

135 2726

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Giving
Corres.
Chester, Ruth 1941-1944

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1181

Ginling College
Feb. 16, 1941.

*See answer
address jointly
to Miss Priest &
Miss Chester
14/3/41*

Dear Eva:

I am sorry I did not have time to write you last week, immediately after the decision was finally made cancelling Dr. Wu's trip, but I have been "busy to death" with schedule and other details of getting a new term started and simply could not do it before. Even now it will have to be brief, for the time at my disposal is very short and I don't want to delay it longer.

I know how very disappointed you will all be to find that she is not coming and it will probably be hard for you to see all the reasons which led finally, and regretfully to that decision. It is one of the difficulties of any such problem that you at that end can never fully understand our point of view nor can we ever fully appreciate yours. But we have done our best to see it from all sides and spent much time and thought and prayer on the matter.

For some time Dr. Wu herself and all the rest of us who knew of plan expected that she would go and we were planning things with that in view. But as the uncertainties of the whole war situation grew greater and more and more unknowns entered into the question we became less sure that it was really wise. I am sure that all these uncertainties are much more real and imminent to us here than they are to you, and in particular we know that even now travel is difficult and dangerous. There have been several planes lost, and others which had to make forced landings, between here and Hongkong, within the last few weeks, and I just learned today of another that has been missing for 3 or 4 days. That means that even between here and Hongkong there is more danger than there was, and several of the best Chinese pilots have been killed and one or two Americans and I have heard that others are planning to resign. It seems to me quite possible that plane service may be discontinued, or reduced to such infrequency and danger that it is not a practicable means of travel, and that might mean that on her return she would have to come overland from Rangoon which is a long, tiresome and also dangerous trip. I heard the other day that at one of the rivers whose bridge is out, there were 300 trucks waiting to be ferried across and they can get about six over in one day! These and many other considerations made us have to face the fact that she might not be able to get back in May or early June as planned. It is too early now to settle questions in regard to next year's faculty, and if she should be away longer than through May it would be too late. There are many factors in the present war situation which make for restlessness and it is not easy to maintain a stable, strong faculty. We all felt that it is very important that she be here towards the end of the present term, and we did not see how we could look forward to that at all confidently if she could go on this trip. In fact I even felt that the mere fact of her going might affect the situation adversely in certain cases, even though she got back on time. It is doubtless disappointing to you to realize the urgency of this and several other problems which make us feel we can not wisely spare her for more than a short time, but facts are facts, and wars do lots of other things to people's psychology besides the obvious ones. From a distance it is easy for you to idealize our situation and not be fully aware of the many very difficult problems we have to work out, but I am sure there were a number of others besides myself who heaved a great sigh of relief when the decision was finally made. She made it herself, and we would not have held her here if she had finally decided to go, but we could not rightly conceal from her some of our serious misgivings.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

FEB 16 1941 [27]

Dr. Wu herself is very tired, and is such a poor traveller that it seemed probable that the trip might do more harm than good. She gets airsick even between here and Chungking which is only about an hours trip and she dreaded the clipper trip very much. This was not one of the main factors in the decision, but one that some of us could not entirely overlook.

So in view of such problems as faculty housing, student housing and the number to admit, faculty salaries and allowances and living costs, the continuation of the present staff, and securing of several important additions for next year, the spirit and morale of the whole group, not to mention all sorts of possibilities of emergency situations and decisions both here and in Nanking, which cannot be foreseen or planned for ahead, it has seemed to us all that the future welfare of the college would be better served by keeping her here, than by letting her go at this time, for an uncertain period.

Another factor of some importance from this end is that there would certainly be a good bit of criticism, both within and outside of Ginling, of her leaving at this time. Only a few of us can realize the value of her presence in America at such a time, and to others it looks a good deal like a captain deserting his ship in the midst of a big storm. That alone would not be sufficient to keep her from going if it were clearly the right thing to do, but when it seemed very doubtful anyhow, we felt it would be difficult to justify her going.

I don't feel as if I have presented it all very adequately and you may still feel that these considerations are not weighty enough to warrant the decision, but in the end the best we can ask is that you realize that it was most earnestly and carefully considered, with the balance of opinion definitely in favor of her going for a long time, and that we have done what we honestly feel is best for Ginling. If we are mistaken we are sorry, but we feel the possible losses of her going might greatly outweigh the values, if she were delayed in return, and no one can tell how that would be.

I must run for a dinner engagement, and there will be no more time for some days, so this must be mailed tomorrow. I hope you will understand and help to explain to others who will be disappointed.

I'm using a borrowed typewriter which accounts for some of the errors, though not for all of them, I must admit. Haste does not improve my technique!

With all good wishes, sincerely,

Ruth M. Chester

1183

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

NOTE: The following is a reading of the talk given by Dr. Ruth Chester, professor of chemistry and associate dean of Ginling College in Chengtu, Szechuan, China. Ginling College is the only college for women in China. Her talk is entitled:

"WOMEN IN WAR TIME CHINA"

I am to tell you this morning something about the women of China and how the war has affected them. I wonder what you think of when you hear the phrase, the "Women of China." Perhaps of bound feet and arranged marriages where the bride has nothing to look forward to except the hope that her husband and her mother-in-law may not be too exacting and that her behavior may be acceptable to them. Those days have passed but in order to understand the amazing change which has occurred it is well to remember that even in the old days there was the mother-in-law and the grandmother and they were powers to be reckoned with and often administered a complicated family over which they presided with great skill.

The educated modern women have a place in Chinese public life today, unequalled, so far as I know, in any other country. Both men and women in China have accepted the principle of equality between the sexes more thoroughly and more enthusiastically than was done in the west; but far more significant are the many evidences that it is not merely a theoretical principle. Both provincial and national political councils have women members. The national organization known as the People's Political Council which meets about twice a year to discuss political problems and make recommendations to the government has fifteen women members out of two hundred and forty. Nearly half of these women have received their education in Christian schools and colleges and more than half of them have studied in America or Europe. Six of them are educational administrators, two more are teachers, one a lawyer, one is engaged in economic research, one in social welfare work and four are in political life. At the last meeting of this council one of these women was elected as one of the five presiding officers and was later especially commended in the press for her able chairmanship. This same woman has also been chairman of the National Christian Council of China for several years and was leader of the whole Chinese delegation to the International Missionary Conference in Madras two and a half years ago and took her turn in presiding over that international gathering, the only woman to do so.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 30 1941

Recently the presidents of the four Christian colleges and universities which are now cooperating here in Chengtu, three of them men, invited a prominent woman educator to be the speaker for the joint baccalaureate service this June. In her reply she commented on their choice of a woman and mentioned by way of contrast that when she first went to school she had to ride back and forth in a closed sedan to avoid being seen on the street.

Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, internationally known and brilliant wife of the Generalissimo, stands shoulder to shoulder with him in carrying the heavy responsibilities which now rest on the leader of the country and is the organizer and coordinator of many different relief and reconstruction projects for women and children. But such women as I have been talking about are, of course, only a very small fraction of China's women. What about the others and how has the war affected them? It is as true in China as it is the world over that women and children are in many ways the worst sufferers from the ravages of war. In the occupied areas when the Japanese armies came into a city, young men were killed by the thousands while some more fortunate ones managed to make their escape into the interior. In either case women were left without any male relatives and often without homes or household goods or money. Efforts to establish them in some sort of remunerative work failed to touch the greater part of the need, for Japanese occupation has almost completely destroyed economic life and there is no outlet for anything these women might produce. Thousands of them and their little children can be kept alive only by direct relief until the time when something more constructive and more permanent can be done. Such relief has been given continuously for more than three years in many of these districts, but the funds available have not at any time been at all adequate to meet the needs. As time goes on and the first shock and horror of their suffering passes it is easy to forget their continuing need and to feel satisfied that we have helped in the past, ^{but} ~~that~~ the pangs of hunger are no less sharp when they have been experienced for several years. On the contrary the effects of such deprivation on the health of the children especially becomes increasingly tragic as the years go by.

1185

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 30 1941

WOMEN IN WARTIME CHINA - 3

Other women, more fortunate probably in the long run, gathered their children and perhaps a few small possessions and started on the long trek to relative safety, though Japanese bombs have followed many of them to this day. In many cases, the journey was made in several stages and took months to complete. Children suffered from exposure and hunger and distracted mothers could only helplessly watch their agony until death brought release. I remember hearing of one woman who started out with five children, but only one was left when she finally reached her destination and there were doubtless many others like her.

Recently I heard the story of a young girl of eighteen who came from a fairly well-to-do merchant family in Hankow. She walked from Hankow to Chungking, more than six hundred miles of very difficult country with about a hundred schoolmates, and the school was reopened in a small place outside Chungking. After a few months, the long hard journey and the months of undernourishment had made her ill and no medical help was available there, so the school principal gave her a few dollars and she set out for Chengtu, again on foot as she had not enough money for any other means of travel. When she reached the hospital here, examination revealed a tubercular foot which would require some months of treatment. Various people who learned of her story contributed some money and after two months in the hospital and four more of rest, she was cured and is now back in school. But for every one who is thus helped there are hundreds left stranded, many of them young people who are the promise of the future. The total amount contributed to this girl was only about fifteen U.S. dollars. Prices have risen enormously and several times that would be needed now, but it is still true that small gifts in American money are greatly multiplied in usefulness here.

What are the women of China doing to meet such needs as these? Many of them are today giving their services in different types of work for their less fortunate sisters. They are constantly handicapped by the lack of trained women to staff adequately the work they are trying to do. Educational work therefore claims some of the best talent in order that an increasing number of women with high ideals may be made

1186

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 30 1941

ready to help. That such work is both needed and appreciated is evident by the continual requests received by such a college as Ginling to recommend graduates for positions of all sorts: teachers, Y.W.C.A. secretaries, supervisors and workers in activities under the women's committee of the New Life Movement and women workers under church, educational or government auspices, requests far in excess of the number of students graduating. This is a clear indication of the need to strengthen and enlarge our Christian colleges and universities that they more nearly meet the demands placed on them by a rapidly developing nation.

Most of the organizations which are doing work for women are affiliated with the women's advisory committee of the New Life Movement which tries to correlate these different efforts and itself to undertake new work in fields not already covered. Many of the activities thus carried on are similar to those found in any country at war; first aid units, especially for the care of civilian air raid casualties; the preparation of hospital supplies; garments and comforts for soldiers; collecting of money for special relief projects and for contributions to government war funds are typical examples. In addition, China faces need for propaganda and educational work among her millions of uneducated people that they may understand what their nation is suffering and be prepared to bear their share of the burden loyally. Girl scouts, factory girls and students as well as more mature women have taken a part in such work.

The enormous refugee problem was appalling in the early months of the war and is still a very serious one. No one really knows how many millions of people fled from their homes during the first two years of the war, moving farther and farther westward as the Japanese army advanced. Two committees were formed under the New Life Movement; one on the improving of living conditions and one on the care of child refugees. These committees in some cases arranged for the evacuation of large groups such as one of four thousand women factory workers from Hankow and placed them in newly opened factories in the interior. Severe bombings in various cities, especially Chungking, have provided additional refugee problems. Probably the most important single piece of work done by any part of this women's organization is that which provides the

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 30 1941

WOMEN IN WARTIME CHINA - 5

physical care and training for more than twenty thousand refugee children, many of them war orphans, other separated, at least temporarily, from their families.

Many people feared that the war would put an end to the fine programs for mass education, improvement of public health, rural community service, industrial organization, agricultural improvement and the like which were just getting a good start. This has, of course, been true to some extent and completely true in occupied areas. On the other hand, wholly new projects of this nature have been started in interior regions where little or nothing has been done before, and this emphasis on long range constructive programs for the upbuilding of the morale of the country and its economic resources is very significant and encouraging. The rural service committee of the New Life Movement, for example, has trained groups of high school girls who go out in teams into rural centers under the leadership of college women. They live in the community, hold classes in hygiene, elementary civics and reading, and advise and help the women in many ways. They country people respond eagerly. Frequently groups of students spend their vacations in some form of rural service. Nearly eighteen thousand country people visited a three-day exhibit and program put on last winter by college girls from Chengtu assisting the regular staff of a rural service station supported by the college.

In closing I should like to tell you about one of my former students who was here recently on a visit. She majored in Physical education and graduated ten years ago. After her graduation she taught for six years in a physical training school in North China. When the war broke out, she lost all her possessions, including a manuscript of physical education material which she had been working on. She got away safely, however, and returned to her native place in central China. She was distressed to find that there was no school there and decided to start one. She had no money, but she began hunting for teachers and pupils and a building and soon had a school going. It grew rapidly and seemed to be filling a real need. Seeing her administrative ability, the principal authorities asked her to be vice director of the women's

1188

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 30 1941

WOMEN IN WARTIME CHINA - 6

bureau of the provincial government. She refused because she did not want to leave the school.

A few months later the request was repeated more urgently and she agreed to try it if they would make provision for the school. The provincial government then took over the school, appropriated money for it and it is going on nicely. Now she gives her time to the women's work in the province. She came to Chungking for a national conference of rural workers and also to try to find at least two more college graduates to join in the work she is doing. She sought them in Chungking and here in Chengtu and finally had to return with no one to add to her staff. So I would like to leave with you three pictures. First: the picture of the great suffering and need of the women of China, second: the picture of the devoted and creative work her educated women are already doing, and third: the picture of these same women hindered and hampered from realizing more fully their vision for their sisters by lack of money and lack of fellow workers. By your gifts to the colleges and to all forms of relief you cannot only render much needed material assistance, but you can also encourage and strengthen these brave women to continue their great tasks.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1189

Ginling College
Chengtu, China.
Nov, 1, 1942.

Dear Friends:

It is certainly time I should break the two years silence and get some sort of letter off to you all. Last year I did not get it done before Christmas and planned to write during the winter vacation instead, but when that time came mail did not seem to be going through at all and I had no heart to write letters that might never get anywhere. Now at least part of the mail goes through in quite good time, so it seems worth trying again. My last letters from my sister have taken 5 or 6 weeks - airmail all the way, so that is not too bad considering the difficulties. Even ordinary 5 cent letters do come through in 3 or 4 months time, so if you don't feel like indulging in the extravagance of airmail you can still write to me. Apparently almost everyone has assumed that its no use to write, so please reform! I received Christmas cards and notes from quite a few of you which arrived scattered along from March or April until August, but I think probably most of them got here eventually, and were fully appreciated, even though out of season.

In the main it would be true to say that our life and our work here has continued without any great change since the last time I wrote you, although there are some minor differences and developments. One of the pleasant ones is that we have been entirely free from airraids for well over a year, as they have been too busy elsewhere to bother with this relatively unimportant objective. Two weeks ago we were surprised by a preliminary warning, one moonlight evening, the first for over a year, but nothing further happened and later we learned that it had been a false alarm.

Another change is the increased number of students. All the colleges here are full to bursting, and we share this situation which is both a problem and an encouragement. We rather miscalculated at Ginling and various factors worked differently from usual, so we found ourselves with about 30 more students than we had planned to take as a maximum. That caused a good deal of scurrying about and buying of extra double-decker beds, and moving of living room and dining room out into hallways etc. so as to make those rooms into bedrooms for students. At last we have got them all tucked in, except those who prefer to live at home which is a very small number. It leaves us now with nearly half of our students new ones (144 to 159), which is too large a proportion of new ones. None of us would have wanted to plan it that way, but now they are here we shall have to do the best we can with them and try to assimilate them as rapidly as possible. It is considerably larger an enrollment than we have ever had before, even in Nanking, but more and more students are leaving other more disturbed areas to come to this relatively safe and comfortable place. We have arranged for the use of an additional section of the large new hospital building which is not yet occupied by hospital, so we now have a second student dormitory there along with rooms for most of our women faculty. I am living in that group this year. There are about 25 of us faculty people living here, both Chinese and western, and I am enjoying the larger group after a year in a very small household. I am eating Chinese food entirely, but I do supplement it some in my own way with some of the things I miss most.

One of our present misfortunes is the enormous increase in costs. So far not many of our group have really suffered physically, though there is some undernutrition, and T.B. is much too prevalent, but the more universal effect is on our thoughts. We seem forced to think of prices and salaries and other related problems such a large part of the time, and people become so calculating and what would be greedy if it weren't caused by fear of real inadequacy. The steady increase month after month is the thing that worries people more

NOV 1 1942

(27)

than the present situation, I think. Also among students it creates a spirit of asking for all sorts of help and expecting someone to provide it. This is of course not true of all, and one of the good by-products is that many students are now willing to work both in vacations and during school time to earn part of their expenses, when formerly there were very few who would do that. The high price that certain special things like electric bulbs bring, makes a far greater temptation to steal, and it becomes increasingly difficult to hang onto things that you can't watch every minute. Problems like these are, I suppose, the inevitable accompaniment of years of war, but they do make the job of training students who will go out with high ideals, of Christian service much more difficult.

