Corres. Chester, Ruth

ler, Ruth 1918-1925

PRESIDENT THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE MISS MARGARET E. HODGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISS EVELINA GRIEVES FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT 501 WITHERSPOON BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA MRS. CHARLES P. TURNER MISS ANNA VLACHOS Keene Valley Janu Keene Valley, n. y. July 14 the My dear Miss Davison, I want to introduce you to Ruth Chester. I haven't seen her but like her and congratulate the n.y. Bound upon her. Will you show her papers, etc. to Mrs. Teabody and Miss Mead, and to Dr. Theer if you get a Chance? I like her spirit, and feel inclined to advise her to go out under our Board telling her of the intermediate furlough. arrangement. But I will not give definite advice until I hear what you people at Northfield think. I shall tell her that there will be an informal meeting at N. If you four agree on something definite I am sure I will and miss Mead dan take the papers back to N. y. moth her and consult Miss Bender. I will write to her and tell her to notify Miss Chester for she (Miss Bender) has promised to do what she can during July. The has a sternographer\_ and can keep copied of her letters, and send the proper kind which I cannot. I have made up

my mind not to go away another semmes 23 If Miss Mead thinks we can promise a place on the faculty to Miss Chester I would be inclined to adnie Miss & to go under contract to Guling. My impression is that for a fine year contract Tinling pays travel both ways and gives #100. for outfit and \$100. for furniture, etc. for which is the property of the and would be that there has not been a three year contract, but in that case we would pay travel out and \$100. for outfit. Would we pay travel back and the eftera #100. ? How about language study in both cases ? Please ask Mus. Reabody and Miss Mead if they know and I will ask Miss Bender who has all the records and of Mrs. P. does not know what does she advise? Miss Mead will bring one or two other peroblems to the com. and I have been sending yours cordially. Margaret E. Hodge

7-14-18

April 23, 1919.

My dear Miss Bender:-

I am enclosing copies of the orders which I am sending to chemical and apparatus companies for next year. As you will see by the letters attached to the orders I have told them to send the bills direct to you, instead of sending them out here as Mrs. Thurston said that was the best way to do. The physics is largely permanent equipment, which demands a big increase as there are twelve or thirteen students electing it for next year and we have had only two this year and they have had to omit many experiments that they ought to have done. The order for chemicals and the one for chemical apparatus is mostly a restocking of things used up and is pretty well covered by the laboratory fees and the breakage bills.

I was very much pleased to receive your letter some time ago and thank you for making such good apologies for my negligence in writing.

Mother has been here over a month now and asyou can imagine I am very very happy at having her here. We are to have a house a t Kuling this summer and I know we shall, have a delightful time. She has also made herself a very useful member of the family, doing some of the things that nome of the rest of us ever get time to do.

If I am to get this letter into the next mail as I feel I ought to do, I shall have to stop now and leave it very short and uninteresting, but this whole order has already been delayed much too long and I want to send this in the same mail with it so that you will not be receiving bills before you know what they are for.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Chester.

To Members of the Ginling College Committee:

Miss Ruth Chester was appointed to Ginling College in the summer of 1917 on a three year contract. She returned to America this summer. The Board of Control in January 1920

Voted: That Miss Chester be granted furlough salary and invited to return to Ginling at the end of her furlough.

This action came up for consideration at the meeting of the Ginling College Committee October 16th, but as Miss Chester was at the meeting, it was deferred.

Miss Hodge and I are taking the liberty of submitting for ad interim action, the following recommendation:

That six months home allowance be granted Miss Chester, with the understanding that this allowance be extended over the full furlough period, if she returns to Ginling at the expiration of her furlough; that an invitation to return be considered and acted upon at the next meeting of the Ginling College Committee.

The latter part of the recommendation (relating to the invitation to return) carries with it no implication of doubt, but is inserted on the principle that ad interim action should not be asked for except when necessary. High testimonials have been received as to Miss Chester's work, and it would seem to be a distinct loss to the college if she should not return.

