which had been used for going in and out of the hospital. They were allowed to stay on in the dormitories temporarily while making arrangements for going home. The various women's dormitories, medical and nursing, were closed on January 31st; Wenham Hall closed on February 7th.

Each undergraduate student before leaving received a transcript of his record in the Medical School or the School of Nursing. The members of the fifth year class in the Medical School and of the third year class in the School of Nursing were granted degrees and diplomas by action of the Educational Division at a meeting on January 19th. No graduation exercises were held, but the graduates were happy because it was possible to have Dr. Houghton's signature on their diplomas, and a class picture was taken in cap and gown.

Hospital

The out-patient department was never allowed to reopen, and no new in-patients were admitted after December 8th, with the exception of a handful of emergency cases where the commanding officer gave special permission. Mrs. J. H. Ingram, who died a week later from typhus fever, was among this number. The unit in charge was from the Army Medical Service, and proved most considerate in the countless problems that came up. They evidently had no specific information or instructions as to the plans of the higher authorities with regard to the institution, and their only wish was to

keep things going normally as far as possible, and to prevent pilfering of College and Hospital property and equipment. Discharges of patients were not encouraged since this would eventually empty the hospital, and the regular normal care of all patients in the various wards was permitted. All members of the staff and student body were submitted to bodily search on going in or out the east and north gates, the only two gates left open; it was stated that the soldiers of the guard were themselves similarly searched when going off duty.

For the first few days the occupying unit slept in the corridors and in the reception room just east of the Information Desk. Then at their request, the metabolism ward on F-II was cleared, and this became the dormitory for the resident guard.

On January 19th when instructions as to the closing of the preclinical departments and disbanding of the students were given, a meeting of the senior staff of the whole institution was called by Dr. S. T. Wang, to discuss the question of the hospital under these circumstances. It was stated that the house staff would soon, like the students, be dispersed. The number of patients had decreased to about 130. Dr. Wang reported that the commanding officer was willing to allow patients who were seriously ill to remain in the hospital as long as necessary with as many members of the medical and nursing staff as would be needed to care for them, but that no new patients would be admitted for the duration of the war. After full discussion it was unanimously agreed that it would be best for all concerned to close the whole institution on January 31st, and that it should be possible to discharge or transfer all patients from the hospital before that date. This was accordingly done; the last patients were discharged on January 28th, and on Saturday, January 31st, the staff was paid off, each one turning in his pass and leaving the buildings immediately after receiving his pay. Each member of the staff was allowed to remove his personal property from the College buildings before departure.

Up until the order came to disband the students, hope had been entertained that it might be possible to continue operation of the College, or at least of the hospital, under reduced budget and local control. Accordingly a group of senior Chinese members of the staff labored diligently to prepare plans and secure support for such a measure, but in the end their efforts came to nought.

Finances

When the institution was first occupied, there was in the Vault in cash FRB\$400,000 which had been drawn from the bank at the end of the previous week for December expenses. This was explained to the Military when they examined the Vault, whereupon they themselves turned it over to the branch of the Chung Foo Union Bank on College premises to handle payments in the customary fashion. On December 13th the mid-month payroll for the non-professional staff was paid in the usual way, and at the end of the month the full professional and non-professional payroll was paid out, except that enemy nationals each received FRB \$500, the maximum remuneration set by the Military for all such persons in institutions or commercial firms.

As was to be expected, the Military knew all about the large remittance, FRB\$1,200,000, from the CMB which had reached Tientsin on December 5th. Representations were made for the release of this money so that compensation could be paid as far as

possible to the staff when the institution closed. In January the Military arranged for the release of FRB \$500,000 from this sum, applied \$450,000 of this for January salaries and expenses, and reserved \$50,000 for expenses which might be incurred after January 31st. Salaries for January were accordingly paid in full (except for the \$500 allowance for enemy nationals), and in addition all but enemy nationals received another month's pay as part compensation. All of these salary payments included the temporary subsistence allowance then in force.

College Records

The fact that there was nearly two weeks between January 19th and the end of the month when the institution was closed, made it possible to leave the files and records in good order. All the most important files were moved in their steel filing cabinets to a locked store room in the attic of F Building, together with current files of minutes, budgets, etc. The clinical records were moved from the Clinical Record Room to the shelves in the Library attic prepared last year for storage of old clinical records. All student microscopes and the still more valuable departmental microscopes were stored in the College Vault. These various steps were taken with the consent and assistance of the officer in command who showed understanding of the desirability of preserving these things, and who seemed sincerely anxious to have a minimum of equipment and files left in the offices for him to be responsible for when the buildings should finally be left in his hands.