I have a very attractive room, the largest and most conveniently arranged that I have ever had. So you see I am personally not suffering from the overcrowded conditions. We are living in rooms planned for the private patient ward of the new hospital, so they are large nice rooms. Many of the younger teachers are living two, or even three, in a room in the largest rooms, but the older ones are still able to have single rooms, which we do greatly prefer. I happen this year to have been assigned the nicest one of the single rooms, so I am in luxury. I had a wee tiny room last year, so I suppose this is compensation. It has also a very nice view over the campus, and a southeast exposure so when the sun chooses to shine, which it does occasionally, I get it all morning. The only flaw in that is that I am practically never in my room between 8 and 12:30!

I am keeping well in spite of pretty heavy work. I find that for deans work 300 students do make more work than 200, and I am still "acting dean of studies". This is the fourth year I have had that title, and there seems still to be no one in sight to be the permanent dean. I enjoy some parts of the work very much, but there are some places where a Chinese is much needed and where I feel as if I am working in a fog. Also I find it difficult to divide myself between that work and teaching. I should prefer either alone to the combination of the two. I have too much to do them both well and have constantly to choose between them when there is not time for both. However, I do like both and would be entirely satisfied if I could either have a little less of them, or a little more time in the day. I am still a good deal of a sleepy head and cannot solve the time problem by lengthening the day at the expense of the night, the way some people seem able to do.

Last summer I had a delightful month in the mountains not far from here. It was a lazy peaceful sort of holiday that doesn't make very exciting material to write about, but was just the kind I was needing. The previous summer I stayed here all but about ten days when I made a short trip to a temple in the mountains. Chengtu is absolutely flat, so it is very refreshing to get into the mountains, and last summer we could see "Three sisters" with snow on their shoulders whenever the weather was clear.

I have heard indirectly that styles have changed considerably. We shall all seem like relics of a forgotten past when we emerge from this isolation. We do not even get fashion magazines - or any others which is far more important - so we are all perfectly happy and feel just exactly as stylish as we did two, three, four or more years ago. New clothes are exceedingly rare, but if anyone does get a new one, she copies it after a favorite old one. My newest one was copied from one bought in 1939! We mostly wear no hats, and I wore ankle socks until about a week ago. All of this is a desirable by-product from my point of view, except that something new now and then is rather fun. The lack of books and magazines is much more serious, and there is now even a great shortage of Chinese books. With more and more students and fewer and fewer books, and laboratory expenses almost prohibitive, it is impossible to do all our work as

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1191

NOV 1 1942

[3]

should like to. The fees students pay for chemistry laboratory work do not even cover the cost of the distilled water they use! In fact the cost of pumping the ordinary water from the well just about takes all our fees! I am rejoicing right now in the arrival of several boxes of chemicals and apparatus from America, ordered two and a half years ago. It just barely missed getting bombed or captured in Rangoon and Lashio and Bao-shan, but it did get through and has at last arrived. That makes the immediate future from the chemical point of view look a little more possible.

This seems a very dull letter, but it will at least bring you all my greetings, and I hope it may produce some responses in the months to come. It is never easy to write appropriate Christmas messages so long ahead, and in these war years it is still more difficult. And yet these times surely demonstrate more clearly than ever before how desperately we need to take the deeper meaning of Christmas into our hearts, and help to spread it to others. May we all live and work for the time when He shall truly reign in our social and national life as well as in more personal relationships. And may we all have some share in real Christmas joy, even in the midst of suffering and tragedy.

With sincere good wishes to you all,

Ruth M. Chester

Dear Cornelia: Is it still possible to get a letter like this mimeographed and sent out from the N.Y. office? Somewhere in the files there is a mailing list for my personal letters which will do with a few additions and omissions: Add Reeves, Thurston, Whitmer, Tappert etc, and all the Nanking friends that are now at home that I knew at all well. You will know pretty well and if in doubt put them in. Bertha Hensman of W.C.U.U. also. Most of the Chinese names should come off as they are back here and you will know those which are still there. Also remove Stimson, Dedham, Mass.; Rice, Manset Me.; Giorni, Gasson. I have lost my 3rd sheet and my sisters name must be on that. Her address should be changed to Mrs. W. B. Stimson, Route 2, Columbia, S.C. Change Mrs. Honor Ganoë to that same address; and F.B. Stimson to 1900 Rittenhouse Sq. Phila. care of A.K. Stimson, instead of 3914 Locust. If there are any Ginling girls there whose names have not already been added, please put them on. I hope this is not too complicated and I do appreciate it very much. Please charge costs to me personally.... No room for personal messages, but it is good to know you are in the office. I've heard that Plumer has been moved to Shanghai but am not sure it is true. I don't know whether you know more or less than we do about him. It sounded as if he was going to be sent home, which I imagine would be very good news to you. My love to you, *Ruth*.

1192

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

Sent (12/23/42) to: Miss Chester's list (160)

Ginling College
Chengtou, China
November 1, 1942

[1]

Dear Friends:

It is certainly time I should break the two years' silence and get some sort of letter off to you all. Last year I did not get it done before Christmas and planned to write during the winter vacation instead, but when that time came, mail did not seem to be going through at all and I had no heart to write letters that might never get anywhere. Now at least part of the mail goes through in quite good time, so it seems worth trying again. My last letters from my sister have taken 5 or 6 weeks - airmail all the way, so that is not too bad considering the difficulties. Even ordinary 5-cent letters do come through in 3 or 4 months' time, so if you don't feel like indulging in the extravagance of airmail you can still write to me. Apparently almost everyone has assumed that it's no use to write, so please reform! I received Christmas cards and notes from quite a few of you which arrived scattered along from March or April until August, but I think probably most of them got here eventually, and were fully appreciated, even though out of season.

In the main it would be true to say that our life and our work here has continued without any great change since the last time I wrote you, although there are some minor differences and developments. One of the pleasant ones is that we have been entirely free from air raids for well over a year, as they have been too busy elsewhere to bother with this relatively unimportant objective. Two weeks ago we were surprised by a preliminary warning, one moonlight evening, the first for over a year, but nothing further happened and later we learned that it had been a false alarm.

Another change is the increased number of students. All the colleges here are full to bursting, and we share this situation which is both a problem and an encouragement. We rather miscalculated at Ginling and various factors worked differently from usual, so we found ourselves with about 30 more students than we had planned to take as a maximum. That caused a good deal of scurrying about and buying of extra double-decker beds, and moving of living room and dining room out into hallways, etc., so as to make those rooms into bedrooms for students. At last we have got them all tucked in, except those who prefer to live at home, which is a very small number. It leaves us now with nearly half of our students new ones (144 to 159), which is too large a proportion of new ones. None of us would have wanted to plan it that way, but now they are here we shall have to do the best we can with them and try to assimilate them as rapidly as possible. It is considerably larger an enrollment than we have ever had before, even in Nanking, but more and more students are leaving other more disturbed areas to come to this relatively safe and comfortable place. We have arranged for the use of an additional section of the large new hospital building which is not yet occupied by the hospital, so we now have a second student dormitory there along with rooms for most of our women faculty. I am living in that group this year. There are about 25 of us faculty people living here, both Chinese and western, and I am enjoying the larger group after a year in a very small household. I am eating Chinese food entirely but I do supplement it some, in my own way, with some of the things I miss most.

One of our present misfortunes is the enormous increase in costs. So far not many of our group have really suffered physically, though there is some undernutrition, and T.B. is much too prevalent, but the more universal effect is on our thoughts. We seem forced to think of prices and salaries and other related problems such a large part of the time, and people become so calculating and what would be greedy if it weren't caused by fear of real inadequacy. The steady increase month after month is the thing that worries people more than the present situation, I think. Also among the students it creates a spirit of asking for all sorts of help and expecting someone to provide it. This is of course not true of all, and one of the good by-products is that many students are now willing to work both in vacations and during school time to earn part of their expenses, when formerly there were very few who would do that. The high price that certain special things like electric bulbs bring, makes a far greater temptation to steal, and it becomes increasingly difficult to hang onto things

1193

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

NOV 1 1942

that you can't watch every minute. Problems like these are, I suppose, the inevitable accompaniment of years of war, but they do make the job of training students who will go out with high ideals of Christian service much more difficult.

I have a very attractive room, the largest and most conveniently arranged that I have ever had. So you see I am personally not suffering from the overcrowded conditions. We are living in rooms planned for the private patient ward of the new hospital so they are large nice rooms. Many of the younger teachers are living two, or even three, in a room in the largest rooms, but the older ones are still able to have single rooms, which we do greatly prefer. I happen this year to have been assigned the nicest one of the single rooms, so I am in luxury. I had a wee tiny room last year, so I suppose this is compensation. It has also a very nice view over the campus, and a southeast exposure, so when the sun chooses to shine, which it does occasionally, I get it all morning. The only flaw in that is that I am practically never in my room between 8 and 12:30!

I am keeping well in spite of pretty heavy work. I find that for dean's work, 300 students do make more work than 200, and I am still "acting dean of studies". This is the fourth year I have had that title, and there seems still to be no one in sight to be the permanent dean. I enjoy some parts of the work very much, but there are some places where a Chinese is much needed and where I feel as if I am working in a fog. Also I find it difficult to divide myself between that work and teaching. I should prefer either alone to the combination of the two. I have too much to do them both well and have constantly to choose between them when there is not time for both. However, I do like both and would be entirely satisfied if I could either have a little less of them, or a little more time in the day. I am still a good deal of a sleepy head and cannot solve the time problem by lengthening the day at the expense of the night, the way some people seem able to do.

Last summer I had a delightful month in the mountains not far from here. It was a lazy peaceful sort of holiday that doesn't make very exciting material to write about, but was just the kind I was needing. The previous summer I stayed here all but about ten days when I made a short trip to a temple in the mountains. Chengtu is absolutely flat, so it is very refreshing to get into the mountains, and last summer we could see "Three Sisters" with snow on their shoulders whenever the weather was clear.

I have heard indirectly that styles have changed considerably. We shall all seem like relics of a forgotten past when we emerge from this isolation. We do not even get fashion magazines - or any others, which is far more important - so we are all perfectly happy and feel just exactly as stylish as we did two, three, four or more years ago. New clothes are exceedingly rare, but if anyone does get a new one, she copies it after a favorite old one. My newest one was copied from one bought in 1939. We mostly wear no hats, and I wore ankle socks until about a week ago. All of this is a desirable by-product from my point of view, except that something new now and then is rather fun. The lack of books and magazines is much more serious, and there is now even a great shortage of Chinese books. With more and more students and fewer and fewer books, and laboratory expenses almost prohibitive, it is impossible to do all our work as we should like to. The fees students pay for chemistry laboratory work do not even cover the cost of the distilled water they use! In fact the cost of pumping the ordinary water from the well just about takes all our fees! I am rejoicing right now in the arrival of several boxes of chemicals and apparatus from America, ordered two and a half years ago. It just barely missed getting bombed or captured in Rangoon and Lashio and Bao-shan, but it did get through and has at last arrived. That makes the immediate future from the chemical point of view look a little more possible.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1194

NOV 1 1942

-3-

This seems a very dull letter, but it will at least bring you all my greetings, and I hope it may produce some responses in the months to come. It is never easy to write appropriate Christmas messages so long ahead, and in these war years it is still more difficult. And yet these times surely demonstrate more clearly than ever before how desperately we need to take the deeper meaning of Christmas into our hearts, and help to spread it to others. May we all live and work for the time when He shall truly reign in our social and national life as well as in more personal relationships. And may we all have some share in real Christmas joy, even in the midst of suffering and tragedy.

With sincere good wishes to you all,

Ruth M. Chester

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1195

CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
FULL RATE	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	COD RATE
NIGHT LETTER	URGENT
SERIAL	DEFERRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	NIGHT LETTER
	SHIP RADIO

Mackay Radio



Postal Telegraph

CHARGE ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CASH NO.	TOLLS
CHECK	
TIME FILED	(STANDARD TIME)

Send the following message "VIA MACKAY RADIO," subject to the rules, regulations and rates of Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities.

DOMESTIC SERVICES ~~15~~ WORDS FOR THE ~~10~~ US DOLLARS PER MESSAGE OF 10

RUTH CHESTER
CHENG TU (CHINA)

CONSTANCE ARRIVED SAFE WELL SENDS BEST WISHES TO ALL AND MAY MEETINGS IN WHICH WE JOIN.

CARL EVANS

file

Sender's Name and Address (Not to be transmitted) **ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City**

TO SEND A MESSAGE TELEPHONE YOUR LOCAL MACKAY RADIO OFFICE OR ANY POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

NEW YORKWHITEHALL 4-6780	DETROITRANDOLPH 1555	SAN FRANCISCO.....GARFIELD 1303	SEATTLE.....ELLIOT 4212
CHICAGOHARRISON 1515	WASHINGTONNATIONAL 1246	OAKLANDTEMPLEBAR 3360	TACOMA.....MAIN 6101
BOSTONCAPITOL 1234	BALTIMORE.....PLAZA 7210	LOS ANGELES.....TRINITY 0731	PORTLAND.....ATWATER 6484
PHILADELPHIA{ LOCUST 3740	CAMDEN.....CAMDEN 3296	SAN DIEGO.....MAIN 4177	NEW ORLEANS.....RAYMOND 9237
	BROAD 5221		

FOR MESSENGER TELEPHONE POSTAL TELEGRAPH OR RING POSTAL CALL BOX

1196

1
3
5
7
2
2
6

APR 7 1943

Ginling College,
April 7, 1943.

Dear Yi-fang:

It is very hard to start writing you when we don't know where you are, but of course, you will finish your journey much quicker than the letter can, so I realize it is high time to start one, which will still not reach you probably until two or three weeks after your arrival in America. We hear by way of the Governor that you left India quite promptly and we hope that is true and that you are by this time well on your way. First, I will give you a few items of news:

The new kitchen buildings are nearly finished and as they were already started when your letter came from Chungking and we felt we could manage the servant problem with only one additional gien for our use, that is the way it is being done. The partition in the Rotunda is also being done and will be finished in a day or two, so these long discussed items are soon to be crossed off the list.

The Rural Workers made their visits to several centers and made a very careful tabulation of the advantages and disadvantages of each center to the Social Service Committee, and a few days ago they agreed with the Rural Group themselves that Djung Ho Chang is the most satisfactory center in which to establish ourselves. We are in the process of some negotiations with the Canadian Mission to see in what way we can cooperate with them, and I hope we can also arrange some form of cooperation with the Henking Seminary Group. This is all so much in the preliminary stage that I cannot give you any definite report, but the three seem to be working together very well and to be enthusiastic in their planning and everything is working along in a very encouraging way, except for the one big problem, which is, of course, the financial one. We haven't really come to grips with that yet. Although we have enough to carry us through this spring and probably through the summer activities, how we can manage for next year is, of course, the big question. I am going to see whether there is any possibility of some financial help from the Seminary group if we work out some plan of cooperation with them. Ya-na has now gone to Gien Yang for a couple of weeks work on materials with Miss Nighbaugh, and Yu-dji is going out to the ~~Djung Ho Chang~~ again for two or three days this weekend to help in a mission training school project of some sort.

The plans for the urban center are causing much more difficulty. We have spent hours and hours trying to find a piece of ground that we can use and we seem still to be just about as far from settling the problem as we were at the beginning. We manage all of the time to keep one or two possibilities still open, so there always seems to be a little hope, but as we pursue each one, it becomes hopeless, and another faint prospect takes its place. One bright spot in this picture is that a friend of Gwei Hwei-quin, who is a Chinese musician, has offered to give part of the proceeds of a concert for our Social Service Work. We have not settled all the details yet, do not know whether it will be one night or two, nor just what part of the money we shall have. If we are willing to give it under our auspices, it can be for two nights and we can have the whole of the proceeds; and that is a temptation, although we hesitate very much to do it because we do not want to appear before the public too frequently trying to raise money for Ginling projects. At any rate, we will have a little money coming in this way. One other problem in this general field, is the relationship between Phoebe Hoh and Wang Ying-an. I do not mean any difficulties between them, but difficulty in separating their work so that each one understands what her responsibility is. Phoebe has become sensitive on the subject and is being a little difficult, but I hope we can get things down in black and white in such a way that they can each do what they are supposed to do without any further difficulties. If only we could get the land, so we could get the building started, then there would be enough for Wang Ying-an to do that would be quite distinct from Phoebe's work and the problem would be easy to solve, but at the present time Ying-an has not much to do.

An interesting proposal came up in a letter from Mrs. Dagg of Isabella Thoburne College offering Miss Chakka as exchange-professor for next year. This grew out of some conversation which Mr. Spöckwell had with her on his way through, and from all accounts Miss Chakka is an exceedingly fine person and it would certainly be of great value if we could have her for a year. Her field is Indian History and that would be most acceptable along with her personal qualifications. Unfortunately, what they want in exchange is a Chemistry teacher, and you will see at once how impossible it is for us to do anything about that. Hsiang-lan is going to take the matter up at the presidents' meeting to see if it could be arranged as a joint project, or in some other university. I hope something may yet come of it, for it does seem a pity to lose such a fine opportunity.