October 16th, it was voted to grant Miss Lydia Brown home allowance for six months. Miss Brown served three years, and as she expects to be married, will not return to Ginling.

An early vote on the recommendation regarding Miss Chester is requested.

Sinoerely.
Elizabeth R. Bender
Becretary

January 4, 1921

Miss Ruth Chester 415 West 115th St. New York City.

Dear Miss Chester:

At the meeting of our Ginling College Committee on December 13th it was "Voted to extend to Miss Chester, cordial invitation to return to the college at the expiration of her furlough."

This is, as you know, ratifying the action of the Board of Control, but it carries with it an earnest desire on the part of the Ginling College Committee for your return to the college. All that we have heard has been in highest commendation of the work which you did in your department, and we feel that it will mean much to the college for you to continue that service. Our understanding is that the work which you are doing here in New York is preparatory to further service in Cinling, but we wish you to have this formal request from our Committee for your return. It will make us happy to know that your decision has been definitely made to take up your work again in Nanking.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely yours,

ERB: D

January 12, 1921.

My dear Miss Chester:-

Your letter of January 8th has brought me genuine pleasure and I am sure it will be a gratification to all of the Ginling College Committee that you have definitely decided to return to Ginling. In saying this I am not unmindful of the sacrifice on your mother's part that is involved in this decision. I myself have been a missionary and have too left my mother to to the field. I do not think any mother was ever more devoted to her children than this mother of mine, nor that any made greater sacrifices. I am sure, however, that she would testify that there were joys and compensations that would not have come to her if she had withheld willing acquiescence in what we believed to be I do not mimimize your mother's sacrifice, the Father's purpose. but I am sure that her spirit of devotion to the cause of Christ will place her in harmony with your decision and that she will have joy in your service at the same time that she is conscious of the personal loss that comes to her. I am glad that she could spend some time with you in Ginling, for her intimate knowledge of the home and the work there will make you seem less far from her. Please remember me kindly to her and give her my understanding sympathy and my appreciation of her devotion as well as yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Bender

Kuling, April 24th, 1924 Dear Mrs. Thurston: I have kept Miss Chester in bed ever since she came to Kuling, and her temperature has now been practically normal for about ten days. I am giving her a plenty of novels to read, and am trying to persuade her to forget that there is such a word as "work." It remains to be seen how fast she will regain her strength, after she begins to get up and go around, but if she improves at the ordinary rate I don't see why she should not expect to take up work again in the fall. Of course she should go at it rather carefully at first. I consider that she is doing remarkably well now, and this makes me hope that by fall her strength will be about up to normal. With kind regards, Yours most sincerely, (Signed) W. H. Venable (Copy)

mail today. hum the Vergh 64 West 92 mg St. " Hedge November 23, 1924 My dear Mis Bender -. Thre. Thurston told me ow I riday about the possibility & securing Mr. Loos as fusiuere manager for girling and trecause of my enthuseasen for the idea she suggested that I write you and let you know how some & no on the faculty would feel about having a Mane on our staff.
Personally I have been wishing for a long true that we had all bast our married couple on our faculty, for a number of reasons.

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[2] I'm victured to believe that mere and women accomplish better results by working together than either one alone, and that it would be good for us to have both represented my strongest reason however, for dearing it is became I feel that the influence of a fine Christian home on our campus would be toemendeash valuable to our students. Many & them hour come from non Christian homes and have been through their Rehool years living in girls schools which there give there was fortunity to ree real house life. It must be very difficult for a girl who has never pelle a Christian hours and the kind I fellowship and cooperation that ruch a home should have, to know how in