Library

Before the closing of the institution, all books on permanent loan in the various departments, and all books out on regular loan, were called in. Departmental libraries were also moved to the Library building, so that there would be a minimum of opportunity for loss or damage at the hands of persons who might not recognize their value. In addition books belonging personally to Dr. Frazier and Dr. Weidenreich and left by them in their offices, were stored away.

Cenozoic Laboratory

All the material in the Cenozoic Laboratory in Lockhart Hall was transferred to the main buildings of the College, and is now stored in the former nursing classroom in the basement of the Library.

Draeger Apparatus

During the first week of occupation, the Draeger apparatus was removed from the premises by Japanese and its present whereabouts is unknown.

Since February 1, 1942.

Staff

At the end of March Mrs. Snapper joined her husband at Ying Compound where the Snappers, Dr. Houghton, Mr. Bowen and Dr. Stuart continued to be until May 8th when they were transferred to No. 45 Wai Chiao Pu Chieh, a house belonging to Mr. A. C. Henning, a British business man, whose property has been taken over by the Gendarmerie. They were allowed to take from Ying Compound their own beds and such other furniture as they wished, including Dr. Houghton's grand piano and a lot of potted plants.

Since the latter part of April their freedom of action has been more limited than before; no one has been allowed to go in to see them, and none of them, including Mrs. Snapper, has been out to the barber or the dentist. The Military in whose hands they are have now limited the allowance for their maintenance to FRB\$1.50 a day for each person, but they have no objection to this allowance being supplemented from other sources, so it has not been necessary to alter the scale of living. At present they are using cash resources which they had in hand. When these are exhausted, funds will be found from outside for their use, so that no fear need be felt for their welfare on that score. It is hoped that all of these five will be among the first civilians to be exchanged. Dr. Hoeppli who represents the Swiss Consul General in charge of American and Dutch interests is doing everything possible to accomplish this.

All other members of the foreign staff continue in their own homes and are unrestricted in their movements within the city walls. Dr. Loucks and Dr. Anderson moved about the middle of March from the South Compound to the Methodist Mission Compound where a house has kindly been put at their disposal as a gesture of gratitude for the assistance given the Mission by the China Medical Board of The Rockefeller Foundation in the early days of its China program. Dr. Loucks and Dr. Anderson are both practicing among the foreign community, and in addition Dr. Loucks visits the Methodist and Presbyterian Hospitals regularly to advise and assist junior members of the P.U.M.C. staff who are now working in those places. Dr. Hoeppli as stated above is fully occupied with his duties in charge of American, British and Dutch interests in Peking. Miss Ferguson is helping Dr. Hoeppli in his office. The other foreign members of the staff have no definite work but all keep occupied in one way or another. Those whose financial resources have become exhausted (United States currency naturally cannot be sold, and withdrawals limited to FRB\$500 from local bank balances have only been allowed once) are receiving loans of FRB\$250 a month from the committee of the American Association which is handling the relief of American civilians under Dr. Hoeppli's office.

Most of the senior members of the Chinese professional staff are in private practice in Peking or in Tientsin, and many of the younger ones have also established practices individually or in groups. Various attempts were made in January and February to care for a large group, including senior staff, juniors, house staff, nurses, etc. in one hospital but all of these attempts failed, probably because the idea of carrying on the P.U.M.C. tradition and standards of hospital work did not meet with favor in the eyes of those responsible for the closing of the institution. It has been gratifying to note how many of the senior members of the staff have concerned themselves with helping the recent graduates to place themselves advantageously. There have, of course, been exceptions, but in general the morale has been good.

The lowest paid group of employees have adapted themselves to the situation in a variety of ways - working as day laborers, peddling peanuts and fruit, pulling rickshaws or operating the new tri-cycle rickshaws. Some of them have not been successful in reestablishing themselves, and have to turn for help to the professional staff who are also facing financial difficulties, but for the most part they are managing to get along. The group on whom the loss of employment is the hardest is the clerical staff. Their chief tool, familiarity with the English language, is now a handicap rather than a help, and there are not enough possible openings to absorb so many of this category in a short time.