Yesterday's mail brought several letters from America, including several from Cornelia Mills to you. One reports a gift of \$1,000 as a beginning of a scholarship endowment fund in her name. You will want to know about this, but probably Mrs. Mills will tell you before you receive this letter. In another letter, she mentions having received your letter about Evelyn Calmsley's return, and says that after talking with Miss MacKinnon, they were both somewhat in doubt as to exactly what our needs and desires were. At various times you

from Lily Ho Quon

1197

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

have asked for Miss Schutze, for Evelyn Walmsley, and of course, for Florence Kirk's return and they are not clear how many of these are needed, nor the order of preference. She says it will probably not be possible to get passports for more than one of them and even that is not sure. In this connection, I might also mention that recently Cammie Gay raised with me the question of inviting Wenona Wilkinson to come to Ginling for the duration. She is ready to come back and her mission is ready to send her if a sufficiently urgent plea can be made from this end to get her a passport. Miss Gay was very anxious that we invite her to Ginling, partly I think because she would like to see a person of her type taking Minnie Vautrin's place. Wenona is a grand person and I should like very much to have her here, but as I thought over our whole faculty situation, I could not see that we had any real need for her that would justify an urgent request for her to come to Ginling. She would do very much the same sort of things that Evelyn Walmsley would do - English teaching, religious work, etc. - and since we have already asked for Evelyn, it did not seem to me fair to displace her, particularly since Wenona would be only temporary, in all probability returning to her regular mission work after the war. Therefore, I reluctantly replied to Miss Gay that we really were not justified in asking for her, although we greatly regretted losing such an opportunity.

I have recently checked over as carefully as possible the courses which will need to be offered in the required English work next year. As near as I can tell, since we will probably have a very small entering class in the fall, due to the new government regulation about service, we shall probably have a little less English teaching in the fall term than we have had this year. The Spring term may run to slightly more than the present amount. If Miss Li comes from Chungking to take Alice's place, then we are well taken care of for the fall term without any additional help, and if Florence Kirk gets back by spring, we shall have enough it would seem so that in both the fall and spring we should be able to do a little more of the major work than we have some times been able to do. It does not seem, therefore, that we have any urgent need for additional people in English.

Mrs. Mills asks definitely that we set the order of preference for these various people, so that if it is possible to get only one passport, she will know which one to work for. I should say that without any question Florence Kirk's name should come first, but since Florence is Canadian, I presume that her coming has no real relation to the others. Cornelia may have forgotten that point when she was writing. As for a choice between Evelyn Walmsley and Miss Schutze, that is a little more difficult, and I do not feel like expressing any opinion on the matter. You can check that with Mrs. Mills yourself when you see the situation at that end. All I want to do is to let you know that we really do not need either of them for English teaching next year. There are other considerations, I know, and you may still feel it is best to urge for one of them to come, but there certainly is no need for pushing it as far as our actual teaching need in the English Department is concerned.

The Home Economics situation is the one which is causing me the most anxiety at present. I asked Miss Yung to come to see me so that we could talk things over more fully. From what I had heard from others, it seemed there was no question but that she would be absent in the fall term and it looked to me as if the probabilities of her coming back after that were rather small. I have just talked with her, and when I asked her if she were sure that she would be back for the second semester, she said she could not be sure. She has just heard recently that her mother has cancer, and when she gets home she feels she will find it necessary to stay to take care of her, and whether that will be for a long time or not, she cannot tell, of course, and besides, travel conditions are so difficult. I got the impression that she would like to return if she could, but whether this is the correct impression, I am not sure. She mentioned a Miss Yeh, at Michigan, whom she said she had already talked with you about. I hope you will follow that up as quickly as possible because whether Miss Yung does return or not, we do need an additional strong person in the department very much indeed, and I am at a loss as to where to turn.

I do not know whether you have heard or not the good news that Siao Sung's baby was nice enough to come quite early so that everything was all over with before Dr. Chao had to leave, and the request for help from us was never raised. That is a great relief to us, as you will know.

Mrs. Shao has been working on statistics and you may be interested in one or two items that I happen to have at hand. The percentage of Szechwan students has dropped from 38% last term to 33% this term; and the percentage of Christian students is 35 this term, but I am not sure what it was last term. I don't think I have any other figures in my mind at the moment, but will try a little later to pick out a few of the main points that you would like to know about and send them on to you. Our total enrollment is 270. I am not sure whether you had that figure before you left. Our new class seems to be quite a satisfactory one and the teachers are speaking well of them, both as students and as to personality, so I am glad we did admit them even though it was pretty hectic at the time, especially as we shall have quite a small class next fall, so it is good to have this little group started.

One joint project which I instituted and have helped plan, is a series of six lectures for seniors on the general subject of "Citizenship in the New World", with the hope

APR 7 1943

of turning their attention somewhat to thoughts of service and the needs of the country rather than considering only the salary and the ease and comfort of the job that is offered. En-lan gave the first lecture this week, but the program has not yet gone far enough to make it possible to judge as to whether it is to have real value or not.

On Sunday, we received a cable from New York addressed to you, saying that they had heard that you might be coming to America and that they wished to welcome you to the Annual Meeting of the Associated Boards, and asking for a cable reply. Elsie sent a cable reply on Monday that you were on the way. Apparently they had not yet received any definite information that you were coming.

Cornelia Mills also wrote me about Wang Ming-djen and Mao-i. I am a little troubled about what she says about Mao-i, as they seem to be a little worried about her health. Please do connect with her as quickly as possible and make sure that she is not pushing herself too hard to try to finish this summer. It would be tragic if she were to finish, only to break down in health. It would certainly be far better for her to take a little longer time if it is needed. I do hope she and Florence will be able to come back together, leaving sometime in the fall, but you will have to work that out with them according to the conditions.

I am afraid this letter may already be over-weight, so I better not continue any longer although there is no end of things one might write to you about. I will try to write often enough to keep you informed and to keep you in touch with at least the main things that are going on. I do hope you had a good journey and did not have as much sea-sickness or air-sickness as you were afraid of. We miss you greatly, but now that we have gotten safely through a month without any serious calamities, I am beginning to feel more hopeful about the remaining months.

With love to you, and be sure to get a good rest.

Sincerely,

Ruth

Since there is still some room on the page I will add a bit more. I can't bear to waste any space. These are absolutely the last bits of this very thin paper so hereafter I shall have to try to be briefer. I've not yet learned how to dictate well and make it longer than it needs to be sometimes.

Another piece of news I forgot is that they are evidently going to build the nurses home on the Baptist ~~land~~ land that our window look out on. They took out the trees along the front of the property sometime ago, and now have cut a door through the wall from our backyard, and I have heard they are going to build soon. That will spoil our lovely outlook, but it can't be helped. It will also be noisy while the building is going up.

For our Home Ec. Practice House, my advice is to have next year's juniors take it next year, while we have the little house, then the problem would not have to be faced again till spring of 1946 and I hope by then we shall be elsewhere than here. Anyhow that seems too far ahead to worry about now. Miss Yung agrees that this can be arranged, so I think there will be no problem. It will mean a large group next year and may mean giving that work both in the fall and the spring, but that need not matter. We shall certainly not be overcrowded in the fall.

The other presidents did not seem to have anyone to offer as exchange for Miss Chakka so I'm afraid that will have to fall through. It is a pity, but perhaps it can be postponed and we can respond better a few years later.

Mrs. Graham has been sick several times - malaria, a tooth pulled and now she is running a low fever of some sort. She is not paying much attention to that and continues to work, as she says she has done that before and nothing seemed to come of it, but it doesn't look too good. Why do secretaries always have such poor health?

Wu Gih-ling was married on Sunday, also Hu Hsin-chi - both with large feasts.

We are having a very cold spell - even dipped below freezing last night. Imagine that for April in Chengtu! I don't know what it will do to fruit and vegetables that thought spring was here. Today is lovely and sunny but still very cold. I have pulled out all my winter clothes, piece by piece, except the heavy coat, which I don't wear most of the time in the winter anyhow.

Hsiang-lan will be writing soon, I think. Oh yes, one other item. Yesterday we presented to the students the different possible plans for the classes that graduate in the winter and asked them to decide which one they preferred. They voted for 8 separate class organizations, so that's that. I'm glad to have it settled, though there will be problems this way too. Already the sophomores are in trouble because the "san shan" group who were helping with the farewell party for the seniors now want to withdraw! I feel like spanking them all sometimes.

Ruth

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1199

2 more letters have come since

APR 23 1943

Ginling College, Chengtu, China,
April 23, 1943.

Dear Yi-fang:

I have been on the point of writing to you for some days, but kept thinking that after another day or so I would have a little more information on some particular point, so I kept waiting, but I think I will go on with it now and save the unsettled things for another letter. Your two letters from India arrived last week and I was very glad to have them although you certainly gave us precious little news of yourself. We are waiting now eagerly to receive word of your safe arrival, which I should think ought to come any day now.

I think I will begin by discussing some of the faculty problems which you bring up. Starting with Biology - just before your letter came Miss Chang Ling-chao wrote to me presenting her resignation, and then later came to talk with me about it. As you know, her health has been poor and with her home responsibilities in addition to her work, it has been rather hard for her, and she has not been able to give us much time and attention to the Department as she feels it should have, and personally I agree that she is correct about that. In addition, the landlord of the house in which they live has informed them that they cannot possibly continue to live there after this summer. She is planning, therefore, to live out at the paper factory with her husband which will be more convenient and satisfactory for them, but which of course would make it impossible for her to continue any work at the College. Considering everything it seemed best to accept her resignation, but of course I did so with regret as far as she personally is concerned and which of course I expressed to her and also that we were sorry that the situation made it necessary for her to take this step. I think perhaps she was helped to come to this final decision because she knows of a person who is probably available and who from her account would be a very desirable person in the Department.

He is a man by the name of T. P. Chang, a graduate of Yenching, who later studied at Cornell on a Tsing Hwa scholarship and took his doctor's degree there. Since his return to China he has been professor at Soochow University for four years and is now with Soochow University in Kwangtung. He has evidently written to Miss Chang that he wishes to come up this way and therefore is probably available. She evidently knows him personally and speaks very highly of him, of his ability and his personality. He is a youngish man, in his early thirties, enthusiastic and interesting, and if all she says about him is true, he sounds like a very desirable person. The difficult part of the problem, as you say in your letter, is the question of finances and the justification for such a person when actually as far as immediate teaching needs are concerned, he is not really necessary. The other members of the Department, including Miss Casper and Mrs. Whittington are plenty for the actual teaching needs of the coming year, since the number of students is so very small. But as you say, if we are going to continue the Department at all it is necessary to do something to build it up and while a suitable person to act as head of the department would undoubtedly help, it seems unlikely that it would draw more students at once. So it seems to me to be between the two possibilities of carrying on with our present staff for next year and then probably dropping, at least temporarily, the Biology major; or inviting this new man to come and giving him a year or two to see whether he can begin to build up the Department. Even if he is successful on that, it will depend upon whether he can succeed quickly enough to stave off a final order from the Ministry of Education. Next year there will be no Juniors in the Department and no Sophomores except one who still has her general biology to take, and one other who is really a pre-nursing student, and if P.M.C. is re-opened here will very likely continue as a pre-nursing student. That means that after the seniors graduate next year, there will be almost nothing left, and unless there is a good group in next year's Freshmen class, I doubt very much whether the Ministry of Education will allow us to wait long enough to give this new man a chance, and it is doubtful whether he can have any effect quickly enough to influence the Freshmen at the beginning of their course, and it is what is determined at that stage that will determine the attitude of the Ministry of Education. I suppose we should have to pay travel for this man and a professor's salary, and he has a wife and children, so that all together he is bound to be an expensive proposition. I find it very difficult, therefore, to balance these points of view and to decide whether to invite him or not. I am sure we should all hate to see the Biology Department dropped, both because of its history and contribution to our College life, and also because having already dropped Mathematics and Physics as a Major, and having combined the Geography and History, our pure science majors are very few. But I also hate to make so large an addition to our budget at this time of financial difficulty for what is at best a venture of faith.

Since I found it so hard to decide, I suggested to Miss Chang, after talking it over quite frankly with her, that she write to him and tell him that there might be an opening at Ginling, that we are not able to make a definite offer at present, and to ask him to let us know if he is interested in coming here and also not to accept any other position without first getting in touch with us. She seemed to think this would be quite satisfactory, and by this means we would be able to hold him temporarily without committing ourselves to anything definite. I should like, therefore, to have your opinion on this matter as soon as possible. Whether you will think it is important enough for a special cable, I don't know, but I am inclined to think it is, but in any case, if some other cable is coming, you could add a word.

1200

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

APR 23 1943 -2-

two on this subject. If you think we had better invite this man, you can just say "INVITE BIOLOGY". If not, just say, "CONTINUE BIOLOGY" and I will know by that that you mean to continue the present staff without inviting anyone new. Then, when you are writing, if you will also let me know in more detail; supposing you cable us to invite this man and if for any reason he refuses, let me know whether you think we should make a further effort to get someone else for the Department, or whether if this man cannot come, it is better to leave it as it is.

Yesterday I had a talk with Ettie about the Physical Education Department. There is a fairly good list of possible teachers in the department, but almost everyone of them is uncertain for some reason or another. Cheng En-tsi and Lu Ming-djang are definitely not to be here. In making up the list I put down Ettie's name on the list of those who would be here and remarked that hers seemed to be the only name without a question mark; and then she said there should be a little question mark after her name also, so we discussed the matter somewhat and my understanding of her position is this;- that if anyone can be found to take charge of the department, she would very much like to be released, but she will not actually leave if she is badly needed. She does definitely say, however, that she is promising for only one more year, and at the end of one more year, she expects to leave regardless of the situation. This seems a perfectly fair attitude on her part, and I think we can count on her for next fall. I did not actually mention the particular question that you raised, as I felt it was a little awkward to do so, and I feel quite sure that everything is all right.

I have not talked with Alice since your letter came, and that is a little more difficult because I had already talked with her before, and at that time she gave me to understand that she would be here next year. I don't quite see how I can raise the question again with her unless I give the reason, and I feel, as I said before, that that is a bit awkward. If I have any opportunity to do so I will, but at the present moment I am a bit inclined to leave the matter and just assume that it is all right. I have already written at some length about the English Department, so I don't think it necessary to say anything more about it. It is more or less of an answer to some of the things you wrote in this later letter and I will not repeat it now. I talked with Miss Lamberton about Li Shui-mei's training and experience, and she feels that she would be quite adequate for any of the Sub or Freshmen or Sophomore required work, so she will take the place of Alice Settlemyer. If Alice Chang is here, then we have no problem in that department.

You will be glad to know that I decided soon after you left to write to Djung Li-dwan inviting her to come as assistant-registrar and have had a telegram from her accepting. Her letter has not yet come, so I do not know how soon she will be here, but I do feel very much relieved to know that she will be coming. I am very sure that without such help as this we could not hope to hold Mrs. Shao, and then we should be in a bad situation. I think there is some possibility now that Miss Djung is coming that Mrs. Shao will also be willing to stay on and then we should be able to get the registrar's office in good shape, and that will probably lighten my work, because I am still doing regularly a lot of work that really belongs to the registrar, simply because Mrs. Shao does not have time to keep up with all she has to do. If my job could be reduced to what properly comes under the dean's job, it should take considerable less of my time than it has been doing. Also, if Mrs. Shao should feel that she does have to leave us at any time, it would be much less desperate with Miss Djung here, so it takes a great load off my mind to have this settled. Miss Hou's place has been taken by a Mrs. Pan, who is the wife of a man at the Theological Seminary, whom Mrs. Shao already knew. She seems to be working in very nicely. I do not know actually how good her work is, but as far as I can see Mrs. Shao seems satisfied.

Chen Yueh-mei has at last arrived, but I have not yet seen her. I think she has started her work although she was very tired when she reached here. En-tsi has been in bed for a week or so with a threatened miscarriage. I have not heard in the last few days how she is getting on, but she is certainly not in good condition.

Hsiang-lan and Dr. Lung and I have had one conference on both departmental and Child Welfare Training problems, but did not get time to finish. A letter arrived a few days ago from Mildred Price in New York on the Child Welfare business, and I am afraid that all of us here are pretty vague about that whole program. Dr. Lung was going to write to Miss Hsiung as she had a copy of the letter also, so I hope we can get some of the uncertain points cleared up. Neither Hsiang-lan nor I feel that we know enough about the whole thing to be able to think clearly, and Dr. Lung himself does not seem to be too clear on some points. I am also somewhat concerned about the relationship between this Child Welfare Training Program and the Euthenics program that Winifred Shannon is planning. The two should certainly be planned together, but so far as I can judge now they are not having much relationship to each other. I suppose the muddle and confusion will gradually clear up and we will know where we are, but one of the immediate problems seems to be that Yen-ching is also inviting a Child Psychologist and I am not sure how that is going to work out in connection with Li Djoh-i. I am a little afraid that Dr. Lung is not quite aggressive enough or clear enough in his thinking on the whole matter to make sure that the original plan for her to be the Child Psychologist on the Joint Welfare Program will work out, but we will do what we can to achieve that end.