137 later years to apply her own thristiais ideals to her home life. It has always seemed to me a serious lack in our - training & girlo in China that they had as little of fortunity to get the atmosphere I a truly Christiais hours. It would also to worth a great deal to have one woman on our staff with à larger héreire for personal and social contacts with the girls. there the rest of us can possibly Manage with our other work. That there is real desire for such contacts among the students was amply proved last year by the way they responded to Mrs. Woods mothering. Sometimes they feel freer to discuss personal problems with someone who is not a negular teacher. If This Moody is the kind of person I diagnic her to the she might easily become the largest influence in the whole college for a real and effecture Christian life. It is also worth voting that since This Butter has feen doing this work she has come to feel neare and more that it is a mais work and could be better and more easily done by a man. So, because Die been wishing for this lack in our Guling life to be filled it seems gente providerstil to have the loos appear just when there is such an emergency to be met. If he proves qualified and is willing to accept the position I hope I can be arranged. I am still uncertain when I am going to Saranae but think it may be in about tendays or so - I am pour not to have seen you before this, but you prove not to have seen you before this, but you

will understand that Jim doing very little there days. Iw anxious to get well as fait as possible and then when I get back here next a pring as I hope to do, I shall brable to get out and see people. It was very kind of you to write me a welcome letter and to take the trouble to telephour, for I know you are very busy. With heat wishes I am, I ery succeely yours Buth M. Chester

Please return

free

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SIXTY-FOUR WEST NINETY-SECOND STREET

NEW YORK

Dec. 9 1924.

The last time I saw my doe for Dashed hime a few questions as to the probable leverth of time I shall have to speed getting well and was much disappointed to find that he gives me no hope I going tack to Giving rept sew mer as I had tweed to be able to do. I have written this. I hurston about I and my informing wan promptly too, so that there need be not delay you promptly too, so that there need be not delay you promptly too, so that there need be not delay you promptly too, so that there need be not delay you promptly too so that there were to take my work. I think I wond to someone to take my work. I think I wond to someone to take my work of I him I course count be seened I that yet. I my anyion but I course count be seened I the work as little as possible and while I'm very eager to return

as soon as Dim able to I don't want to stand in the way of getting a good person now. I would rather resign there feel I was crippling the work any by holding on to a position I could fill and of at any time the committee should feel that it would be better for me to do so I hope they will not heritate to say so. The Doctor says I shall need to be at S crause till summer and there I can be here reptycan getting readjusted and teating my strength the
premis perfectly seems I shall get fully well and
is going to be strict enough to make certain of the which is, I course, the right way. I shall be going soon though I think not till after Christmas. Teis eure I don't need to try to tell you how much I regret having to be weless for so long a time, and leaving my work so in the lurel. I hope it can le saturfactoriely provided for in the interne.

Les saturfactoriely provided for in the interne.

Parth M. Chester

as soon as Din able to I don't want to stand in the way of getting a good person now. I would rather resign those feel I was crippling the work any by holding on to a position I coult fill and If at any time the committee should feel that it would be better for me to do as I hope they will not heartate to say so. The Doctor says I shall need to be at Saranoa till summer and there I can be here restigant getting readjusted and teating my strength. He seems perfectly seems I shall get fully well and is going to be strict enough to make certain of the which is, I course, the right way. I shall be going Row though Ithink not till after Christmas. Les eure I don't need to try to tell you how much I regret having to be welen for so long a time, and leaving my work so in the livel. I hope it can le saturfactoriely provided for in the interne.

Leve sincerely yours.

Auth M. Chester

December 10, 1924

Miss Ruth Chester 64 West 92nd St. New York City

Dear Miss Chester:

I have just received your letter of December 8th and am writing to say that I am exceedingly sorry that there is no prospect of your returning to China next summer. I am, however, not surprised, for I have felt sure that the doctor would want you to give ample time for recovery. While it is a great disappointment to you and to us. I feel that it is better to be careful than to risk your future. I am sure I voice the feeling of the Committee when I say that we all are eagerly desirous for your return. Your work in the Chemistry Department has been so splendid that it would be a blow to the College if you should not return. I appreciate the fine spirit which you show in saying that you would rather resign than have the work of the college crippled. Of course I cannot speak officially, but I do not think the Committee will feel that there is any reason why you should resign at this time. We expect to have our Annual Meeting in January, when the matter will be taken up.

I hope that even in this cold weather in New York you are gaining in strength and that the time spent at Saranac will prove to be very beneficial. I am sorry not to have seen you but I myself have not been well for some time. I have had a hospital experience of two weeks just recently. I shall certainly try to see you before you go to Saranac.