Students

With the assistance of the officers in command at the Hospital, those students who wanted to go to their homes in the Shanghai area, were able to get the necessary travel permits, and most of these left Peking early in February. Of this group, the medical students are divided among St. John's, the National Medical College of Shanghai which has classes at Tung Teh Medical College, and the Red Cross Hospital, while the nursing students have been absorbed into various hospitals. The majority of those who stayed in the north because their homes are here, are now enrolled in the Medical College of the National University. The fourth year students will receive certificates from that school at the end of June on the basis of which they will be able to secure licenses to practise. With these certificates in hand, they will then look for internships in hospitals where some of the senior staff have connections, so that they can go on with their clinical training. Miss Nieh has succeeded in making arrangements with the Dow Hospital of the Presbyterian Mission to admit as regular students in their Nurses Training School the first and second year students of the School of Nursing, and all of the senior students are at work in hospitals in Peking, Tientsin or Shanghai, where they can complete their practical experience.

Finances

After the closing of the institution, pressure was continued from various sources for the release of the remaining \$700,000 for further compensation payments. When these efforts were unavailing, Dr. S. T. Wang secured permission to see Dr. Houghton, and took him three letters to sign, all addressed to Dr. Hoeppli in his capacity as representative of the Swiss Consul General, Shanghai, in charge of American interests. One letter outlined the position with regard to the FRB\$700,000 and asked him to file an official claim with the National City Bank for this sum and to do what he could to collect it; another letter concerned the release of a small balance in the Peking branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; and the third letter asked Dr. Hoeppli in his official capacity to protect the interests of the College as an American institution. When Dr. Hoeppli filed the claim with the National City Bank he was informed that the claim was admitted, but that the funds could be released only by permission of the Japanese Military Authorities in Peking. Thereupon he addressed a letter to these authorities, transmitting it through the Japanese Embassy. The reply was given to him orally by the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, who stated that he had been informed that the money would not be released for the following reasons:

1. The release of so large a sum under present circumstances would be an embarrassment to the bank and make it difficult for other claims against the bank to be met.

2. The National City Bank of New York, Tientsin, is now in process of liquidation, and it is doubtful if, after all obligations of the bank have been met, there would be sufficient funds left to pay this claim.
3. The Peiping Union Medical College had been closed by the Japanese Military Authorities because the activities of the institution had been carried on in a spirit not pleasing to them, and employees of such an institution, even though not enemy nationals themselves, can expect no specially favorable treatment, such as the release of funds to provide compensation payments at the termination of employment.

It was further pointed out to him that the Japanese Military Authorities had already shown unusual consideration in the previous release of FRB\$500,000 from the original credit of \$1,200,000, and that further attempts to secure the release of the remaining \$700,000 would probably be useless.

The Trustees in Shanghai have noted that the majority of the staff of the institution come in the non-professional category and have no contracts or letters of appointment to show what they are entitled to expect if it ever becomes possible to meet the College's obligations under the regulations, and have authorized Dr. Loucks to issue to all employees without formal contracts or letters of appointment a statement giving the exact obligation and recording that the College, due to circumstances beyond its control, is not in a position at the present time to pay the balance due, and that if at some future time it becomes possible to make partial or full payment, individuals will be notified and should bring the statement as identification to the place designated. These statements are now being prepared from the payrolls and the employment records which the commanding officer allowed to be taken out of the employment office.

General

During the months of February and March the unit in occupation of the College seemed to be chiefly concerned with preparations for the future, which included the careful storing away of much of the equipment and furniture of the College and Hospital. Responsibility for the buildings was divided between two groups, the hospital buildings being kept for a Military Hospital, while B, C, D, and I Buildings, and the Animal House were turned over to a military serological unit from the Temple of Heaven laboratories. The plant is now being used for these purposes, but the impression is that neither group is yet making full use of the facilities available.

It is of interest to report that there is still a skeleton staff of employees of the College retained for work by the Military. In February and March their salaries were paid by the Military from the FRB\$50,000 which they had reserved for contingencies (see page 4 above); since April 1st they are paid from Military funds. Among these employees are Mrs. E. Thuermer, formerly secretary to the Director and the Recorder; Mr. T. F. Chao, Librarian and one assistant; Mr. Y. Yang, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Mr. C. P. Chang, Assistant Engineer; Mr. W. L. Yu, Custodian of Keys; some twenty laundrymen, some ten or twelve janitors, and a number of others such as electricians, gardeners, carpenters, etc. Thanks to the loyal interest of this group much of the valuable equipment of the institution is being conserved for the future. Their position is far from easy, but they are performing a service which will only be fully appreciated when the day comes that work can once more be resumed.

Residence Compounds

Before the College closed notice was given by the Military that all houses in the Residence Compounds must be vacated by the end of March. This was done, and the two compounds are now empty. There is no evidence yet as to the use to which they are to be put. The North Compound Godown was also cleared out, and furniture belonging to absent foreign members of the staff, has been stored in the attic of M Building.