1201

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

Liu Dzing-ho is here now and I think is writing you herself. She thinks that the free time she has before her other work will begin is so limited that it would not be at all worth while to start anything now, so I am afraid we have no hope of any help from her unless the other project should fail, and I hope that will not be the case. The other matters of faculty personnel, I think I will not write anything about at this time, but will continue in my next letter.

In regard to your suggestions for cables in case you need to cable us for advice as to your time of return, we would like to suggest one additional message, which would be the addition of the word "URGENT", to either of the first two you suggest, "RETURN IMMEDIATELY" or "RETURN SOON". The reason for this is that Hsaiing-lan, especially, feels that you ought not, unless absolutely necessary, be gone longer than some time in October, or we might put it this way, that you ought to be here for Founders Day. I think she feels this more strongly than I do, but that is because some of the personnel problems and attitudes which are likely to deteriorate if you are gone too long, are more directly observed by her than by me, and since I do not hear them or see them much I am inclined to overlook their importance. She is probably right, that it is very inadvisable for you to be gone longer than that unless other claims are very urgent. With that background then, you will understand that if we cable as you suggest, "RETURN IMMEDIATELY" or "RETURN SOON", we shall mean by that that in our judgment you should be here because of the more or less continuous difficulties and not because of any particular emergency. If there should be any special reason why it is even more urgent for you to return then we will cable "URGENT RETURN IMMEDIATELY" or "URGENT RETURN SOON", and you will know that in addition to the other difficulties which we can foresee now, that there is some especially difficult situation which we feel we cannot handle without your presence. That will make it easier for you to weigh the claims and make your decision. There is no doubt I think that if you remain away very much longer than the original plan, there will be a great deal of criticism in some quarters, and while that is not necessarily a final reason for deciding to return you should know of it and consider it as one factor in making your decision.

The plans for the rural work seem to be coming on nicely. We have decided on the Djung Ho Chang center and have made very satisfactory arrangements with the church there for the use of part of their building, and the three workers expect to move out there about the 10th of May. Just where we are going to find the money for next year's program, we do not know but we do have enough on hand or in sight for opening up this spring and for carrying on some student work this summer, with the help of the student aid fund. We don't know yet how much they will be able to grant us and therefore can't tell yet how big a program we can have. They would like 16 students, but I have some doubts as to whether we can have so large a group as that. I will write more fully about this later, after some of the other agencies have been approached which may be able to give some financial help and after the details of the program are in better shape. One item which I was disturbed about and I know you were too, was the initial expense for the equipment, etc, but that has proved to be a very small item. There is some furniture in the rooms which the church is letting us have and nearly all of the remainder that they need is from the Jenchow project, and the expense of moving it down to this center will not be very great, so that there is no large sum of money required to set up the work, and what is left from what was budgeted for this year will take care of that I think without any trouble.

I forgot to tell you before that soon after you left a personal letter arrived for you from Miss Grace Edmonds. There is nothing in it of special importance - just information about mutual friends and such matters, and I assume that you will probably be in touch with her during your stay in America, so it does not seem worth while to pay the postage on to you, but I am letting you know of its arrival and we will keep it in your files.

I was very much surprised to read in your letter that you had heard of the bombing Chungking. So far as I know there has never been any bombing of Chungking. Apparently the news came from London, but how they got such a report we do not know, for there has been no alarm or air raids or anything happening, so I am sure it was a mistaken report of some kind. We think probably it was Yuman-yi near Kunning that was bombed that day instead of Chungking.

As you probably remember, we are all out of the tin air mail paper, so when you are writing and have a little extra weight left, you might stick in a few sheets of thin paper each time. Well I guess I better stop for I am afraid this is already overweight but I don't see any way to cut it much, so I guess we will just have to pay double. I hope you are either at, or near the end of your journey by now and that it hasn't been too hard a trip for you. Don't forget that one of your most important duties is to rest. We are getting along nicely in general and you do not need to be worried about us. With love to you.

Sincerely yours,

Paul

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

517

LETTER TO DR YI-FANG WU FROM DR. RUTH CHESTER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FACULTY, GINLING COLLEGE, CHENGTU, MAY 14, 1943

We are just beginning to catch our breath again after so many meetings that we were dizzy with them, and I will start to tell you about them although I have not yet talked over with Hsiang-lan which she will write and which I shall. I have a little time now before the Executive Committee meeting which I may as well use to begin a letter, at least. The general impression of a good many of us has been that the preliminary planning and organization were pretty poorly handled, and I was a little discouraged at the beginning for fear things would be in such a mess that a good deal of the possible value might be lost, but as is often the case, at the last minute things began to fall into shape, and I think on the whole the meetings were quite successful, although I feel sure that a larger participation of faculty here and a more intelligent one could have been achieved by more careful work. I found about two weeks before the Conference that even some of the most important faculty in other institutions had not even heard of it and knew nothing at all about it, and there was no preliminary program sent out for people to think about and have preliminary discussions on.

I went to the Curriculum discussion group, and it was fairly good. A good bit of it was going over ground we have gone over before and some of it was based on the same kind of misleading statistics which we have had before, but several points of real importance came out and were referred later to the Council, and I think altogether it was worth while. I know less about the other groups, of course, but from what others have said I think they also were quite good. Hsiang-lan was in the Disciplinary Group and Eva and some others attended the one on Post-war Planning. The latter was the largest group and I think they had some interesting discussion. I will ask Eva to write you about that, and Hsiang-lan about the other.

So much for the Saturday and Sunday general conferences, You will be more interested probably in the details of the meetings of the Council itself. These were held altogether five days. Unfortunately some of the delegates from a distance were delayed in travel. Lucy Wong and Mr. Ting arrived in time for the last two days only, while the F.C.U. and Hangchow delegates and Carol Chen did not get here at all. They did get to Chungking for the N.C.C. meetings, they are planning to have a supplementary conference with these people who failed to arrive here, and some of them may come on here later if they have time. It does seem a pity when people have taken so much time and money to come here for them to have missed it, and we, of course, were particularly sorry that the Hwanan people did not get here. Dr. Wong was here only two days and they were very full and busy days, so there was not very much chance to talk with her, but Hsiang-lan did have one good talk, and I will leave her to write you about it.

The very first day of the meetings, Dr. Mei, just as the meeting was closing at noon, said he would like to raise an important question for the future, and that was the question of women's education which he felt should be seriously considered. He did not express his opinion on the subject himself, and as the meeting was just adjourning, there was no chance for anyone else to do so either. We felt it was better to postpone any discussion on that until after the Hwanan people arrived, so we did not raise the question again and no one else did. The last day of the meeting, when various resolutions were being made and turned over to the Executive Committee and the Council for study of the future program, etc., we put our heads together and felt that this matter should be brought out again in order that it be specifically referred for future consideration, so we asked for a place on the program for this subject, and it was readily granted although it was understood that we could have only a few minutes. We asked Dr. Wong to present the matter, and at first she simply said that she thought everyone knew the arguments for independent women's colleges and so wouldn't take time to go into this but would like

1203

3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 14

1943

[2]

page 2 - Dr. Chester to Dr. Wu

a little time for discussion of the opinion of the Council. Dr. Mei immediately asked for the reasons why we should have independent women's colleges, so she gave several reasons which were then supplemented by Hsiang-lan and by myself. Then Dr. Mei expressed himself quite definitely as feeling that all of the things which we mentioned as important, he felt were important but could be equally well obtained in a co-educational university, provided that the university really made serious plans for its women students. He condemned as we did, the mere opening of the doors of men's institutions to a few women, but he quite clearly does not see any reason for separate women's institutions. As I remember, no one else expressed an opinion of any importance, and we then referred the matter to the Commission for their future consideration, which in my mind at least was the main purpose of bringing the subject up at all.

In this connection, I am very gratified to see from the cable from New York that Van Dusen is the chairman of the Committee they have appointed, because he is thoroughly convinced, I believe of the value of women's colleges both in America and in China, and his leadership in that Committee will at least insure that the matter is given really serious consideration, and that is all we can ask for.

I am afraid I have rather gone ahead of my story because I should have told you first some of the other background for the Council meetings, but I started with this point because I knew it is one in which you are especially interested. To get back: We tried to start in the first morning of the Council with a discussion on post-war planning, and that first meeting was very discouraging. People seemed unwilling to face any of the real problems, and either talked in such very vague generalities that they had no meaning at all, or kept getting off to other foolish questions like how many trucks it would take to move back, and how much they would cost, and all sorts of similar practical problems involving information which nobody can possibly have at the present time. How much of that was muddled thinking, and how much of it was an attempt to evade the real issues, I could not make out. However, we got a business committee appointed to organize our business a little better, and after a day or so when we began to know each other better and to get into the spirit of the meeting, we finally adopted a resolution which you will see and which I cannot quote verbatim, but something to the effect that it was our opinion that the post-war situation will require a greater concentration in a limited number of centers, and in each center there should be a college of arts and science with one or two professional schools so planned as to meet local situations and to avoid undue duplication. The original motion said five or six centers, but it was felt better to leave the matter a little more flexible than that. This resolution was quite readily agreed to in principle and everyone also felt there was no use to attempt in a large meeting in a short time to get much further than that or to consider the fate of individual institutions. We therefore approved of the suggestion for sending out an American educator and appointed a Commission here to study the whole problem in cooperation with him and in the end to make recommendations for future planning for the Christian Universities. That Commission as finally appointed consists of Cressy and Bill Penn, ex-officio, but with votes, I believe; and three other members--W. Y. Chen, Dju Ging-lung and Paul Kwei, with Dju as chairman. No one knew how long Paul Kwei was to be away and if his return is deferred too long the Executive Committee had the power to replace him, but we felt that if he was coming back in the fall that his recent contact in America would be all to the good. These people were chosen because they are educators who have had close contacts with the Christian Universities and will be able to see the problem as a whole, but who are not now directly connected in an essential way with anyone of the institutions. It seems like quite a good committee, and I hope that together with the work being done in America that it may be possible for a real thorough study of this whole problem to be made and for something to come out of it which will really be of value. I felt that having passed this resolution fairly nearly the be-

1204

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

page 3 - Dr. Chester to Dr. Wu

ginning of the meetings was a good thing, for as we went on with the discussion of other things, we had all the time in the back of our minds the idea that some drastic changes might be made in the future, and several days of conference with that background will I think help to make everyone a little more used to the idea and open-minded as to future planning. So my first feeling of discouragement that we were going to get nowhere, gradually gave place to a feeling of real hope that some constructive action may eventually be taken.

Dr. Cressy from the beginning said very frankly that in all our plans and in all our thinking, we might as well leave out St. John's University and the University of Shanghai. He feels absolutely sure there is no possibility of their entering into any joint planning or combination whatsoever. He seems to be convinced that they are entirely outside the field, carrying on quite independently both as to planning and as to finances, and he feels they are likely to gradually decrease in importance because of the difficulty of sufficient financial support to compete with the larger institutions. How far his thinking is correct, we cannot say, but we know what difficulties these two have in attempting to join in any union project. He also raised a slight question about Hangchow, although he did not seem so sure that they would not come into a cooperative program. In this connection also, he discussed the question of the joint Board in America, and apparently what he foresees is a strong joint Board which will include as a minimum, the four or five institutions, which have already agreed to join and he hopes a number of others, but will quite certainly not include these two or three who remain independent. This means a more or less fundamental split in our Christian higher education program, but he seems to feel that there is no way to avoid this, and that the rest of us should get together and make our joint plans and let these individualistic institutions worry along as best they can.

In connection with the question of the redistribution of the Christian colleges after the war, we also discussed the suggestion raised in New York some months back, of opening new centers in the northwest and southwest. It was the unanimous opinion of the Council members that the time is not ripe for any higher educational centers in these areas because of the almost complete lack of Christian middle schools and church groups on which to base the higher educational program. It would therefore be practically impossible to avoid almost complete secularization of any Christian institution which might be established in these areas. We definitely voted, therefore, against any universities moving to these areas, but did favor extension work by such institutions as would find it practical, and we did favor the establishment of strong Christian middle schools in these areas. I think it was the general feeling that with improved communications West China Union University would probably in the future be sufficiently accessible so that even when the middle school program is further developed, it will probably still not be necessary to consider the further Christian universities in these areas, but of course no statement was made about the long future.

Another general subject which was discussed quite a bit during the Council meetings was that of the Ministry of Education and of the government in general to our work, and what likelihood there is, if any, of our freedom being interfered with. This discussion was partly along the lines of trying to sound out what the tendencies are in government thinking these days, and the general impression seems to be that they are increasingly inclined to urge us to concentrate on technical and applied science fields, and to lessen our work in both arts and science (pure). Some were much more pessimistic than others about this matter, and I think all agreed that a great deal would depend on the personnel of the Ministry of Education and the others who influence it. We adopted a resolution in which five points were stated as minimum requirements for the continuation of Christian universities. These were (1) Freedom to appoint our own faculty; (2) Freedom to choose our own

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

MAY 14 1943 (4)

page 4 - Dr. Chester to Dr. Wu

students, both as to quality and quantity; (3) Some freedom to adapt the curriculum experimentally; (4) Academic freedom; and (5) Religious freedom. Just what was meant by the third one never seemed to me quite clear. Apparently some seemed to think the amount of freedom we now have fulfills that requirement, but I would say that the amount we now have is practically none at all; so I was left wondering just what they did mean at that point. We also discussed a little what we meant by the last two--academic and religious freedom--and finally both of these were qualified by adding the phrase "under the constitution". Again I felt that no one really knew what we meant, and that if there comes any real issue under any one of these headings, the interpretation of this resolution would probably be widely different by different people; but perhaps that is the best we can hope for in an abstract action of this sort, and it is perhaps worth while to have called our attention to the idea that Christian institutions cannot go on indefinitely sacrificing their freedom and still have a right to be called Christian institutions.

The middle school problem, and the difficulty of providing good teachers for the middle schools was another subject on which we spent quite a bit of time. It was felt that we should continue to offer courses in education for all who could possibly take them and try to do what we can to encourage students to go into teaching and to prepare them for it. There was also some discussion in regard to the planning for subsidizing certain middle schools as college preparatory schools, in order to improve the quality of the middle school work. Everyone agreed that the quality of the middle schools is deteriorating, and that the students who come up for college now are far below the standards of those before the war; most people say from one to two years behind. So we are not alone in facing that problem.

Another subject considered was that of faculty standards and personnel, which everyone agreed was another very serious problem. As Dr. Francis Wei put it, "If you gave me all the money of Ford and Rockefeller put together, I still would not be able to find adequate Christian faculty with all the requirements that we would like to establish for such teachers." The final resolution adopted along this line accepted government standards for academic work as the minimum standards and stated there should always be a preference for engaging Christian faculty ~~with~~ ~~all~~ when possible; that western faculty members should be appointed by the university authorities after having been commissioned by the mission boards and should there ore be under the jurisdiction of the university administration in the same way that Chinese faculty are; that their reappointment after furlough should be at the request of the university administration; that they should serve for a full term without being transferred to some other work. This you will realize grows out of the difficulty which some institutions have because the foreign faculty are not under the college authorities at all but are under their mission authorities, and are sometimes put in or withdrawn in ways that are embarrassing to the institution. We also suggested that the ratio of Chinese to foreign faculty should be approximately five to one in order to maintain the international character of these institutions and at the same time to insure a large Chinese majority. We also agreed that we should not allow the ratio of Christian to non-Christian faculty to be less than four to one, counting teaching faculty and administrative officers, but not counting the clerks and other assistants who do not do actual teaching. These I think are the main items which we considered, but of course you will be seeing minutes later which will give you the thing in a more formal and official manner, but I think this will give you a fairly good picture of the meeting as a whole.

1206

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

June 10, 1943. (1)

Dear Yi-fang:

I have been feeling for some days that I had so much to write to you that it was almost impossible to get it done, so I kept delaying, and it gets longer and longer, so I must start in and tell you some of what is happening at this end of the line.

First I want to express my congratulations and tell you how pleased I was at the news of your honorary degree at Smith. Everyone was very happy over this news, but perhaps Ettie and I appreciated it more than most of the others as we feel glad for you and Ginling and also glad to have our own College give you this recognition. I wish I could have been there for the occasion.

Next, I might very briefly report to you about Miss Chiao's case. I wrote you something about it in my last letter, but it dragged on for some time before being completely settled. In the end we reached a compromise whereby she continues to count as part time faculty member until the end of the term, and is correcting laboratory reports but is not meeting the students in the laboratory and is not living in our dormitory. It has all been a very unhappy affair and although Miss Streeter thoroughly understands and sympathizes with me and with what I have done, I think some of the other people in the West China Chemistry Department have a rather different attitude. I hope that the feeling, if any, which has been caused by this affair will soon pass off, or in any case will be directed largely against me personally rather than against Ginling. It was very difficult to know just what was the right thing to do, and it still is hard to be sure. It is a great relief, at least, to have the matter settled and I have just this week completed the financial arrangements with her in which we have been very generous, paying for the same proportion of the operation expenses as we should have done for any permanent faculty member and continuing her salary through July.