With love,

Sincerely yours,

0957

February 20, 1925

Miss Ruth chester Trudeau Sanitarium Trudeau Essex County, N. Y.

Dear Miss Chester:

held January 23rd, it was voted to approve the recommendation of the Board of Control that you be given full travel home and at least six months furlough allowance. The question of salary beyond that time was referred to the Finance Committee, which has not yet taken action. I understand that the salary in the minds of the members of the Board of Control was the \$900. per year basis, which is \$75. a month. I am asking Mr. Carter to send you three months salary. Will you kindly drop him a line and let him know to what date you were paid field salary so that he will know from what date your furlough allowance begins? You may already have sent him this information with your travel account. If so, it is not necessary to write him again.

I called up your family a few days ago and was delighted to hear of the encouraging progress which you are making. It makes us all very hopeful. Miss Lee. of our Mission in Japan, wrote me that she had seen you at the Sanitarium and I understand that your sister visited you. I hope that you are not finding the waiting period very hard.

Very sincerely yours,

FRED H. HEISE, M. D. RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

## TRUDEAU SANATORIUM SARANAC LAKE

N. Y.

SANATORIUM APPLICANTS ARE EXAMINED
IN THE MEDICAL BUILDING OF
THE SANATORIUM
MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
AT 2 P. M.

POST OFFICE, TRUDEAU, N. Y.

April 16, 1925.

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender, Secretary, Ginling College Committee, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Bender:

In answering your letter of April 13th would say that at the time of Miss Chester's admission to the Sanatorium we found that she had definite tuberculosis in the upper half of the right lung. She has not had any toxic symptoms since being here. At the time of admission her sputum contained tubercle bacilli but the last two examinations were negative.

We have advised Miss Chester to remain at the Sanatorium for a period of six months, which will expire the early part of August. She could probably spend another month or six weeks in a mountainous region somewhere so as not to return to the city before fall.

I do not think it would be very wise for Miss Chester to go back to China until at least a year has expired since her first becoming ill with tuberculosis, and then only if at that time examinations show her progress has been thoroughly satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

Resident Physician

FHH/RSC

New York City April 13, 1925

Miss Ruth Chester Trudeau Saranac Lake, N. Y.

Dear Miss Chester:

I think you know that the recommendation of the Board of Control was that you be given furlough salary for six months, and that the question of continuance of salary after that period was referred to the Ginling College Committee. It was on our Docket at the meeting in January but was among the things that there was not time to consider, and was referred to the Finance Committee. We have recently had a meeting and have taken action approving of continuing your salary for another six months, which will bring it to the end of the year.

at the meeting to which I have referred, I was requested to write you making inquiry as to your condition and probabilities for the future. I have been delighted to hear from your mother that you have improved greatly and am anticipating an encouraging report from you. I should like to know just how you feel physically, what your understanding is of your present condition and what probabilities are for the future. There is no great haste so I shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

We have been glad to have Mrs. Thurston with us in New York for it is a great help to have her within reach. She went home to spend Easter with her family but will probably come to the city again to finish the work that she is doing in trying to find candidates and secure money for the current expenses of the college.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

April 13, 1925

Dr. Heise Trudeau Saranac Lake, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Heise:

I have been requested by our Ginling College Committee to make inquiry of you concerning Miss Ruth Chester, who has been at Trudeau for a few months. We should like to know what her present condition is and her prospects for the future as far as normal health is concerned.

We should also be glad to have your judgment on the question of her return to China in the near future or at a latter date. Cinling College, as you know, is located at Manking. It becomes very hot in the summer but our workers are usually able to go to a cooler place for two or three months. I am under the impression that there is not very much snow or ice during the winter but that there is a chill in the air that makes it seem very cold. Our Cinling buildings are steam heated. The laboratory in which Miss Chester spends a great deal of her time is, I think, like the usual chemistry laboratory in this country. Under ordinary circumstances we expect a worker to remain in China for a period of five years. Summer vacations are practically three months long.