Other Buildings

Lockhart Hall is now being used by the Gendarmerie. It is rumored that Oliver Jones Hall is also to be used by that organization. It is conjectured that a high officer of the Gendarmerie will use Ying Compound for his residence now that Dr. Houghton and the others have been moved out. Immediately following their leaving the house, building activity could be seen in the small entrance court on San Tiao Hutung, and in the open space east of Ying Compound within the Lockhart Hall enclosure. Just what changes are being made is not known.

Houses 1 and 2 Shuai Fu Hutung are serving as dormitory for the small group of Japanese women nurses in the hospital. The resident guard in the hospital occupy the house staff quarters in O Building, and F-II is used by the officers attached to the hospital. The Social Center on San Tiao Hutung is unused so far. The Auditorium is used for entertainments for patients from the hospital. Wenham Hall is still empty but it is rumored that it is to be used by the army.

Trustees

Word has recently come from Shanghai that the Trustees there are fully informed as to the course of events in the College. It is not possible to get a quorum of Trustees, but at an informal meeting in Shanghai in April they expressed themselves as most anxious to maintain some thread of organization so that everything possible can be done to preserve the spirit of service for which the College has stood, as well as to facilitate the handling of any matters requiring official attention. To this end, and in view of the isolation of Dr. Houghton at the present time, the Trustees have asked Dr. Loucks to serve temporarily in the place of the Acting Director, with a supporting committee composed of Dr. S. T. Wang representing the Hospital, Mr. James S. Ch'ien representing the business administration, and Miss Ferguson representing the general administration. It is of course recognized that in the eyes of the local authorities the institution is defunct, but this group will keep in touch, and meet from time to time to exchange information about general conditions and interests of the College.

The various messages from the China Medical Board, Inc. which have come through the Swiss authorities, have been a great comfort and satisfaction to all connected with the College, and the foreign staff are most appreciative of the efforts being taken in New York for their repatriation. As stated in the reply sent to the most recent message from New York, Dr. Loucks prefers to remain in Peking unless some arrangements can be made, presumably through the Red Cross, for the evacuation of his wife and son from Manila where it is assumed that they are interned together with the other staff members who were there at the outbreak of war in December. Miss Ferguson plans to stay in Peking with her father who is not applying for repatriation. Mr. and Mrs. Alston and their daughter expect to stay in Peking (their son is with the P.U.M.C. group in Manila) and Mr. Alston is to be appointed resident caretaker of the British Embassy

Compound. All other Americans on the staff have applied for repatriation, as have also Dr. and Mrs. Snapper and Dr. and Mrs. Fortuyn who will have to be evacuated with other Dutch civilians. They prefer if possible to proceed to the United States, and if they are evacuated will undoubtedly cable for assistance from the China Medical Board, Inc. when they reach Portuguese East Africa.

(Signed) H. H. Loucks

Stanley D. Wilson

Mary E. Ferguson

J. S. Ch'en

S. T. Wang

T. A. Sun

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Prepared in China Medical Board, Inc., office, September 1, 1942

One of the arrivals on the "Gripsholm", who had been interned at the Santo Tomas University internment camp in Manila, brought us the following news in regard to the P.U.M.C. group in the Philippines:

Dr. Boots was released in February from the internment camp to receive ear treatment at one of the Manila hospitals. He remained at the hospital to carry on active work there.

Dr. Whitacre was working at the camp hospital.

Miss McMillan, Miss Wyne and Miss Robinson were also doing camp hospital work. Before our informant left Manila, they were released from the camp for a month's rest.

Mr. Griffiths, whom we had had no word from since last December, was in the camp, conducting services, and taking active part in camp life.

William Alston, Jr., was working in the hospital laundry.

Mrs. Loucks and her son had been living outside the camp, but were considering applying for admission. Mrs. Loucks had been busy with hospital work.

The picture of camp life is, on the whole, a good one. The place is said to be well organized, with active health and sanitation groups and every kind of community activity. For the children, there are schools and a special hospital. Food is sufficient. There are only a few Japanese guards in the camp, and there has been no ill treatment.

We received no news of Mrs. Y. K. Wu, Mrs. Thomas Ho, and Dr. Hsu Hsi-fan. We were told, however, that they had probably had no trouble finding work in the Manila hospitals or help from some of the members of the large Chinese community. The Chinese in general are said not to have been badly treated.

On August 29, the Dutch Consul in New York reported the receipt of a cablegram from Dr. Snapper stating that he and Mrs. Snapper and Dr. and Mrs. Fortuyn had reached Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa, on August 27. They had apparently been included in the exchange of British and other allied nationals now taking place. To what port they will finally be taken, we do not yet know.