You will be glad to know that Lu-lan has some money towards her summer trip. Perhaps you may have heard this from someone else, but she has \$10,000 from the Governor of Sikong, largely for the purpose of continuing the mapping of the grasslands region which she has already started. While this is too small a sum to cover the expenses of all the people she would like to take, at least it does give her a minimum basis for planning and will make sure that she herself can go and probably one or two others. She hopes to get some help for a few students from the Student Relief Committee, but that is not yet settled. *Has hope of a little more now. I think.*

I think I mentioned in an earlier letter that there was a slight possibility of our being asked to move into the Canadian School. That has been the subject of much agitation and discussion, not only within our own group but apparently all over the campus. They are definitely closing the school and wanting to rent the whole property but naturally the rent is quite high. Yeuching wanted it and applied for it for use as class room building. Meanwhile the Hospital Committee approached us and asked if we would be willing to move there in exchange for our present quarters in the hospital, which they wished to use for the nurses training school. We made two visits to the School to see what space there is and how we could use it. Hsiang-lan and I went the first time, and Eva, Mr. Ming and I the second time. The School is wanting to reserve a small amount of space, but as we went over it with Mrs. Spooner and Dr. Best the reservations which they then stated did not seem to make it an impossible arrangement. We, therefore, agreed that if they asked us to move we would be willing to do so. Somehow some people have gotten the impression that we were asking for the School and agitating for it and that has created rather an unfortunate impression in some quarters. Actually we did not ask for it at all but were asked by the Hospital and we never said anything more than that we would be willing to move. I think by now most people have had that misconception corrected, but there may still be a few who have not, of course. It seemed almost impossible that the Hospital Finance Committee would agree to such a proposition because it means that they will be paying out a considerable sum of money - \$60,000 I have heard per year as rent for our use of the Canadian School, and there is, of course as you would know, considerable opposition to that in some quarters. To our surprise, however, the matter seems to have gone through both the Hospital Committee and the Canadian local committee, and about two days ago I received word from Bill Small that the School has been assigned to Ginling with some reservations and final arrangements to be made with the Hospital Committee. In the meantime we have been troubled by rumours and some fairly well founded reports of further reservations of space that were not mentioned in any of our earlier interviews, so I am a little uneasy as to just exactly what the situation is going to be. Immediately upon receipt of the word from Bill Small, I sent a note to Dr. Best telling him that there were various reports that were a little troubling and asking that the conditions and all the details be carefully stated in writing so we could be quite clear as to just where we stood. I have tried to be very careful all along not to commit us to doing anything that was not carefully guarded and not to do anything to indicate that we had any desire to move, and trying to put the full responsibility for any change on the Hospital Committee. I shall feel very distressed if in spite of all these precautions we still get involved in any controversy on the subject, but I hope everything is going to be all right. If it is, then it will mean that sometime during the summer we shall move out of the hospital entirely and when you come back you will find us in the Canadian School instead. It rather takes my breath away to think of another upheaval in moving, but there will of course be advantages in the

1207

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

JUN 10 1943

More later on this subject.

location once the moving and adaptation are completed. Perhaps before this letter is entirely finished, I shall have further news from Dr. East and can let you know how the matter has been definitely settled. *Changes were only rumors & it looks all OK. Probably move early in July.*

Hsiang-lan, I think, has written you about her problems. I do not know whether she has said anything about her health or not, but she is not well. She needs to go to the hospital for two or three days for observation and tests in order to get a definite diagnosis. She was about to do that some two months ago, I should think it must be, when the government inspector sent word he would be along just any time and she felt it would be very unfortunate to be away when he came, and so delayed going to the hospital, as we thought, for a matter of a few days. But the wretched man has still not come, and in the meantime there have been meetings and meetings, and now her family are here and there has been no occasion to get away for even two days. She has occasional rather bad attacks of pain and I think it should be attended to. I hope we can get her off fairly soon now when her family affairs are once settled. She has stated the problem to you for the future, and it is not necessary for me to go into it again. I hate very much to face the solution which she feels is the only one, but I have to admit that at the present time I am at a loss to suggest anything better. I shall do everything possible to try to think out some plan but it is an exceedingly difficult situation. You will readily see its relation to the question of the time of your return, and unless we can find some other way of solving the problem, it does seem that it would be pretty urgent for you to get back at the time she has indicated.

Sociology is the remaining Department that I have not discussed and is one of the difficult ones to decide. Dr. Lung got rather upset over some very small matters, the smallest of which but apparently the most important in his eyes, being connected with the use of that little room next to his, and he came to see me about his grievances and said he thought he would have to resign. A few days later he followed that up with a written letter of resignation. Fortunately having known of the difficulties you had with him last year, I did not take it quite as seriously as I might otherwise have done. He found another way to avoid making the slight change in the room next to him which everyone else thinks would be an improvement for him as well as for other people, but which he obviously felt very strongly about, and I wrote him a very persuasive letter. Several days passed with no reply, and then he came in to see me and said he had received my letter and appreciated it very much, and then proceeded to discuss various department plans for the future, so he has apparently settled down again. As to Chang Hsao-wei, he feels that he is a reasonably good teacher and that he is prepared to teach some of the rather broad theoretical subjects for which it is very hard to find teachers. If he goes, Dr. Lung feels that we should replace him and that it would be very difficult to find anyone to replace him, but the really problem is certainly a serious one and it is very hard to know what to do. Dr. Lung does not want to speak to him himself because he is a friend, and it is very hard to know how else to approach a rather delicate matter like that. If only he could send his wife off somewhere else, then I think we should definitely decide to let him stay, and it may come to that anyway. We are expecting Mrs. Wu the latter part of this month and Chungking has written definitely approving of her as half-time executive secretary for the Child Welfare work. Tang Ming-sing has not yet made up her mind and is very much concerned both in regard to financial arrangements and also questions of her status here, degree of independence in her own work, etc. This is connected with the question of our Social Center which I find increasingly difficult to plan for. No definite satisfactory arrangement for land has yet been found, but even supposing that we could get the land and the building, I feel very hesitant indeed about attempting to launch an enlarged project of that sort in the present financial situation. Certainly the money cannot come out of our own budget, and outside funds are not very dependable unless definite arrangements can be made beforehand. Bill Penn suggests a possible combination of our social service work with that of the University of Nanking. He realizes as well as we do that no such plan will be possible with the present head of their work, but since the Presidents have asked Dr. Penn to study the whole situation and make definite recommendations to different institutions as to ways of cutting their expenses and ways of further cooperation, I think he is prepared to suggest to President **Chen** that a change of personnel at that point would greatly facilitate cooperation. Whether or not Dr. **Chen** will accept such a suggestion is the real question, and I warned Bill that it must be made with great care and in a way which does not involve us at all. If that point could be cleared, I think it is possible that a joint project with Tang Ming-sing in charge might be workable, but it would need some careful planning and I am not prepared to rush into it hastily. Another possibility that Hsiang-lan is investigating is cooperation with the Y.W.C.A. Since they are thinking of starting a small service project for soldiers families, beginning with a small budget of their own and later calling on government funds which they are quite sure will be available, in fact they have practically been promised. If they could take the financial and administrative responsibility and we could help with personnel, which they certainly lack, and thereby have the use of such a project for laboratory purposes, it might be a mutually satisfactory arrangement. I think this is about as far as I can go with this now which is mainly a matter of mentioning problems rather than solutions, but I trust it may work itself out some time into a clearer picture.

One more item of news which will interest you is that the University of Nanking is definitely announcing that it is not receiving any new women students this fall, or at any rate no Freshmen. I am not sure whether they have room for ~~transfers~~ transfers of

1
3
5
2
7
2
1
6

1208

JUN 10 1943

-8

That will simplify the entrance ~~tests~~ situation considerably and will probably also turn to us a few good students who would otherwise go to them. In view of the difficulties last summer with questions leaking out and other administrative problems, it has been decided this year that each institution will make out its own entrance questions. Our examinations are still to be given on the same days as the University of Nanking but with different questions, and we are arranging for separate registration in Chungking which Djing Hsueh-ying is taking charge of.

I have not written before about Mr. and Mrs. Graham because their plans were not quite certain, but they feel now quite sure that they will be returning to India this summer. The mission organizations are making plans to send Burma missionaries back into the country as quickly as possible, and are now beginning the training of teams in relief, medical, education and reconstruction work, and they are being asked to return to prepare for this work. Mr. Graham will probably leave early in the summer and Mrs. Graham may stay here through the summer but will be leaving at least by fall. That leaves another vacancy to be considered, and I have been thinking of asking Mrs. Whittington if she would be willing to give half or perhaps a little more than half of her time to this work, but have not had a chance to talk with her about it yet. I will let you know later whether that seems a satisfactory arrangement.

June 28th. Its terrible how long this letter has been lying around unfinished but I've been in meetings all the time and Mrs. G. has been sick and doing only a couple of hours a day, so we never got to it. Now it is Saturday and there's a lull and I'm going to try to finish it myself. She is taking next week off entirely for dysentery treatment.

Meanwhile the letter from Cornelia about your staying on longer has come and has been considered in our faculty committee. The board ex. will meet next week. I think the general feeling is that you need it and we must manage somehow, but we want two things stressed: first that you spend 5 or 6 months in almost complete rest, and part of that in complete rest. It is for the rest that we are willing to let you stay, not for other things. The second is that you would surely be back by March, or preferably February. At first Hsiang-lan almost thought she couldn't face it, but after two or three days she said yes she would see it through if you would be back soon enough so she could be released entirely for the second semester. She told me more details about her difficulties than I had known before, and which she said she told you just before you left. It is a sickening situation and she is finding it very hard now. I hope we can work out a plan for next year that will give her more companionship in living arrangements and separate her from her greatest daily irritation. There is also a possible plan which might solve her family problem - an entirely private arrangement with Fu-nien for a room in their house which they do not use. If she could have her mother there, and herself live in the Ca. School that would do a lot to solve her problem, and we might even be able to hold her after your return, but I should not urge it just now.

Bill Fenn has been holding two series of meetings this week with deans and presidents, one on arts and one on science, going over the whole curriculum to try to see where cooperation and cutting is possible. Altogether we have met 5 half days, I think. I don't know how much has been accomplished, but perhaps a little psychological good has been done. Elsie is refiguring budgets and the situation looks really desperate. The 5 institutions together will be short something over 7,000,000 according to her present estimates, counting on the same amount of gold as last year and figuring exchange at 30. So some drastic cutting is necessary and I'm finding it very hard to know how to proceed, especially since some others seem very slow to realize that real cutting is necessary. If everyone would go at it in earnest something could be done, but I don't want to go a lot faster than others and make Ginling take more than its fair share of the sacrifice. I don't know just how the next steps are to be taken. I don't think it is much use to write you more detail now about these faculty problems, because there's nothing much definite and it must all be settled before any help could come from you anyhow. After it is settled I'll write you all about it.

I've not so far answered the request for a cable about P.H. because I don't know what to say. We can have part of Lu Hwei-ching's time and

1209

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

JUN 10 1943

probably part of Mr. Lin's also. Yenching is not opening the major at present - not allowed to. Yang Shao-rang may come for part time, but there seems little hope of full time. I will know about her next week, I think, and also more definitely about Yenching people. It does not seem to me wise to try to bring out Rathbone now for it would be a terrific expense for a very small group of students: 1 senior, 1 junior and 2 sophomores next year, besides an unknown number of specials with whom she could not work anyhow. With none at Yenching it does not seem warranted. I'll try to work out a cable next week after the board meeting and when I know a little more about things.

We expect to begin moving next week, but do most of it the week after. I shall be glad when it's over and I am glad it can be done at the beginning of the summer instead of the end. It looks as if we should have quite a few more women to house than last year, so I'm afraid most people will have to double. The number of rooms for faculty will be almost exactly the same as we have here.

July 22. Mrs. G. is sick again, and has another section of this letter in her notebook, not yet typed and I don't remember just what it was, so there are more difficulties. Meanwhile I'll get on with some other things on this part of a page.

Djung Li-d wan arrived early in July in time to help prepare for entrance tests, and it is certainly a joy to have her. I think she and Mrs. Shao will make a grand combination and the latter seems now definitely settled in her mind to stay on with us. It is a relief to me too, for now that she has someone to share responsible things with I do not feel I need to help her as much as I did before. Bao Dji-lih and husband are definitely not coming. They have property up there which they cannot leave. Have you had a chance to get in touch with Li Gwan-yuen? Is she a possibility for Dean of Discipline. I think she wanted to do something of that kind originally, but do not know what her present ideas are. I think she would be very good and you can check up on certain points now that you can see her, so I do hope there will be a chance of getting her. How soon can she come back?

We are giving entrance tests today and tomorrow. About 350 here and 100 in Chungking plus a few others already given in other places, so there will be nearly 550 to choose from and a total of about 80 or 90 at most, so it looks as if we ought to get a good selection. I hope we shan't have to repeat tests in September, but it's hard to tell for sure. The late-comers from occupied areas will be the hard ones to refuse.

Wu Li-yung finally did graduate properly. Everyone felt she had really tried this term and had improved very much, both in character and in work, so I was glad we could let her go. Tseng Shuh-diao just at the last minute very seriously broke library rules, which she has been scolded for many times, and this was an especially bad case, so we had to take drastic action. We have withheld her diploma for a year, pending good reports in the meantime. We finally did let her go through commencement with a * by her name, since there were several others also starved because of not having finished the Hwei Kao, or not having H.S. diploma or some other such thing. So the senior class was something of a mess, but it was not very conspicuous.

1210

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

C
O
P
Y

Paragraph from Dr. Ruth Chester's letter of June 10, 1943 to Dr. Wu Yi-fang

I think I mentioned in an earlier letter that there was a slight possibility of our being asked to move into the Canadian School. That has been the subject of much agitation and discussion, not only within our own group but apparently all over the campus. They are definitely closing the school and wanting to rent the whole property but naturally the rent is quite high. Yen-ching wanted it and applied for it for use as class room building. Meanwhile the Hospital Committee approached us and asked if we would be willing to move there in exchange for our present quarters in the hospital, which they wished to use for the nurses training school. We made two visits to the School to see what space there is and how we could use it. Hsiang-lan and I went the first time, and Eva, Mr. Ming and I the second time. The School is wanting to reserve a small amount of space, but as we went over it with Mrs. Spooner and Dr. Best, the reservations which they then stated did not seem to make it an impossible arrangement. We, therefore, agreed that if they asked us to move we would be willing to do so. Somehow some people have gotten the impression that we were asking for the School and agitating for it and that has created rather an unfortunate impression in some quarters. Actually we did not ask for it at all, but were asked by the Hospital and we never said anything more than that we would be willing to move. I think by now most people have had that misconception corrected, but there may still be a few who have not, of course. It seemed almost impossible that the Hospital Finance Committee would agree to such a proposition because it means that they will be paying out a considerable sum of money - \$60,000 I have heard per year as rent for our use of the Canadian School, and there is, of course as you would know, considerable opposition to that in some quarters. To our surprise, however, the matter seems to have gone through both the Hospital Committee and the Canadian local committee and about two days ago I received word from Bill Small that the School has been assigned to Ginling with some reservations and final arrangements to be made with the Hospital Committee. In the meantime we have been troubled by rumours and some fairly well founded reports of further reservations of space that were not mentioned in any of our earlier interviews, so I am a little uneasy as to just exactly what the situation is going to be. Immediately upon receipt of the word from Bill Small, I sent a note to Dr. Best telling him that there were various reports that were a little troubling and asking that the conditions and all the details be carefully stated in writing so we could be quite clear as to just where we stood. I have tried to be very careful all along not to commit us to doing anything that was not carefully guarded and not to do anything to indicate that we had any desire to move, and trying to put the full responsibility for any change on the Hospital Committee. I shall feel very distressed if in spite of all these precautions we still get involved in any controversy on the subject, but I hope everything is going to be all right. If it is, then it will mean that sometime during the summer we shall move out of the hospital entirely and when you come back you will find us in the Canadian School instead. It rather takes my breath away to think of another upheaval in moving, but there will of course be advantages in the location once the moving and adaptations are completed. Perhaps before this letter is entirely finished I shall have further news from Dr. Best and can let you know how the matter has been definitely settled. (Changes were only rumors, and it looks all O.K. Probably move early in July)

Paragraph from Dr. Wu's letter of September 9, 1943 to Dr. Chester

I am glad that we moved into the Canadian School. I realize that it must have meant a great deal of work for all of you; yet, as the hospital develops further, it is much better for us to get out of that big compound. I am still not clear if our students are still there or did both faculty and students move to the ~~Canadian~~ Canadian School? I do hope you are about to get things settled before the opening of college, at least, that all of you will have a short time for recuperation.

1211

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

150 Fifth Avenue, New York City, June 21, 1943.

Dear Dr. Chester:

I have not written for a long time and now I do not know just where to begin! First of all, let me tell you that your letter of April 7 was received several weeks ago and Dr. Djang's of April 16 came only yesterday. I want to thank you both for sending me news about the college. It is only natural that I think of you often and although I do not write I am eager to receive letters and to hear about what is going on at Ginling and on the West China campus. I am very glad that the new freshman class is a fine one, so that you and Mrs. Shao may feel that your frantic efforts during the winter vacation were well repaid. Dr. Djang mentioned that she wished there were no May on the college calendar. I certainly can sympathize with you, remembering how we wished the same thing last year. Now that the school year is nearly over, I do hope that you and others may arrange to have some vacation during the summer months. I ~~may~~ often feel guilty to be having my vacation when all of you are staying on to carry on the work and some of you even have heavier responsibilities during my absence. Since you know me so well, you will understand that I really have good intentions of writing to you often. However, with the combination of my rather full program and my being a poor correspondent, you are just out of luck! I will try in this letter to tell you a little of my activities. Will you please decide what excerpts to take out to be passed among my friends. For instance, Mrs. Crawford will be eager to hear about me, and I do not see how I can write to her separately just now.

From my last letter, you know that I had my first week in Washington and was just on my way to the Smith commencement. Smith certainly has done something unusual for Ginling's sake. The program for commencement had already been arranged and you could not expect a college to find it easy to change arrangements in order to give an honorary degree to a new arrival in this country! When Miss Florence Snow came to the Ginling meeting on May 7, not a word was mentioned to me. I seem to gather that it was then that Dr. VanDusen and a few others suggested to her that hurried arrangements be made. The invitation was received on Monday, just before I went to Washington. You will be interested to know that even at Smith they simplified the commencement program by cutting out quite a number of functions and by asking their alumnae not to return. This was because several buildings were being used for the training of Waves. I found out that that training is entirely in the hands of the Navy and Smith merely rents some of their buildings. Sidney Thomson graduated from Smith with special honors and Anna Mills also graduated there this year. After Smith I returned to Washington.

Finally it was decided that our group is to be known as the China Study Group on Post-War Problems. We have a very informal organization and each of us can select his own line of study. Naturally, I said that I would like to keep within the field of education. I mentioned higher education, adult education, and vocational training, as my special interests. Further, I asked for time to keep in contact with the missionary and church groups. A second duty of this group is to keep informally in close contact with American friends in our own lines. In carrying out this function we cannot avoid speaking engagements. On May 31, I appeared on the program on "World Christianity" at the Presbyterian General Assembly in Detroit. The main speaker was Wendell Wilkie. I talked for twenty minutes. From there I went to Ann Arbor.

You may understand some of my difficulties if I tell you that I did not know until just before going to the station in Washington that I could have about a week in Ann Arbor! Besides visiting my old friends, Dr. Rufus had a reception on behalf of the Barbour Scholarship Committee, and the Dean of Women had a reception for me to meet other friends. The Chinese Women's Sorority invited me to luncheon and the Chinese Student's Club asked me to speak to them.

We took one day for a trip to Shepherd. I had the official tribute from the government photographed in New York, so I wanted to present a copy to the family and also to pay my

12 12

respects to our beloved Minnie. The ration board was very kind and readily granted Mrs. Rhead the necessary gas to take the party in her car to Shepherd. Dr. Reeves and Harriet were with us. The brother was too busy making use of that one fine day for planting, but Mrs. Vautrin was very courteous and seemed interested when we told her about Miss Vautrin. The tablet looked fine with the outlines of the Chinese roof and the four Chinese characters. I wanted to plant a tree, but the lot is small and one evergreen was already planted, so there really is no room. I do not need to tell you about my emotions! They were very mixed. I wished that she could still be with us to face the tasks ahead. On the other hand, as I see the organized efforts for the war in America, I am glad that such a thorough pacifist as Minnie does not have to go through it. It is really better she does not have to experience such mental agony.

After returning to Washington from Ann Arbor, I had a hectic week. I was very thankful that Helen Loomis was able to come just at that time to help me. First I had to write out my talk at the Presbyterian General Assembly. Then we prepared certain materials for the Conference of the Study Group. Finally we did my speech for Constitution Hall on June 14. I spoke at one of a series of six lectures on a program put on by a committee called "The United Nations Today and Tomorrow". The committee had hoped to secure the Madame and next Dr. Soong. Finally they came to the Study Group. The Group elected Jimmie and me to be their representatives. After the talks there was a panel discussion. You know my failings, how I cannot bring myself to write out my speeches! I know perfectly well it is due to my mental laziness! It certainly was hard work to write this manuscript when it was so hot and muggy in Washington. Poor Helen was just dripping while she was typing, and you should have seen how we were dressed during those few days. How glad I was to have it over --and people seemed to think my speech was good. Merib Mossman came to see us the Sunday afternoon we were working on the speech.

Right after the program I had to take the night train for New York. In order to save time I will ask Helen to send you a copy of my program for the next two or three weeks. The thing that has actually scared me is that so many organizations expect too much from me. Coming as I do at this time from China, I feel it is my duty to meet with American friends. However, I am keenly aware that I have not as much information as I should have. At the same time my brain is tired, and I just cannot work fast. The doctor suggested that I take some time off, but somehow I have not been able to manage this. However, for the month of August I shall go into hiding. I have not decided where to go, but I shall go where there are not even any friends. I need to be quiet and not to talk about any problems.

If we turn to the national cause and the Christian colleges, there is really so much to be done. You all should be proud of what Mrs. New has done. In the fall under the Student Christian Movement for the State of New York, she visited eighteen colleges, spending about a week on each campus. This last spring the Associated Boards arranged for her to visit eighteen other colleges. On each campus, besides one or two large audiences, she would meet informally with faculty and student groups. Many, many letters have come expressing appreciation of her work. The colleges were particularly glad to know a representative of the Christian women of China. I wish to mention also how many people have enjoyed reading En-lan's article "Calls from the Wild West." Mrs. Mills put out a very attractive pamphlet with several illustrations, and it certainly is being enthusiastically received!

Mrs. Mills is anxious to secure more material for publicity. Could you get together several members of the faculty and talk over what aspects of the work could best be presented, and then have different people do the writing. Oliver Caldwell said that the American people are still anxious to hear about student service. I suppose there may be projects for the summer which would furnish good material. It is best to have it as soon as possible after the work is finished. Such things as the exhibit on Children's Education, or the student work during the winter vacation, or the work with Miss Highbaugh last summer are still worth writing up. I am very sorry to be adding work to you, but you know well how valuable such materials are as publicity for the college.

With best wishes to you and the family, I am

Sincerely yours,

1213

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

RECEIVED AT
 W 12th ST.
 N. Y. CITY
 Watkins 9-1648
 Watkins 9-1649

TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS
 TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio
 Commercial Cables



All America Cables
 Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE. SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Form LD22 N 47 WIRELESS= N CHENGTU 8 1850=
 NLT ASSOCIATED BOARDS=
 150 FIFTHAVENYC=

July 1943



YIFANGWU FACULTY BOARD EXECUTIVE APPROVE EXTENDED LEAVE PROVIDED
 REST THREE MONTHS RETURN END FEBRUARY WANGSHIHCHIEH WILL CABLE
 ABOUT FLYING DIRECT STOP NOVEMBER MOST IMPORTANT ENGLAND /
 LEAVE DECISION TO YOU / PHYSICALLY PROVIDED / YENCHING NOT OPENING
 MAJOR ADVISE AGAINST RATHBONE NOW=
 RUTH CHESTER.

JUL 1943

YIFANGWU WANGSHIHCHIEH YENCHING.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1214

July 17, 1948. [7]

Dear Yi-fang:

Several weeks ago I started dictating a long letter to you which finally reached such proportions that it was worth double postage, but by the time I got it to that stage things were changing so fast and I was so terribly busy that I never did get it finished, and then I came to feel that most of what I had said had changed completely so that it was no longer worth any postage much less double! Therefore, I think I shall discard it and begin all over and shall repeat such parts of it as are still of value.

First, let me say that I received Cornelia's letter written in May, and just a few days ago your June 22nd letter to Hsiang-lan and myself arrived. Meanwhile we have been going through great agonies here and there was a stage a week or two ago when, if it had been possible by any magic to whisk you back here, I am sure the temptation would have been too strong to resist. However, you are protected by the fact that when an emergency arises serious enough to make us want to call you back, it has to be dealt with more quickly than you could possibly get here even if we cabled for your immediate return. So we have muddled through it and it appears now that the crisis is past, though not with a great deal of glory, I am afraid.

As you know, towards the end of June the cable came from New York which very strongly urged that the increased budgets which had been presented by the various institutions should be drastically cut as they were larger than could possibly be met. Meanwhile, costs here have been leaping faster and faster and we knew very well that the revised budgets which we were about to make up would have to be very much larger than those made last fall. These revised budgets have been made as carefully as possible and based on the estimates of the various economists as to what to expect, but each month the index is increasing very much faster than the previous month's calculations, so it is very difficult to predict what is going to happen. Elsie I am sure has written or will write in much more detail about the budget but all the institutions are facing very serious deficits even if our estimates for next year are correct and there is much doubt of that. As a result of this pressure from both sides, Bill Fern was asked by the Presidents to try to push forward a program for closer cooperation between the five universities here and a corresponding decrease in faculty, with the hope that substantial savings could thus be made in all of the budgets. Bill went at it in real earnest. We spent 14 hours during examination week meeting deans and Presidents with Bill and going over the whole curriculum, trying to see where further cooperation was possible. As a result of this Bill drew up recommendations with definite suggestions as to cutting of staff in various institutions. All of this was agreed to in principle, and I think there was on the part of the Presidents a very real desire to carry through the program. However, by the time these definite recommendations were available, it was probably the end of June, and it was impossible to make a first start towards the cuts indicated until the first few days of July.

We in Ginling decided among others to drop Chang Shao-wei and Mr. Koo, of the Chinese Department, since we were asked to cut in both these Departments, and since as you know, there were some other reasons why we had hesitated to continue these two anyway. Mr. Ming wrote a very polite letter to Chang, putting it on a financial basis, and Chen Tson-fen himself talked to Mr. Koo. At this stage, everyone seemed in agreement with this plan except that Dr. Lung was of course entirely unwilling to say anything himself to Chang. We understood that and did it through the office rather than through him. Then the storm broke! It is not necessary to go into details, but Mrs. Cheng and her husband together made a great deal of trouble, scared poor Dr. Lung within an inch of his life by all sorts of wild threats, and gradually the men faculty, who had originally seemed to support the decision, came to feel that it was impossible to make cuts of this kind so late, and I eventually found that a very serious resentment was building up against me, and to a less extent against Dr. Fern, because as foreigners we were trying to push something which was entirely un-Chinese and from their point of view impossible. As soon as it became clear that things were developing that way, I immediately said to Hsiang-lan and to Mr. Ming, and also to some of the other men who came in various delegations to talk things over, that I was sure all of them had the interest of the College at heart just as much as I did and whatever plan they agreed upon as the right procedure, I would accept. It finally became necessary to back down to the extent of giving these two men each a contract for one semester with an enclosed note of something approaching an apology.

Elsie was very much upset over this and protested it vigorously in the Executive Committee meeting, but as no one else protested it, she of course was out-voted, but she made it exceedingly difficult as she felt that this action of ours would completely wreck the whole program for all of the universities. Actually from all the things we have heard since it seems clear that the others have also found it almost impossible to drop at this time people who were expecting to continue. We are all making some cuts by not replacing people who were resigning anyway, but I am afraid that the more drastic cutting which Bill hoped for is not going to be possible anywhere. Now that it is all over it does not seem quite so desperate as it did for a time because there were several days when it seemed possible that nothing we could do would satisfy the demands of the Chungs, and that nothing that I could do would prevent a very serious break in our faculty group. I think we have avoided this, and I do say that all through there has been nothing but perfect courtesy in any direct dealings

1
3
5
2
7
2
1
6

1215

JUL 17 1943

with me, but I feel there is still a situation underneath which will continue to require careful handling. Fortunately Hsiung-lan has been able to keep in quite close touch with them and if she can continue to do that so that I can continue to know what is going on before any serious crisis arises, I think we shall be able to handle it without too much trouble.

To bring you up to date on faculty matters, I am just going to run through the departments in order and tell you how things stand at the present time. In Biology:- after some changes, with offers of resignation from both Mei-ling and Yu-ching in order to clear the way for inviting a department head which they very strongly urged, I have about decided now to keep both of them and to let Marjory Causner act temporarily as head of the department, and not to replace Chang Ling-chao. This is partly for reasons of economy and partly because the one really hopeful person we had in mind seems definitely to be going to Yenching and therefore unavailable, and I do not feel that starting in at this time with my poor contacts I would have much hope of securing a really desirable person, and unless we can get a very good one we are better off the other way. Marjory, of course, considers herself very temporary in this capacity, and any time we are able to invite a permanent head she will be very glad for us to do so.

In Chemistry:- Mr. Hwang is leaving, and at present the only other person is Chen Shibedzung. I was very disappointed to learn from your last letter that there was no hope of Mou-i before next summer, because I was quite definitely counting on her for the second term. I am trying to get Wen Hwang-chang to come back, but from her last letter it does not look as though the prospects are very good although she has not definitely turned it down. Yin Kung-ming is not coming and I may decide to ask Pen Hsing-fu but am not too anxious to do that if I can manage some other way. Ging-chung is very uncertain in her plans but since she wants to be free to go to India if she can get her passport, I cannot count on her at all although she may possibly be here.

Chinese continues just as it has been this year, at least for the first term, unless Mr. Koo decides that having received the contract, he does not wish to accept it.

English is taken care of with a little part time help from Eva, in addition to Marjory. Alice Settlemyer Byrne is definitely leaving, although for a time we did contemplate asking her to stay one more term until Florence gets back.

There is no change in History. In Home Economics, Miss Dja is leaving, but Miss Yung is still here having decided to give up her long trip. Her baby is due in October and it looks now as if she would stay right here and carry on, arranging for substitutes during the time of her absence. Her husband is not here at present, and she seems satisfied for the fall term to have a room in the little practice house, which is where she should be, and I think we shall probably leave it that way. It is a somewhat doubtful experiment to have a very small baby in that house, and I am quite prepared for some difficulties to emerge but I think people will be able to endure it for a couple of months, and then if it is too difficult we will try to make some other arrangements for the spring term. Hwang Yen-hwa is staying and Yen Ba-yen is to help Dr. Shannon with her Nursery School project, with her salary very largely coming from the Nursery School project, and the balance I hope from the Child Welfare funds. Efforts in cooperation in that department seem to go along quite well with Yenching, but neither we nor Yenching can get anywhere at all with Dr. Peng. The relationships there have rapidly become worse and she will not even meet anyone or answer letters or enter in any way into negotiation. She has acquired a large endowment for her department and it has evidently made her feel that she has no need of cooperation and therefore no desire for it. They are going to make another try at a joint department meeting after Mrs. Mei's return from her vacation, but the prospects are not encouraging.

Geography is difficult because Hsi-lan is away and I hesitate very much to make any definite arrangement without her approval. We have still not had any answer from Hwang Sin-ting so we are still short in that department although according to Bills' recommendation we should be making a cut, but I cannot see how we could cut as much as he recommends.

There are no problems in Music. In Mathematics-Physics, we have kept both the men, but arranged for about three-fourths of Tseo Bing-i's time at Goucher, so with what they pay they will practically cover her salary, and she will still have time for a little laboratory teaching in Physics. This seemed to be the only possible way of making a cut in that department at the present time. It is one of the places where we felt that for me to try to push something which seemed to them to be altogether unreasonable would make more hard feeling than the saving was worth. You will have to settle this problem as soon as you return next spring. The two majors will be practically finished at that time and that ought to make it a simpler problem.

Sociology has been the most difficult all along. I am sorry you did not know about Mrs. Wu. Our neglect to mention her was due to the fact that we knew definitely she was coming, and we knew you knew, so we did not think to say anything more about it. She is due in Chungking almost any time where she will confer with Nora Hsiung and then she and her family will come on here about the first of August. It seems to be definitely accepted that she will be half time general director of the Child Welfare program and the other half

time to Ginling College.

Tang Ming-sing has finally decided to come to Ginling, and thereby has created something of a complication with the University of Nanking because they claim that although she had resigned they had no reason to take it seriously and did not really expect her to leave and had certainly had no idea that she was coming here. According to Chen Wen-hsuen, she has been talking even quite recently as if she might still decide to stay on at Nanking, but according to what she has said to me she definitely resigned in writing in April and has never had any thought of going back there whatever else she did or did not do, and that they have not followed up that resignation in any way to indicate that they had any desire to urge her to stay. It is very difficult to figure out just where the truth lies, but I suspect both sides are stretching it a little. I have explained to Nanking that so far as I could tell, it was a perfectly straight forward case and that we certainly had no intention of trying to steal her away, and that I regretted any misunderstanding that may have occurred. I suggested that perhaps as a foreigner I took her resignation as something more definite and final than most Chinese would interpret it, and that perhaps it was there chiefly that the misunderstanding arose. If I can persuade Dr. Lung, I shall try to arrange for her to teach one or two courses for Chen in order to make for better feeling, and also to help out our budget.

Dzo Yu-lin's case has also been very difficult. When the pressure for dropping people arose, it seemed that if we were adding Tang and one half of Mrs. Wu, that we should then drop both Chang and Dzo, which would then be only a net dropping of one half person as against Bill's recommendation of one; but with Wang Ying-an newly arrived, it was very awkward to keep her and put her on the project and let Dzo go and the project is much too small to take care of two people. Before I felt clear as to exactly how to proceed and while I was still trying to find some constructive approach, Dr. Lung mentioned to Wang Ying-an that it was uncertain whether Dzo would be here or not, and Ying-an took it upon herself to get another friend to tell Dzo Yu-lin that the College did not want her and that she had better resign. This was a most unfortunate way for the information to come to her and caused her a great deal of unhappiness and feeling that she is not being fairly treated. I have not been able to decide exactly what Ying-an's motives were, but they are at least open to suspicion. In the end, since we had to compromise on the others we were dropping, it seemed best to continue with Yu-lin so I have told her definitely that we shall be keeping her and that we will find some way to finance her salary but that we have not yet clearly figured out how to do it. I hope it can be managed outside the regular budget, or if Tang Ming-sing does part time work at the University that what they pay for her time will go a fairly good way towards paying Yu-lin's salary, and also it may open the way for Yu-lin to do a little teaching which would otherwise have been done by Tang Ming-sing. Dr. Lung has gone away for some survey work and nothing more can be done until he comes back and he is in such a touchy mood that I shall need to handle it all very carefully, but this seems the best solution if I can get him to agree to it.

Mr. Graham has already left for Chungking, hoping to go on to India in the near future, but no definite word has yet come of his plans. Mrs. Graham is remaining here for the present and they hope that after he reaches India he will be able to arrange for her to follow in the early fall. I spoke to Mrs. Whittington before she left on the trip with Dr. Liu, about her helping part time in the office, and she is willing to do it, although I am sure it is not her first choice of work, and she has not had shorthand training so that she will not be able to take dictation, or at any rate not very quickly.

We made the main move to the Canadian School on the 12th of July, but we are still a long way from being settled. The building is very dirty and it is so large it seems like a terrible chore to get everything cleaned and settled in order, but of course we have two months to do it in, so I suppose by the time school opens we shall find ourselves in fairly good shape. It is hard to say yet how well we will fit into it but on the whole I think it is going to be quite satisfactory, once we have had time to solve the many practical problems that such a move creates. How much the whole business will cost us financially, it is at the present time very hard to estimate, but we shall just have to take it and manage the best we can.

Kang Tung has asked to her her transcript sent to Smith and is applying for admission as a graduate student in Sociology. I am mailing it with a letter of recommendation but suggesting also that they get in touch with you as I do not know her very well. She wants a cabled reply to tell whether she is admitted, as she feels she can arrange transportation to get there for this fall. In my letter to Smith I suggested that they cable me and charge it to the New York office and then Kang Tung will pay for it here. If you think of some better way to arrange for it, all right.

I'm going to mail this today - Jul 22 & shall feel as if a half year's job is completed! With love

Ruth.

1217

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

[17]

Ginling College
Chengtu. Oct. 25, 1943.

Dear Cornelia:

Letter from 35%

I know you have all been wanting news of us and I'm sorry it has been so slow in getting off. We did send early in September an account of the summer work at our rural station, Djung Ho Chang, which I trust has reached you by now, or at any rate will have arrived before this does. I am also asking Bishop Chen to take a sheet of simple statistics, as I think he will get there more quickly than the post. I will enclose another copy, however, in case he should be unable to take it for any reason. I just saw those figures today for the first time and was interested in two or three points especially. One is that the number of Christians is relatively high for these days. I have forgotten last year's percentage, but I think it was considerably lower than the 42.5% we have now. Also there are in the freshman class a number of really strong Christians who will be leaders. We have several daughters of fairly prominent Christian leaders, and a number of others also from Christian families. All the general comments I have heard about this new class are favorable and my impression is also a good one. I am especially glad of this as we got a very poor one last fall, partly through errors of judgment on my part, and the faculty were rather discouraged. Because many of them dropped out, and because we took care not to let in those doubtful cases this year, our total enrollment is a little smaller than last year. But last year we had about 10 too many so we are not much below capacity now, and I am sure it is better for the college to have a few less and have good ones. We got an unusually large number of transfer students this fall - between 15 and 20, I believe.

Another healthy sign for us, I think, is the decrease in the number of Szechuan students. When it comes time to move back it is not likely that many of them will go with us, and it is therefore much better for us to have as large a proportion as possible from other areas. A year ago we had 33%, in the spring term 30% and now it is 28.6%. It is also pretty largely true that the Szechuan students are of poorer quality, though of course no such generalization as that is altogether true.

One of the events of the summer, as Dr. Wu has probably told you, was the moving of our main group of women faculty and the second student dormitory into the Canadian School building. It is a large three story building which was built for dormitory and school rooms, and is on the whole quite well adapted for our needs. The student rooms are large and they have to have 14 in a room but at that they have much more space than the 4-in-a-room ones in the other dormitory. The moving and settling were a lot of work, and it has been hard to get our faculty household running smoothly in its new home, but it is really a better place for us than the hospital. It has large grounds and we enjoy the flowers and the lawns very much after having nothing at all of that kind. So far I have moved every year since I came to Chengtu, this being my fifth home here. I hope I can stay here now until I leave Chengtu.

I have already written Dr. Wu a little about the refusal of the Ministry of Education to recognize the Child Welfare training major. Just today I heard that Dean K'o of U. of Nanking had talked with them about it recently in Chungking and brings back word that there seems little hope they will change their minds. They say it is unnecessary for that major to get a good foundation. If they do that they cannot do the other, as there is no room for electives. It looks very discouraging, though I still have a little hope that someone may be able to make them see light. We had 30 students eager to prepare for that line of work, which is certainly urgently needed, but it looks

1218

OCT 25 1943

as if there will be no way to train them for it. They are going to try in Chungking, the U.C.R. Child Welfare committee, but Miss Chen when she was here was also not very hopeful.

Chiang

We have recently had a visit from Miss Irene Ward, a British M.P. She was not especially exciting, but on the whole I think her visit was a success. An Indian Professor is at the Theological Seminary for two months or so and is a very popular lecturer at the moment. He seems a very fair-minded person and very interesting. That reminds me that we are shortly going to have an Indian student at Ginling. The daughter of the new Agent-General for India in Chungking is coming to us. I am not quite sure yet whether she will live in the dormitory, but I hope she may be able to manage that because she will have much better contact with our students that way. She is reported to be a very nice girl, and I hope it will be a valuable experience both for her and for the other students.

Dr. Liu led another party to the border regions this summer, and some accounts of that will be coming along presently. In fact I think Mrs. Whittington has already sent a copy of their letter, and probably Dr. Liu will be doing one also.

We are running this term, for the first time, a small nursery school for faculty children, in order to have a practice place for the Child Development course. We hope soon also to get started a different type of nursery school for poor children as part of our social service work. When that gets going we shall very likely discontinue the other one, as we are more interested in the poor children type and others are doing the other kind anyhow. Another new departure is by the P.E. department - a rhythms class for children of 5-9 years. I do not know very much about it yet as it has just started, but later on they will be giving a program, I believe.

Founders' Day is set for Nov. 7th and is to center around Mrs. Thurston this year. Dr. Peter Shih is to make the Sunday morning address and someone will also give a brief account then of Mrs. Thurston's contribution to Ginling. I wish she and Dr. Wu could both be here for it.

Another thing in prospect is an exhibit in the City Park on Nov. 12 along "social education" lines - toys, clothing, nutrition etc. This is not yet planned so I can't tell much about it.

Dr. Fenn is keeping us very busy filling out questionnaires with statistics of all sorts. He is almost as bad as the ministry of education - worse for me, because he wants them in English so I've no excuse to leave it all to other people.

I'm afraid this is a very dull letter indeed. I cannot think of anything that makes really interesting news. We are busy at regular work most of the time, and while that is primarily what we are supposed to be doing, it doesn't make good publicity material. I will try to get some other things written up and sent on to you from time to time, but right now there's not much.

Last night we had a very nice little service. We have just organized a faculty-student Christian fellowship in order to have a little more of a center for our own religious life. Most of the religious activities on the campus are done jointly and this should be so, but there is a loss when it is all in the larger groups. This is a very simple organization but I think will help. Last night was the first meeting, beginning with a little pageant which Eva wrote in which a student seeks first light, then ~~courage~~ ~~then~~ ~~then~~ strength and then courage which comes from unity, so that she may put her spirit of service into action. At the end we were all asked to join with her and all the new members lighted their candles from the symbolic figures who had come to her aid. It was a very nice little service and quite a good group attended. My love to you. Here's hoping I'll do a better letter next time.

Ruth

12 19

Ginling, Oct. 29, 1943.

Dear Yi-fang:

Cornelia's letter of Sept. 10 arrived yesterday and I will try to go on with some of the things I didn't finish in my last letter, and also make some comments on the question of faculty needs, which was the main concern of her letter, written after the personnel committee meeting.

Since I wrote last I have talked with Hsiang-lan on the question of the Personality Training project and find that we agree very well in our point of view. We both approve the idea and wish it could be done, but feel that as a formal special course of training it is certainly impossible right now. How long this situation will last no one knows, but I don't think there is the slightest chance that this ministry would consider it. Personally I am inclined to think that the real reason they won't recognize this Child Welfare major is because they don't want that kind of thing done by Christian Schools. Dean K'o reports after his recent visit in Chungking that there is probably no hope of getting that action changed. Maybe you can wangle it somehow when you get back, but I don't believe anyone else can. So I think it may have to be done just by certain elective courses and personal influence, etc. I hope there will be some elective courses before long, and there is some encouragement along that line, though no change has been announced yet. We do feel that Mrs. New would greatly strengthen our faculty group in just the way it needs strengthening. She would make a good supplement to you because she is especially strong in the kind of thing you are not quite so good at, and in any case never have time for. While there would probably be some criticism at first, because of your long friendship, I don't think it would be serious, and I believe in a very short time she would make her own place and that would be forgotten. Whether it would work better to have her the Dean of Students, with an assistant who would do all the routine work I am not sure. I think either that, or else no special connection with that department at all, as I think it might be difficult if she were in a sort of informal advisory relationship, without actual authority and responsibility. However, that can all be worked out later and might depend some on who the other person is.

That last question of the dean is an urgent and a difficult one, as you know. Hsiang-lan is at the hospital today getting final tests made, but the doctor has already recommended light work, and I think she definitely feels she cannot stay next term, both for family and for health reasons. I am urging her to plan to be on leave of absence next term so that the question of her later relation to the college can be discussed after you get back and after she has had a bit of rest. She is inclined now to make it a complete break, but that will depend some on her health and on whether she goes north with her family or not. Psychologically she needs a change and I don't think we should urge her to stay next spring, even on light work, especially as light work is just about as impossible for her here, as it is for you. She is now resigning from some outside things, but still has a heavy load and it's going to be hard to lighten it any this term. For next term her idea is that Hu Ya-lan can carry on, under you, for a term without any serious trouble, and that is probably true. But Ya-lan is not qualified for the real deanship in many ways and it would be only a temporary stop-gap. We must find someone by next summer for this job. Hsiang-lan is feeling pretty strongly that you ought to get back before the end of this term - say Jan. 15 or so. One reason is this problem of hers, so that she will be free to leave at the end of the term. She plans to take some other job which will be a much lighter one, but will support her and her mother. The sister and baby are probably going north soon, anyhow. If she is going to take another job she ought to be free at least by beginning of second term, and we both feel that she should be here till you get here. She also has other reasons and the guess I made in my last letter was correct. If there are to be other changes, she feels that it is much better that they be made with you here, not in your absence or just before you get back, and there is some point in that. I personally hate to shorten your time in U.S. and perhaps I appreciate more than she does the importance of that, but I know she does also hate to suggest it, and yet feels it should be. After her medical report is finished we will talk again and then decide whether to cable or not, but if we do cable, this letter will give you further background as to the reasons.

1220

Oct. 29, 1943

[2]

In one of your letters you asked our reactions on future planning for Ginling. I think you wanted a reply before Oct. 21, but that was one of the very slow letters and we didn't get it until about Oct. 10th, so that's why you didn't have a reply before. I think that must have been in Hsiang-lan's letter, as I don't find it in mine...Oh yes, here it is in an earlier letter. I agree in the main with your proposals. On the whole I think I favor the idea of one strong independent women's university (in the Chinese sense) which might be located near a men's university with which it would cooperate on some advanced courses and special equipment, but would be an entirely separate institution, more or less as Ginling and U.N. in the old days. In order that this be a strong institution I certainly hope the combination with Hwa Nan can be worked out, for faculty personnel as well as finances are too limited to provide two women's institutions satisfactorily. If at the same time, the men's institutions in that section of China would stop taking women that would be better I believe, but I doubt whether they will be willing to do that. If this plan cannot be worked for some reason, then your second one of a federated university on something like the Toronto or Oxford plan with one women's unit on the same footing as the others, might work out all right. I should like it to have a certain amount of academic independence and not be just a residence college like the women's college here, for Miss Streeter certainly has a hard time because she has no say in the admission of students and other academic matters. I am not quite sure that I agree that it would be necessary to establish such a federation in an entirely new center, though there would undoubtedly be advantages in doing so. I should not be prepared to insist on that point myself. Bill Fenn is asking for expressions of opinion on this sort of question from various people, confidentially, and Hsiang-lan and I are both asked to prepare a statement. I will send you a copy of mine when it is ready, and hers also if she is willing.

Now for some of our personnel question. Biology is getting along very well as far as teaching is concerned. We are offering practically the same work as last year with one less teacher and they are not overworked now. Marjory still gives half time to English, though she is really a little too busy. However prestige has suffered by not having a dept head with more standing. Marjory is doing a better job on the academic part of the dept head than anyone has ever done - that is she is taking more pains to check student requirements, etc. and I think has largely overcome the difficulties she had last year with some students, and seems to be getting on well with the other departments so far as I know. But we should get a permanent head, and she is not very likely to be with us after this year, I think. I believe her furlough is due this summer, and Eva says they plan to send her home. So a dept head for biology is a definite need. (By the way, has anyone told you that poor little Pin-dji is dying of cancer of the esophagus? The last I heard they were trying to keep her alive by artificial feeding methods till her husband gets back). Chemistry must have an addition before next term, but I will take care of that, and if Mou-i can be counted on for next fall that is O.K. Chinese you can do nothing about now anyhow. English. Mary Lambertson is beginning to talk about going home, but I am not sure whether it is because she really wants to go, or because she was invited to be here during Florence's absence and feels it is right to offer to go. Personally I should urge her to stay as long as she is willing to, for we need her, and she contributes a good deal in other ways as well as her teaching. She is doing entirely joint major teaching this term. She is now taking one French class and could do the rest of the French if she were not needed for English. Her sister has just been released and is on her way home, so that may make Mary more anxious to go, but I don't know. Anyway at the moment I'd say she is not sure for next fall, but probably can be persuaded if we want her. Marjory gives $\frac{1}{2}$ time to English, and Eva $\frac{1}{4}$ this term, and Liu Kai-yung is giving nearly full time, but she hopes to go abroad soon, so that makes another $\frac{1}{2}$ doubtful, approximately, though we could replace Kai-yung quite easily, I suppose. We certainly need at least 1 new foreigner in the fall, and two if Mary should go. Ann Deens has just been cabled by her mission to leave at once, so we shall have to find someone now to take over her 3rd year French class.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1221

Geography is difficult. I do not think we can hold the present head much longer, and personally I am not in favor of trying to. The problems become more and more serious and are affecting the attitude and morale of a ~~very~~ considerable number of our faculty group. Secondly, the report En-lan gives about Dr. W. is very discouraging. I am not sure whether to believe all she says at full value or not, but there must be something to it surely. The language is part of the problem, but he seems in addition to be a slow and dull teacher. She says he has spent about 6 weeks on an introductory topic in geology which she usually does in 1 lecture, but which might be expanded to two weeks at most. Then was planning to omit the parts the U.N. students most need. Students do not understand him or find him stimulating at all, apparently. I'm not sure how the majors in his smaller classes feel. But if she should go he would certainly not be able to hold things together. We have a new man as instructor, Chen Tsieh I think his name is, but he is young and just barely qualified for instructorship. In view of all this, and the very small number of majors, which still shows no signs of building up - there are two second term freshmen, but no new ones, and two juniors and that is all except Hwang Gwoh-hsun who should finish this term but has had to go back to bed with more T.B., and in view of the Min. of Ed. repeated request that we combine it with history, I think that if En-lan does want to leave we had better make the geog. a minor and try to get approval for a History major with Geog. minor, and to continue also the regular history major, which has several geog. courses anyway. Of course I should not suggest this while she is here, but in view of the rumors and rumblings I think we should have some plan. I had a meeting with Eva and En-lan last spring to discuss how to combine the two departments and En-lan was talk further with Mr. Ming, and see if any further explaining or appeal could be made. She has never said any more, and neither has anyone else, so I am letting that matter rest. There'll be no one graduating this year anyhow, and I think it can safely wait till your return, as we also have no new majors in the department to report.

Home Econ. I'm glad to hear you have a prospect in sight. I do not know how long we can count on Miss Yung. If we could get an older more experienced person who could become the head of the dept without too much loss of face to Yung, I should like to see it. I am afraid that it will be difficult for anyone to work under her. If you get Miss Fung, she would have to be under Yung, and there seem to be a good many difficulties there. But we shall have to try it and hope for the best. Did I tell you she now has a daughter? She is pleased that we have given her a house and I'm tremendously relieved that we don't have to take her into ours. It is an urgent need to strengthen that dept, whether she stays or not.

Music. Mr. Yeh stayed in Kunming only a short time and was back here before commencement, I think. Anyhow he is on the job here again this fall and they have been assigned rooms in the Kilborn house, so there is no question there. Wen Yung-kwen is half time again. Chang Ping-i is hoping to go to America with her husband, or to follow him there, but I suppose she won't get away before late spring or summer. So there is no vocal need except to replace Bing-i and Yung-kwen could probably do that, or some other recent graduate. If Hu Shih-tsang should go then piano is needed, otherwise not. If Stella goes, then a theory teacher would be needed temporarily to take her work. I'll try to talk with Catharine shortly.

P.E. I think I should say to go ahead and get Chang Hwei-lan if possible. She may not be ideal in some respects, but we have no other mature person in sight, and we much have someone to head it up next year. Ettie is definitely leaving next summer. She says that according to present talk all of the rest are leaving also. Miss Djou is apparently one of the difficulties, and it may be that if we let her go, some of the others may stay. Ettie knows of a person with more or less the same training and background as herself and Lu Hwei-ching who is available and I will find out more about her, and perhaps give her at least a tentative invitation before you get back, if that seems necessary in order not to lose her. She is here in China. Yang Hsiao-tang is doing half time, but it makes an expensive half

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1222

October 29, 1943

[4]

time as she still lives at Kwang Hwa. En-tsi is having a baby in a week or so now, and has been in bed almost continuously since April.

Sociology. I don't know whether a chance for sabbatical leave and study would make Dr. Lung decide to stay on or not. Without that I feel fairly sure he will leave next summer. Mrs. Wu is Fine in every way and I do hope we can keep her. Ming-sing is a much more doubtful asset as she is so difficult personally. I've not had much chance yet to judge of her work. Yu-lin and Djen-dji are still on the same basis as last year, but I rather think Yu-lin has plans to leave, possibly next term even. She seems happier now and I think the trouble of the summer is largely cleared up, but it naturally has given her an insecure feeling and the desire to make a change on her own, before any more questions arise. She is now asking for a transcript and I suppose is going to try for study abroad, but ~~and~~ incidentally I might report that that is true of nearly everybody! We have made out over 20 transcripts this fall and the requests still come in. Ying-an is at last able to get down to some real work. We have been granted use of the small piece of ground back of the unbuilt wing of the education building which was a possible site for the faculty house, and are going to try to put up a very small building there to be used in connection with the social center we already have. Meanwhile they have worked out an arrangement with Phoebe and are starting the nursery school there afternoons, temporarily - I am glad that she and Ming-sing seem to be getting on not too badly with Phoebe, but with Miss Yung there is a bad rift all the way round and I don't know whether we can work that out or not. Ying-an is not easy to work with, and her ~~xxx~~ manner gives offense at times when I don't think she means it at all. For the present then I feel that Sociology is quite well off, but if Lung should go then there would be an important vacancy.

As for advanced study I should definitely put Yu-ching first on my list because she is such a very fine person as well as so capable both as student and teacher. Her attitudes and spirit are unusually fine and we want and need her on our faculty in the future. Hu Shih-tsiang also should have her chance if possible, though I am not so enthusiastic about her in some ways, as I think she coddles herself and is rather lazy about taking part in other things than her own work. Hsiung Ya-na is also worth further training, as you say. She and Yu-ching both tried Tsing Hua exams this fall, I believe, but for the experience mainly. I don't believe either has very much chance. It is hard as you say, to see how to help these without also doing something for Mei-ling and Yu-lin. Perhaps that will work out in some natural way.

Will send another letter shortly.

Affectionately,

Ruth

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1223

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF CHINA
TOWNSHIP

11/3/43

Ginling College, Chengtu.
Nov. 2, 1943.
ack 11/25/43

Dear Mr. Evans:

I wish to explain why the Laselle scholarship was not assigned earlier and also ask you to clear up our confusion on this matter. When Dr. Wu left she turned over to me a copy of a letter written you by you to Mrs. Donald Scott, Oct. 30, 1942 in regard to a scholarship of \$150, but with no explanation. I was unable to find anything in the files about it and Miss Priest had received no money under the name of Scott. I wrote to Dr. Wu in Chungking or India for further explanation, but she overlooked it in the rush of things at the end. So I did nothing, pending either the receipt of the money or of some explanation. When the cable about the Laselle fund came Miss Priest and I tried to check it up. She had received \$150 under the Laselle name, but with no statement as to what it was for, so that also had not been used. Between us we came to the conclusion that probably these two are the same thing and our committee then proceeded to assign the scholarship to Miss Fung Chi-gieh. She is a senior who is a fine Christian girl, rather older and more mature than most students and she has done a very fine piece of work as head of the student organization. She has been very responsible and shown excellent judgement and Dr. Djang felt that all of that deserved some special reward. Her financial situation was very difficult and it has been a great help to her to be freed from these worries. Just recently she has lost her mother and the younger sister may have to go home, but we hope this one can stay to complete her work.

If the Mrs. Scott scholarship is not the same as the Laselle one, please let me know and also check about the money which your letter to her said you were sending in October but which did not come at that time. With personal greetings, Sincerely,

Paul W. Chester.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1224

Grading College, Ontario
Nov. 2, 1948.

Mr. Evans.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEC 27 1948
JOINT OFFICE
OK

to explain why the Lashie scholarship was not assigned earlier and to me
our confusion on this matter. When Dr. W. left she turned over to me
Oct. 30, 1948 in regard to a letter written by you to Mrs. Donald Scott Oct. 30, 1948 in regard to a
of \$150, but with no explanation. I was unable to find anything in the files
and Miss Priest had received no money under the name of Scott. I wrote to Dr. W.
in Ontario for further explanation, but she overlooked it in the rush of things
at the end of the year. So I am writing, sending another the receipt of the money or of some explana-
tion. When the cable about the Lashie fund came Miss Priest and I tried to check it up.
she had received \$150 under the Lashie name, but with no statement as to what it was for,
so that also had not been used. Between us we came to the conclusion that probably these
two are the same thing and our committee then proceeded to assign the scholarship to Miss
Lang Chi-gieh. She is a senior who is a fine Christian girl, rather older and more mature
than most students and she has done a very fine piece of work as head of the student organi-
zation. She has been very responsible and shown excellent judgment and Dr. Djang felt that
all of that deserved some special reward. Her financial situation was very difficult and
it has been a great help to her to be freed from these worries. Just recently she has lost
her mother and the younger sister may have to go home, but we hope this one can stay to
complete her work.

If the Mrs. Scott scholarship is not the same as the Lashie one, please let me
know and also check about the money which your letter to her said you were sending in
October but which did not come at that time. With personal greetings, sincerely,

With personal greetings, sincerely,
W. W. Evans

1225

1
F
5
2
7
2
9

February 28, 1944

Miss Ruth Chester
Ginling College
Chengtou, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Chester:

I am grateful for your letter of November 2nd regarding the Lasell Scholarship Fund.

Apparently three letters written on this subject never reached their destination and we are the recipients of some pretty harsh criticism on the part of Mrs. Donald Scott and her friends. I am hoping that the news regarding Miss Peng will relieve the tension somewhat. It was our original hope that this fund would be built up still further, but I do not think it is possible at the present time.

We will let you know later the outcome of our negotiations with Mrs. Scott.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

P. S. One letter I referred to was dated April 1, 1943 addressed to Miss Priest. This explained fully the purpose of the gift and how it was to be handled.

C. A. E.

Via China Clipper
c.c. via next Clipper

1226

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

CLASS OF SERVICE
 This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS
 PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

HB237 B115CDC DAT 25

CD CHENGTU VIA MACKAY NOV 11 1943

DLT CARL EVANS

150 FIFTHAVE NYK

ADVISE WHUYIFANG URGE RETURN JANUARY DOCTORS ADVISE

HSIANGLAN BE RELIEVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE COLLEGE

RUNNING SMOOTHLY

RUTH CHESTER

737P

NOV 11

1943

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1227

1. General Principles.

- a). Christian Universities should make some special contribution and not be just like government institutions. This should be especially in Christian training and character, otherwise we have no right to exist at all. In addition we must maintain the best possible academic standards and if the situation permits we should be ready for experimentation in curriculum, teaching methods, etc.
- b). Size should be governed not primarily by economic efficiency and certainly not by the desire for prestige which numbers produce. Our primary purpose of Christian training and character development is definitely more difficult in a large institution and we have no right to expand in size unless we can organize in such a way that smaller subdivisions give the closer contacts between faculty and students and greater intimacy of group fellowship which the small college can have. I think our funds for Christian education would be better spent in maintaining small institutions of real Christian character (even though they are relatively expensive) than in large universities where many students do not come under any Christian influence at all. Also by keeping small we can select really good students and this is the first essential to maintaining high standards.
- c). Technical short courses may be justifiable as temporary contributions to the war effort, but I do not feel this line should be emphasized as a permanent policy. In a few fields where short courses are training workers needed in Christian institutions - such as music or P.E. teachers for Christian schools - such courses should be continued, but it is not our job to train mechanics and other technical workers that have no relation to the Christian program and who do not stay long enough nor have enough contact with the general life of the institution to be influenced in character or thinking.

To a less extent I feel that regular university work in engineering and other very technical fields is not primarily our business - not more than one engineering school I should think, in the Christian group, and similarly with Business, Law, Journalism, etc.

- d). Some attempt should be made to restrict the number of majors in fields where the motive is to prepare for easy jobs with high salaries rather than for real service. For example the present situation in economics where the emphasis is on accounting and not on economic theory and principles. This should not be one of the biggest departments in a Christian university for this spirit permeates the whole student body, and even the faculty.
2. Distribution. There should be at least 5 centers, north, east, south central and west, and because of the history of the present institutions it may be advisable to increase this number a little. If funds permitted adequate financing of a larger number of relatively small institutions I should favor it, but do not favor weakness and competition and low standards. I frankly fear the concentration plan because of the danger of having five or six very large institutions which may be academically good, but not in any sense Christian institutions. Organization of any combinations in these centers should be very carefully worked out, so that smaller units within the larger one have real significance and individuality and meet the needs mentioned above in 1 b). Whether these units should have continuity with present institutions, or should be based on some other plan of differentiation, either academic, or denominational I am not sure. Each has its advantages and disadvantages and different plans may be suitable for different centers. In any case the main library, auditorium, laboratories for advanced work, etc., should belong to the university as a whole and be used equally by the various units.

There should be some correlation between the different centers. The more specialized professional schools mentioned in c) above should certainly not be duplicated. If we continue to do these at all there should be only one center for each. Medical schools either one or two, not more.

DEC 1943

3. Ginling College. The question of the future of Ginling depends on the larger principle as to what should be done about women's education. The government has no vision and no plans for any special education for women and this seems clearly one of the few places where we still have a little freedom for a unique contribution. Those who are familiar with the women's colleges in the States do feel that they have made a contribution which is distinct from that made by the co-educational universities, and if we do not demonstrate this in China, no one else will. It is one of the few places where departure from the rigid pattern of the Ministry of Education is permitted and I believe we should make the most of it. To do this well, I believe we should decide on one strong women's institution and develop it so that it can stand on a footing of equality with the other Christian institutions. I should like to see such an institution become a University in the Chinese sense, preferably quite independent of any other university. The size should probably be around 400-500, with a college of arts, science, and if possible education for the third.

An alternative plan, definitely less desirable, I think, would be to have one women's college as a unit in the federated university center, on the same footing and with the same degree of independence as the other units. In that case, the other units should not be co-educational.

The women's university should emphasize Sociology, especially training for social service, Music, Physical Education, Home Economics and English, and should also have good departments in at least the following departments: Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, History. As soon as possible a department of Philosophy and Religion should be included. Others to consider would be Art, Geography, Philosophy, Mathematics and Physics. If the curriculum permits, a strong minor in Education should be available.

To sum up, then, I would suggest that there be probably 4 centers in which there is either co-education, or a women's unit in the federation, preferably the latter, and that in one area there be two completely separate universities, one for men and the other for women. Whether these should be in the same city or not is a question that would be more easily settled later, I think. My own inclination is to place the women's university somewhere in the East China area, but this may well be a prejudiced view, and I do not think the location is as important as the principle that there should be one completely independent Christian institution for women. If we do not do that, I feel that we have missed a real opportunity to make a contribution that no one else will make.

Although many of these matters have been discussed with others, both in and out of our Ginling Group at various times, I wish it to be clear that the opinions here expressed are my personal ones only. I think most of them are similar to opinions held by other members of our group, but some may not be.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Ruth M. Chester

Ruth M. Chester.
Dean of Studies, Ginling College.

1229

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

Mackay Radio

CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE
MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE

FULL RATE	DEFERRED	
CDE RATE	NIGHT LETTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
URGENT	SHIP RADIO	



RADIOGRAM

CHARGE ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CASH NO.	TOLLS
CHECK	
TIME FILED	(STANDARD TIME)

Send the following message "VIA MACKAY RADIO," subject to the rules, regulations and rates of Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities.

(VIA MACKAY RADIO)

JANUARY 10, 1944

RUTH CHESTER
CHENG TU (CHINA)

file
Wrote to
Miss Chester

CABLE IMMEDIATELY STATUS KANG TUNG REFERRING TO MY CABLE SEPTEMBER EIGHT
STOP SMITH CONCERNED OVER UNFILLED FELLOWSHIP.

CARL EVANS

ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA, 150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

DCC-8 NY

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE ON THE GREEN-TOP BLANK. FILE THROUGH POSTAL TELEGRAPH BY MESSENGER, TELEPHONE OR POSTAL TELEGRAPH PRINTER. BE SURE TO SPECIFY "VIA MACKAY RADIO". IF DESIRED MESSAGES MAY BE TELEPHONED DIRECT TO MACKAY RADIO BY CALLING WHITEHALL 4-6780.

1230

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

File - ⁽¹⁷⁾ over

MORROW HOUSE, SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Monday A.M.

Dear Eva,

Many thanks for letting us see these letters which I thoroughly enjoyed. The Shanghai news is most interesting + encouraging. Eu-lan also sounds as if a rest + a change are doing her good. As for encouraging her in her writing I think I should say yes. For one thing she will probably do it anyway + she needs the feeling that guiding people are backing her. As to how well she will do it, I don't quite know. I should have no misgivings whatever if it could be ascertained that readers, if any, will take it for what it is - an interpretation by an observant + intelligent foreigner - & not think it is the work of a student of Chinese

1231

1
E
S
2
7
2
6

File ¹⁷ _{over}

MORROW HOUSE, SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Monday A.M.

Dear Eva.

Many thanks for letting us see these letters which I thoroughly enjoyed. The Shanghai news is most interesting + encouraging. Ev. Lee also sounds as if a rest + a change are doing her good. As for encouraging her in her writing I think I should say yes. For one thing she will probably do it anyway + she needs the feeling that judging people are backing her. As to how well she will do it, I don't quite know. I should have no misgivings whatever if it could be assured that readers, if any, will take it for what it is - an interpretation by an observant + intelligent layman - + not think it is the work of a student of Chinese

1231

1
3
5
2
7
2
6

1232
1
3
5
2
7
2
6

history and culture. She is keen & critical minded & expresses herself very interestingly & effectively with a style that usually makes her errors of speech add to the effect. I don't know where she hopes to publish it, but that can wait & it will do her good to write it in any case. I would expect it to be a very good piece of work & it will certainly be interesting!

My time is getting fairly well filled if I count what I'm putting in for my own education & amusement. So far I have dinners in 3 other houses, Ellen Emerson, Tyler's Franklin King. I think one or two others may materialize later. I'm also speaking to a Women's meeting in Florence Thursday evening. Saturday evening I answered questions on China for two solid hours at Mrs. Scales' with the faculty "Medieval Club" — Hanson, Eastman, Cameron.

MORROW HOUSE, SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sampson, Smith, Cheever, O'Keefe etc. It was great fun for they were so interested and appreciative.

So I hope it is proving worth while for Gushing - for me personally it certainly is tremendously so. I'm going to attend some classes today & tomorrow also. It will be fun to attend classes in which I have no responsibility either as teacher or student.

No more word as far about Smith Club dates

Sincerely,
Guth.

1
3
5
2
7
2
6