We shall greatly appreciate it if you will give us a frank statement of your opinion in regard to Miss Chester and the future.

very truly yours,

April 18, 1925

Dr. Fred H. Heise Trudeau Sanitarium Saranac Lake, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Heise:

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of April 16th regarding Miss Ruth Chaster, and to thank you for your report.

The are very grateful for the splendid recovery that Miss Chester has made while at Trudeau and appreciate your interest in her. We shall follow your suggestion and see that careful examinations are made before we plan to have her return to China.

Very truly yours,

Referred to Miss.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Bender. M. E. Ho., OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

May 11, 1925. May 11, 1925. MEMORANDUM Re: Miss Ruth Chester. FROM Dr. Dodd To Miss Margaret E. Hodge. Dear Miss Hodge: I should of course be glad to see Miss Ruth Chester when she comes down from Saranac, and try to guide her for a further careful general examination, with a view to a sound decision about her plans. Your letter will help

greatly to furnish a background for her problem.

Sincerely,

Eerosos

MD:J

Trudeau. N. y. May 25 1925. My Dear Miso Bender, The reply to your letter inquiring about my plans has been delayed longer than Dintended. I have waited, hoping to hear definitely about a possible part time position for next year, but I think I had better not want longer, as I can tell you as much as is really necessary at present: The reports from the doctor here indicate that I am improving and my own feelings certainly are very much improved. Dr. Heise pays theild le quite pafe for me to do some work next gear and my green tolan is to start in the fall on about haptime

our sure I shall be able & find something suitable. as to plans for the fathere & is & course too soon to make final ones. I hope and expect to be well enough to return to quiling a year from this summer but it depends I course on how things go in the next tens number. By Christmas timo Dohould think we could know fairly definitely what to count on. I am doing all I cam to speed my recovery + to make I sermancet for I'm very eager to get back to work again. Law Deaving here June 8th to go to dake Jionge where Thell afend the summer with my seater. I am looking forward to an ideal summer there and expect to continue the good work begun here.

a one sorry I didn't get around to writing you before my Mary salary cheek come, for I don't feel night to accept any more relary now. I feel that the Committee has been very generous with me and I down want to accept more those & peally need, experiency since I know how hand- pressed Juiling Jurances are. My expenses here have been very light and I shall have none through the summer, except incidental dersonal expenses. Du the fall & hope to begin earning a little and treeds, therefore, that I ame rofely provided for. I am going to return this May aslang to Mus. Carter, explaining to him, and asking that my allowance be stopped. Sin afraid die heen a pretty expenser proposition for Juling as it is and I'm anylous to take as little as posseble. I have a very comfortable margin to carry me over into the feel, so you need not feel that I am figuring too closely. a appreciated your Easter greeting very much this - I is hather late now to be senjing so. Those you are feeling much better than you did in the fall. Whenever I have any important information about my progress or plans I will lett you know so that you can serve what to court on in so far as is possible. Very suiceally yours. Ruth Mr. Chester.

July 9, 1925.

Miss Ruth Chester, 64 West 92nd St.. New York City.

My dear Miss Chester:

We had a meeting of the Ginling College Committee on June 19th and at that time your letter of May 25th was presented. The Committee greatly appreciates your thoughtfulness and generosity in relinquishing your salary beginning with the month of May. We consented to it on your assurance that you were comfortably provided for during the coming months. We hope that by the time the summer is over and you have had a good rest, that you will be in condition for work and that just the right place will be found. We want you to be assured of our interest both personally and as a committee.

I am sure that you are enjoying beautiful Lake George and I hope that it will bring you a full measure of health.

Very sincerely yours,

ERB

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Re min Chercer

DR. JAMES ALEXANDER MILLER DR. EDWARD PERCY EGLEE 379 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK

December 23, 1925.

Dr. E.N.Dodd, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Dear Dr. Dodd:

I saw Miss Chester on November 30. She had been working about four hours a day and felt very well. On physical examination I found absolutely no abnormal physical signs nor did the fluoroscopic x-ray examination reveal anything. It seems as though the slight lesion which she had had practically entirely cleared up.

I told her I thought she could go on full-time work. As far as going to China is concerned, I think that is just a question of the comparative kind of life she would lead. I believe if she wants to keep well she ou ht to be where her life can be controlled by a reasonable schedule and where she would not be under the temptation or necessity of doing a great many things that would be physically unwise for her. In other words, she ought to avoid all strain for the next two or three years and if she does so, ought to keep perfectly well. My experience is that in the missionary work this never occurs. The demand is so great that if a person feels well he goes ahead and does all he She tells me her position is a can and a little more too. little different from this and her time and activities could be as carefully regulated as they could be in this country. She also tells me very frankly that her mother is very strenuously opposed to her going back to China but that her own heart is set on it.

I did not give her any definite advice one way or another but simply explained to her the situation as I have outlined it above. I think she will have to make her own decision, or perhaps the College people will make it for her.

Very sincerely yours,

James Alex. Miller

## THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT E. M. DODD, M.D.

Dec. 28, 1925.

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender, Ginling College Office, 150 Fifth Ave., New York City.

My dear Miss Bender:

The enclosed report for Miss Chester came in from Dr. James Alexander Miller just before we closed for Christmas.

The question evidently turns on whether her work can be positively regulated and kept within bounds. Dr. Miller is evidently very dubious as to the possibility of this, though he finds her in decidedly improved condition, as you see.

I should be glad to talk this over, if you wish. At present I do not feel like adding to Dr. Miller's advice in any positive way one way or the other.

Sincerely.

Empode

EMD: J

Enc.

1-3-26 [1]

## SIXTY-FOUR WEST NINETY-SECOND STREET

NEW YORK

Dec. 29th 1925.

By dear Mire Gender,

Du. Hoold have sent me a copy I his note to you we regard to my return to Juding and of feel that I might
be helpful I I stoke the case to you, as I see I. all
agree that my prospects of decking well are very good,
providing I live a well-regulated life and restrain
myself from carrying too much work on responsebility.
As I understand it our miller expects me to be fully
equally to round full-time work and only wishes
we to avoid excessive atrain. The question them is
what that is possible at Juding. I am ready to
admit that it will not always be lase, but knowmy myself I know that the pame templetion well
were in any work I take up that is it all neteresting
by worth, while. But I am well aware that is

"up to me" to live and work moderately and din con= fident I my ability to do so. at quiling I should have the help and understanding mrs. Thurstow and the other members of the faculty who know I can't afford to take chances, and Durs. Thurston has assured us that she believes it perfectly jossi-We to arrange my work so that there will not be any strain on me. I should feel very differently I it were not for the fact that a carried a pretty Theavy look for 5 years without any physical trouble and I was only the tremendoes task ? moving and all that preceded and followed I that troke me down to such emergency is belief to occur again and if it should I should simply have to "shirk some I what would otherwise The only Joseible question that I feel is whether in taking the necessary precontions I would become

## SIXTY-FOUR WEST NINETY-SECOND STREET

of too little value to the college to justify my vaticus. Dut the chief keetramet will be in the next two on the years and I think my experience at girling and understanding of the problems ought to balance whatever loss is recessary - that is even with the recessary care I ought to be able to contribute as much as a wholly new person who dished have to take care & herself. Please don't think I am meaning to bring any presoure to beau on you on the Committee - It is for you to decide, and I am praying and theheving that god well ginds you to the night decision - and I ahall accept it as reach However I am very eager to return and wanted to have you know how I feel about it - If Day tack Dohall go with the feeling that I own I to quilling as well as to my self to

heep well and I can promise to be as conscient twies about beging well as I have been about getting well. If you feel that I would help any to talk with me about any ghave I the matter, I could arrange to come down to your office, almost any time. While I am worthing hearly full time now I am free to adjust my trouse I work more or less and could get away I think. The little news that Die had from Juling this fall has been good and it has been a great joy to me to know things are going rowell With hearty good wishes for the New years, Dans Jeng sencergly yours. Ruth M. Chester: