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COLLEGE FILES
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Ginling
Corres.
Hoh, Phoebe Y. T. 1927-1945
Hoskins, Mrs. Harold B. 1940
Hsi Mo-chuen 1945
Hsiang Gueh-djen 1947

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Jinling

phoebe Y. T. Hoh

1927 - 1945

Phoebe Hoh
Ginling College

RECEIVED

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Nanking, May 9, 1927

JUN 11 1927

Dear Mrs. Thurston,

My verdict is the world can go on without me why worry and talk so much? But the Canton girls are going back tomorrow. My heart began to ask more painfully. It seems that this most beautiful campus green as ever you have seen shall be deserted. Oh, no, I do not go on like this. Let me turn to another phase of things. The authorities had the educators who remain in the city to discuss the problems of education. The general opinion as I see is:

1. They wish that all schools and colleges open as soon as possible.
2. Those Mission Schools which are going on are deeply appreciated. Instead of criticism, we get admiration.
3. Neither the authorities nor the educators show the least sign of attempting to do anything about mission schools. One man in the meeting brought up the question of taking back or reorganize mission education institutions. The official who leads the meeting says that we are not in position to do that now. Where is money? he questioned calmly.
4. I put it up to them, that they better publish a definite regulation for private schools. Everybody agreed and that proposal been passed by unanimous votes. That stops the question about taking back the mission schools.
5. As far as we know from our friends belong to the party and the authorities there is no objection of inviting foreign teachers to come back if they are allowed by their respective governors.
6. Of course, no one can guarantee that nothing shall happen hereafter. We know the elements in the party are not at all simple and pure. Good forces seems to me are not yet strong enough to make a strong hold and direct the tide. It is not a time for Christian to stand aloof and see. **They must work hard now.** In this sense, I do approve the girls who joined the party now. But they are just a handful. And in a great many ways, they are misunderstood.
7. Now, more official investigation blanks issued from the headquarters and the municipal's office. It seems mighty important to have a definite plan for Ginling in the near future. I have already suggest to Miss Djiang not to hand in any kind of official report before we see more clearly both inside our own institution and the outside general situation. We made an excuse that our chair (it is true also) has gone to Shanghai. It is mighty important that definite persons who are expected to assume due responsibilities in the near future should stay here and entering wholeheartedly into the business immediately. No matter you agree with me or not, I know this is the best idea that my simple mind can contribute. Hesitation sometimes results as great vital mistake.

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8. After all, we girls have done nothing disgraceful. We do hope our friends in U.S.A. will never withdraw their helpful hands of Christian love. I do not believe they will.

Ginling girls are known as the most capable girls. In short, the campus - equipment and students are objects to be admired now in this city by all the newcomers. Ginling has never failed. Ten years hard work do mean something to the Public. Please rejoice with us. Only I wish you all and everyone were here at this moment. See the glorious sunset. God is still living.

We get high graded credits by letting girl work in different organization. I know people will not agree with on that but as a matter of fact you cannot maintain an institution and not let your students share the movement.

Letter from Phoebe Hoh.

This gives you some cross sections of Miss Hoh's thinking up in Nanberg. At the time of writing the threat of renewed fighting across the river was causing some students to leave.

m.e.t.

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MAR 18 1929

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Miss Sandberg
Chairman,
Ginling Committee

PHOEBE Y. T. HOH
1230 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

March 16th. 1929

My dear Miss Sandberg:

Your letter dated on March 5th. had been recieved some ten days ago. I am very sorry, that my acquaintance is very much limited. Right now I do not know any one that is qualified to take the position in consideration in Ginling except Miss L. D. Tong the historian.

It is certainly a great tragic loss to Ginling that Miss Rebecca W. Greist is not able to go and head the department of history and Miss Truedley is not considering of going back for social science. If I shall be allowed to express my opinion, these two should be invited as permanent members and to be urged to stay on. Ginling must grow and there shall be plenty of room for the development of Chinese professorship in any of the departments. And the Educational ^{World} is bound to be international. I know no one else better fitted, well respected, deeply beloved than these two for the respective departments. It is my sincere wish as an alumni, that they should be urged to reconsider. It meant great sacrifice to them I know. But think about Ginling; she is very young yet. What above her all needs is solid, stable and experienced personnels which will constitute its firmness and steady growth. And the maintaining of the kind of spirit is another point that will strengthen my position.

Pardon me for taken this opportunity to express my humble opinion which I am not supposed to. With best regards.

Sincerely yours
Phoeb Y. T. Hoh

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The Baptist Institute,
1425 Snyder Av.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Jan. 27, 1935.

Mrs T.D. Macmillan,
Ginling College Board of Founders,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Macmillan.

Your letter of last week reached me in the midst of a big drive of work, hence I did not get time to answer until today.

Phoebe Ho looks like a typical Chinese classical woman with very slit eyes, and the triangle shaped face. She is of medium height.

When I was in Ginling College, Phoebe wrote a paper for Miss Goucher telling of her childhood which I took to be autobiographical, and I jotted down several notes ^{which I} ~~and~~ have used ~~these~~ as a basis of a story about her that "listens most powerfully well"! But when she was in this country, some things that she said about her family did not fit the picture I had had, but by the time I was interested in verifying the story, Phoebe had had a nervous break and was in no position to answer questions. When Dr Wu was here, I asked her, and she thought that the story had been decidedly "embroidered", hence I am not just sure of my ground. *I state this because I feel it wiser not to publish the story some have heard me tell so often!*

However, I think it is a fact that Phoebe was born in a Confucian family in a small village where the family was one of the leading families. The Swedish ~~missionaries~~ ^{Lutheran} missionaries came there and established schools which Phoebe attended, and as fast as she finished one set of grades, she was used as a teacher until higher grades were introduced, until she reached college proficiency. Her feet had been bound but when she entered the Swedish school she tried to unbind them. She has told me that the unbinding was far more painful than the binding.

stood guard over the school which

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Phoebe entered Ginling College in 1916 and was from the first a natural born leader. However in the preceding class there were two natural leaders, Dr Wu and Mrs New, so there was not always the utmost harmony in our little flock. I still have some of the papers Phoe^{be} wrote for me in Comparative Religion &c and these papers always showed the marks of originality.

Miss Griest says that she was principal of the W.W.C.A. Normal School for several years. I had forgotten just where she taught between graduation and the time when she was called back to the college to teach Mandarin classics in the Chinese department.

Miss Griest felt that ^{Phoebe} she more than any one else was responsible for the saving of the college from the communists who tried to kill the foreign teachers in 1927. Miss Griest was there and could tell you that story. As I remember her story, Phoebe met the soldiers as they started to come into the campus. She had prepared a gracious speech to welcome in the new government, for no one then dreamed that there was the strong anti-foreign feeling that was later manifested in the death of Dr Williams &c. But instead of the polite reply that Phoebe had expected, the soldier leered at her and pointed his gun saying "We have come to kill the foreigners, where are they?" Phoebe pretended not to understand, indeed it is doubtful if she really did believe her ears, for former periodical disturbances had never since Boxer days involved the foreigners. However, as the soldier reiterated his demands, "Show us your foreigners", Phoebe drew herself up and said "I thought you had come to bring in a better government, all I have, I owe to my foreign teachers, can I give them up to be killed?" The soldier replied by putting his gun to her breast, when like our own Barbara Fritch~~e~~, she drew up her head and said "Well shoot then, but my teachers I will never give up". In the meantime, some of the others had dashed ^{the} news into ^{where the foreign faculty} the teachers who were hid in one of the buildings, and the soldiers were led in various directions, ^{anywhere except} but not where the foreign faculty were hid. Phoebe did not have her clothes off for two weeks while she stood guard over the school which ^{she so much loved. As a result}

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of the devotion and bravery of these Ginling College faculty and students, the college escaped the looting which occurred in all of the other mission buildings in Nanking. Some of the buildings were burned, all were badly injured except Ginling.

Mary Shipley (Mrs Samuel Mills, 46 S Wyoming Av, Ardmore^B) also might be able to give you a more authentic account of these trying days and the part that Phoebe played in leading the Chinese girls to defend their college and their religion. You probably have copies of the "Confidential Letters" circulated at the time among those of us most deeply interested.

Phoebe was pretty badly shaken by these terrific experiences, and so they decided to help her to come to America to fulfill the long time dream she had had of getting her doctor's degree in Columbia University. I saw her a number of times during the days of her study. Dr Monroe of Teacher's College said that she was the most brilliant Chinese woman that he had had the privilege of directing up to that time. As I remember it, she had completed all of her requirements for the degree up to its writing.

She was working much too hard, taking far too little recreation and suddenly her abused nerves gave way, and she had to stop her studies and go off for a complete rest. The teachers of Teacher's College, particularly, Miss Daniell of the Welfare Department, ~~who~~ arranged to have her given the very best of care until she was sufficiently recovered to return to China. As I remember it, Phoebe was plotting a curriculum that would be usable for the rural schools of China, and which would eliminate the old classical education so impracticable for the new rural China of today. It was naturally a great grief to Phoebe that her health prevented her from carrying out this project. She has been in rural work since returning to China. Dr Reeves in a recent letter says: "she is interesting as she tells of traveling around the district with its ten centers in which she works. One time she tells of getting the girls who have been in a class, to Nanchang

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Other times she is going after ^(stockings)knitting machines. She was thinking of showing some families how to make an oven" &c

So you see our Phoebe is still the same dominating personality that we think of in the Dowager Empress of earlier days, and yet she is to those of us who know her well, a jolly, lovable woman whose intellect we can admire, whose creativity we envy, whose courage and devotion we humbly wish we might emulate.

I wonder if you can use any of the above? I have felt the thing to do was to give you bits of personal experiences which you might combine with those from Rebecca Griest and others. I have tried to stick to facts, but I am not as sure as I might be of some, and can think of no way to verify what I do remember.

Very sincerely yours,

Navola Rivenburg

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Letter from Phoebe Hob. The Rural Project.
Guilford 1920 - Forwarded to U.S.F. Jensen,
by Miss Sutherland.

Dec. 7, 1938

Dear friends:

I was not in time this morning. All the gentlemen, were earlier than I am. They were all sitting in the tea shop. When I start from the station to join them the car came, so I got on the car first take the best sit I can get without even show the last bit of politeness. Mr. Chang & Mr. Chin, Bod Lin and Mr. Bell with another gentleman of his nationality soon joined me in the car. Every one can occupy only twelve inches of spaces with your little belongings or your nap. Very crowded indeed. It is a big bus - 25 seats. which took so much time to repair and stop to let us down to walk over bridges and steep hill tops. Finally we arrived at about 5 o'clock. When I got to the school it was quite dark.

Mr. Bell and the other gentlemen walk faster. He put my baggage - right in the big trunk which is going to wait for us. Therefore you see I am now, right in this well furnished room down stairs - the corner room with the door facing the school. Miss Wu had not got my letter till I got in the

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DEC 7 1938

is not prepared for me to stay in the school. So you see I am alone in this big house. Miss Wu told me to lock my thing in the little closet for the window is wide open. When I tried to close it. It is impossible. She told me also if the cheap lamp you may call the men servants who sleep at the back rooms and two men teachers sleeping there too. Well, Dr. Peenes knows the room at the corner the door of which facing the school. Now, one of the men closed the window for me. I am going to bed peacefully for I am not really alone. I desire your prayer.

Miss had been very kind to me. She is a lady of business but she is homey. The room, Dr. Peenes + I stayed is occupied by Miss Wu alone + it is cold in this days. I too big seem to me. Miss Wu told her teachers that she may move in this house ^{where I am now she mean.} that the teachers are afraid to be left there so she did not move.

The man servant filled the hot water hotel in the store on the street. and got some oranges for me. according to what he paid for these fine orange it is higher than we got at Chengtu.

I have a whole lot to tell you but I must go to bed. I will have late breakfast to make up the

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1938 [37]

claim of these steep up to this big house. I doubt if we really want this house at all.

But, I must confess, I enjoy very much the deadly quietness, there is not a single sound. Such a contrast to my crowded and noisy bed room. I am really having a quiet time. I feel as if God is nearer. I am thankful too. I wish alone all that all of you can come and enjoy. But if you all ^{do} come at the same time well, how would it be, you just imagine. Then, to be entirely alone is something I am experiencing.

Well, good night, everybody for your presence and your noise are harsh vivid before me as if I am amongst you, yet is not a sound in this big house. The ticking watch pleases me much.

I have to put out the hearth oil lamp & put match ~~up~~ under my pillow. I regret I too no fresh light. I did not forget but nothing to take.

If the thief do come when I am sound asleep then he will take everything from me, otherwise, I will not practise the "Bishop". Well, whichever way will be alright for me, I am not afraid to lose things nor to face the burglar. What I must have is a good sleep.

DEC 7
1938

[47]

Karissin is too high every body here has
oil for light so it went up high too
Cotton is cheaper. For the same amount of
money you may get double quantity of cotton.
than when you buy at Cheongtan.

^{per month} They used to pay \$.50 for a woman
servant now they pay \$1.20, adding \$4.00 for food.

We didn't take any lunch rapping
the car will arrive in time, but we got in
just before it is really dark. Therefore the
packages of donuts served well when we are
hungry at the junction when nothing can be
bought. Thanks to Miss Sutherland.

If I want to write more, I may
not be able to send you any thing the banks
are very good indeed. We have visited the
mayer this morning, I have a very good
boy young help me. He is the one who keeps
this house - \$3.00 for food, \$3.00 for
wage. a nice young man. lives at the
back. He is to mail the letters for me.

We are going to talk with the Pastor
Miss Wu and pastor etc. for our work
with Mr. Bell, I will supply for supper together
at pastor Cheng's home that lunch with
Mr. Bell at pastor Cheng this noon.
Sincerely yours
Phackerell Holt

Phoebe Hoh. Guiluy 1920. Dec. 9. 1938

The Rural Project in Szechuan Province - 1939.

[17]

Dear Miss Sutherland:

This is to thank you for the bread which we have entertained Bishop Sung's daughter, Mrs Chan had the whole staff of 英華女子, Han Yin gilo's school in the study of the house which we are going to have for use. I have fire in the fire place.

I wish you and all the faculty are here to help arrange these rooms. I have not done any thing for. All this should wait till Miss Wu and others come. But be sure this house will service many people in very desirable purpose if it is wisely used and managed. We do need space to live. Now, I am the only one who occupy this big house but alas, I can't be at home.

We have had two full days. Yesterday we call on the Mayor a man for about 50 but very alert and doing things. He, of course welcomed us. Then visit the church and King's garden Mrs. Liu Miss Wu know is there received us very warmly. She is nice woman with three children the elder is about 3 years old. And she is expecting

for another. Came out from the church we visit
the cooperative bank which is getting ready for
a grand opening celebration

In the afternoon Mr. Bell call an informal
meeting of the Church authorities and I entertain
them with simple supper at Pastor Cheng's
home whose wife helped to arrange every thing.
I told them roughly what we have in mind
- as a sort of dream - to do for the farm homes.
They all appreciate and welcome us. But they
all said that industry is more urgently needed!

Today we have two feasts. The school of
agriculture entertained us right after the grand celebration
7 tables full of grand people, only two women
among them that is Miss Hu the principle and I.
At night the Dr. of the hospital have a big feast at
his home on top of the hill.

I was given a chance to talk right after the
Mayer's speech in which he asked the Hanking
Wui Seable do not leave out the farm homes.
Therefore Mr. Hui rose up and introduce me, saying
"Here is Miss Hol. representing Gulig College is going
to take care of farm home and women." He goes
on to apologise for the work had been slow is

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1938

because Miss Ahl had been ill. This gave me a good opportunity as you can imagine. But please to let Miss Wu know that we must hurry from now on otherwise people will feel disappointed.

I meant to write to everyone of you but it seems impossible. On Saturday (10th) we have Mr. Chui visit us and I invited Miss Song to stay with us over Sunday. Even at night we are keep going on. I do not expect to be so busily engaged as I do now.

Dec. 11. (Some 50 students and ^{grown up} _{men + women toge. her 50 attend})
I went to the church in the ^{even} _{7 and} being entertained by the pastor at his home. A big talk about 36 persons present. At night, Miss Wu is to teach the night class in the public education Hall. I went with her. There were only 6 children present because the big theater in the city is open. Some outside dramatists -- well known actors came to act on the stage. It seems every body goes to see. In the afternoon, a branch association is organizing for helping the wounded soldiers in the girls school. The elections and passing of the regulations.

Dec 12.

The cooperative Bank is going to ~~help~~ hold a big opening meeting at the esplanade of field this morning at

DEC 9th 1938

16. The Mayor send the man who is in charge of ask me speak to the representative from the different associations and students and the groups they intend to gather there. I pray that God will lead my tongue. We will be entertained at the Mayor's office after the meeting.

I will spend Tuesday out in the country and I have accept the invitation to speak on Wednesday to the governor & high school girls. And I have also promised to preach in the church next Sunday.

I must go now it is 10 o'clock already. I need your prayer.

Please let Mr. Reenes read any one who likes to read.

Sincerely yours
Parker G. Holt

5914 Locust St.
Philadelphia.
Dec. 10, 1948.

Dear Singing Family:

It is a long time since I have written you a really good letter and brought you up to date on all my doings and plans, and if I do not start the New Year with at all a right feeling, in case I must get a letter off on the New Year mail, so here goes.

I think my last long letter was written in October, or thereabouts, before I started off on my trip into New England. It all came up rather suddenly and I hopped off to Smith to speak at a chapel service just before the Community Chest campaign. It was arranged by the student body (I had a kind of representative on the A.S.S.A. cabinet (equivalent to the S.S.A.) at the student body) to regard the chapel one day a week. The attendance is very, very small, though they say it was rather good than usual that day, but those who came were really interested in hearing recent news of Singing and a number of people spoke of it afterwards, so I think it reached some of the most important ones. Eva MacMillan suggests to some of the folks at Smith that it might be worth while for me to stay a while longer so as to have some personal contacts with students, and I was of course very glad to do that. I stayed for a week at college quarters in the morning house which I enjoyed very much. They tried to arrange for me to visit other campus groups, and altogether I went to six of them besides the morning. I went with, for dinner, took my picture along (a good lot of large ones and the dining office) talked in response to questions about Singing during and after dinner, and after the picture to any who wanted to stay. There were a good many of us going on and not many stayed around, but altogether I got a lot of information for spreading information and arousing interest. One evening at the house of Mrs. Deales I answered questions asked by a faculty club for two solid hours! That was a lot of fun and they seemed to enjoy it too. I also met a number of other faculty groups at tea, and to dinner, meals, etc. etc. The second week Miss Grace Smith, who is a very loyal friend of China, invited me to stay in her house, which was also very nice. So I spent two whole weeks there, and in addition to what I have mentioned I visited classes, went to concerts and renewals of old friends, and generally had a grand time.

One other thing I did in Dartmouth was to see the new catalog from the new suggestion about curriculum trends and what kind of work would be most worth visiting etc. I got to follow this up soon now with a collection of catalogues and so on, and then later on, if I have a visit, so if there seems to be anything going on that might help with our Singing curriculum I will hope to discover it. I gather that we are not free to do anything very revolutionary, but we may be able to make some modifications. I have personal consultation through the old man family with Goucher and Vassar, which is a bit of the piece. Dean Nicholson advised me to investigate, so that will help. The house of dean Dorothy Stinson, is Bill's cousin.

After the Smith visit I went to Hartford to speak at the Smith Club meeting and then to another at Fall River, Mass. Then over to the Phila. Smith Club, so I had three of them within a few days of each other. I enjoyed them all and they seemed to be really interested in Singing.

Since then I have stayed at home. First came Thanksgiving and a couple of weeks or so of concentrated work on an index I made for a friend's book, with Christmas cards, notes, presents etc. Not before

November Days at Chen Chia Tze
Miss Phoebe Hoh's account of the work at Chen Chia Tze.
November, 1939. by Phoebe Hoh

[17]

Chen Chia Tze is located 12 li southward from Janshow hsien. There are many little hills of red clay and no brooks or rivers. At first glance, one would say that every inch of the red earth had been cultivated. ^{(1) A building which is a simple hall}
² Chen Chia Tze means literally the "Chen's ancestral home." This hall stands in the center of the community. ^{in the village} The short-course day school is held in the hall and also the meetings of the cooperative. Two general highways to the east and west lead to a number of market towns. Some one from each of the families ^{goes to a market town every other day.}

There are some 30 to 35 farmsteads dotted upon the red slopes in four or five very small valleys where there is very limited rice land. One can scarcely see the mud houses ^{in the thick growth} for the forest of green bamboo ^{and} other tall trees standing in the midst of the bamboo grove. [These forests are so tall] that we must wind in and out ^{and see} before a house can be seen. [It was so pretty that we wanted to call it the "Evergreen Palace."] The trees serve as a fence rather than for beautifying, ^{and} bamboo is also one of the essential materials for house building and food stuff. Each of these farmsteads ^{have from one to thirteen houses} on an average holds three families which run from one home up to thirteen homes. In Chen Chia Tze there are about 100 families with a population of five hundred or more, ^{with} it is estimated. ^{think}

We found that trips to market were not only for business, but also to have a good time and to visit friends too. Therefore, it is our plan to make a Ginling rural center [in the beginning] at the south gate of Janshow hsien and to make this a social center for these people and others like them who come from all directions to sit and chat, and to see and hear the one or two persons who entertain and talk to them. After friendships have been established, a regular program of religious education, health, singing, lecturing on all sorts of topics can be carried on. ^{in the evening} This way we do not ^{avoid} have to walk so many li - perhaps to find ^{again} them busy at their work. ^{long walls,}

For instance, after days of hard work in harvesting the sugarcane, Mrs. Chen takes her daughter-in-law to the city [to have a good time and] to spend the whole day [there]. They carry some of the sugarcane to be sold. They return home with good eatables for the younger sisters and brothers who did not go. Anyone listening to her tales about what she has seen and heard in our rural center cannot help wishing that it was possible to do more for her. ^{by what she has learned} She is thrilled to see things they have never seen before. ^{Thinking our talks were so profitable we were to do many} [We learned lots of interesting things from them] about the cooking of food, washing of clothes, working in the field, spinning and weaving. We noticed that we could suggest many ways in which the work ^{might} be carried on with greater economy of time and energy. At least three-fifths of the total population know some characters and at present nine-tenths of the children of school age are in some kind of school. We found that one son of each family had attended school for from one to five years. About two-fifths of the women and girls over fourteen have had some kind of schooling. The mother in the home in which we stayed had studied when a little girl in the Canadian Mission School. She is now about forty years old.

Reading material is scarce. Boys and girls buy textbooks for adult reading at four cents each. The interests and habits of the people are ^{not} yet cultivated. The never-ending hard work, the impoverished living, the stupified spirit leave no time, no heart, no taste or desire for reading. They ^{forget} the few characters they have learned.

The people have come into contact with Christian influence but no converts were found. ^{one} old lady admired highly the kindness of the missionaries and on the wall of her home some tracts and posters of Christianity were pasted. She is a very superstitious person and goes around spreading the teachings of the nuns in the temples. She ^{was} so eager to tell us about how the nuns and their ^{followers} vegetarians prayed for rain and the rain came. She was friendly toward us but when she got ill, she did not send for us, [She sent her daughter-in-law to our bedroom with the vessel in which the herbs were cooked thus meaning to send away her illness, and she herself goes] but depended on the superstitious practices learned from the Taoist nuns.

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Nov. 1939

[to the temple to see her friend. What she senses from us is kindness, not religion.] [What attracts] these women ^{to go to} temples, burn candles, and kneel down devotedly before idols? ^{Does our} devotedness to our faith ^{exert enough spiritual power to make them} sense the vital need of a living God? There is a shrine in the center of the hall in every home where they worship heaven and earth and all the ancestors. At harvest time, when a house is built, when someone is ill, or on any special occasion, they worship before the shrine. ^{When we} worship, we sit on the bench at an ordinary table singing and reading and praying without a concrete object before us. Which form of worship is more effective for these people?

The bulk of food is ^{of course} rice and sweet potatoes. Meat is eaten only at festivals or when friends come to help plant or harvest the crop. Each family has a little garden where they plant some green vegetables - mostly cabbages and turnips. A taste of hot peppers help them to swallow their three big bowls of rice and potatoes. ^{They do not understand the value of green vegetables in human diet.} [Their desire for food is for more rice and less vegetable - they eat potato because they have to.] They feed pigs with grain, corn and tender shoots of beans to make them fat for market, but it does not seem to occur to them that their children need this kind of food to make them grow tall.

Some of our recommendations for these people are:

[The following are some of Miss Hoh's recommendations] good books at reasonable prices, ^{instructions for} training institute to ~~train~~ local leaders, ~~teach~~ school children ^{how} to help with domestic work, [this to be done as a school project] help adults ~~to~~ plan their daily work more systematically, play ground for children, medical examinations for all. It is very important to have the children grow up with a spirit of public cooperation and to form habits of living together happily. [Miss Hoh concludes]

W. ... 11.4. 6 June 1946
From Miss Phoebe Hon's account of her trip to Paochi.

Hearing that Industrial Cooperatives are making great progress in the north-west, and that Paochi is the fostering center, I therefore wanted very much to go there. I hoped to see the practical side of the system, such as, organization, training, management, and the actual producing process. During the past eight years working with the rural people, I feel more and more keenly that they should be awakened to the fact that they may help themselves if they know how. If they know the principles and technique of cooperating and are able to put them into practice, then their economic condition will surely be improved. Women especially need the strongest push.

"Cooperatives" as a movement are rather popular at present, and many persons working under the Government are organizing and operating them. The Relief Society are also helping to promote ^{the education of my mind was where I was} cooperatives. ^{but what are educational institutions doing? How much do they know about the real economic condition? Would they be able to serve the situation in a practical way?} Women constitute half of the nation, and the wheel of consuming is mostly in their hands. [How can they be left behind!] Furthermore, the two economic wheels, producing and consuming, are equally heavy, and the forces which pull these wheels to make the economic cart go smoothly and beneficially depend upon the strength of both men and women. Hence the importance of the training of the mass, but especially women and youths. Who is to teach? ^{no doubt we can} rural workers with interest centered ^{around} the rural women, children, and homes, should become more intelligent and be able to give needed information and practical help. As a matter of fact that for the first time that I know of, there are "Industrial Cooperatives" established at Paochi by women quite alluring and inspiring.

Moreover, the forming of "Cooperatives" ^{is} not merely a method dealing solely with the economic side of life. ^{its} success depends upon the true spirit and power of each individual ^{to act out} the principles of cooperation. This will surely cause ^a personal revolution, [at least in the forces of one's life.] [Such revolution requires ^{derives its} strength from the source ^{beyond that} which can be obtained from human beings. A true and sound cooperation is, in fact, the highest spiritual life expressed through material activities. Sensing this need and the importance of building a strong moral defence, I felt the strong urge of sharing the responsibility of building the so-called National Moral Rearmament. But an idea is an idea, and how can it be put into practice? The eagerness of wishing to be more ^{practical urged me} to leave for Paochi on July 30, 1939. ^{It was my desire to share in the Moral Rearmament of China through this cooperative movement which caused me}

The trip was so unique and so full of inspiring events, both in connection with Cooperatives and otherwise, that a full account cannot be given here. I have learned that where there is a will, there is a way, and finally after many disappointments we started off in rickshas on July 30th. These rickshas took us leisurely to Mienyang in three and a half days. One of the preparations for the trip was to make uniforms. We can hardly tell how much we enjoy taking off our long garments and putting on workmen's trousers. We feel as proud as if we really belong to that class. [People look at me in such a way that it makes me think I must look very queer. But it is really very convenient and comfortable to travel like that, and as Dr. Reeves said, "It is a grand idea."] We stopped the first night at Shintu, and there held our first ^{group} meeting in the park. The moon was so bright that everything came to our sight as clear as if in the daytime. We sensed the joy of possessing the whole park for there was scarcely ^{an} "single soul" there. Looking around in four directions we could see how the gentle breeze ^{is} waving the hosts of plants ^{which are} daintily dancing. The smell ^{is} fragrant and the atmosphere soothing. What I cannot forget is the

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serious attention and solemn voices of that evening meeting. It awakened a rather deep sense of hopefulness for new China. Those young men and women are so devoted.

I should mention here that the country between Chengtu and Shintu is quite flat. Along the sides of the road may be seen singly or groups of farmsteads. They look pleasant and pretty with green bamboo and big trees growing around them. No wonder the hsien city is comparatively clean and in good order, for it has been an experimental hsien where some of Dr. James Yen's faculty have spent some time. Last year Ginling freshmen class had also made a fruitful trip to that city. We found that at about 10 o'clock ~~at night~~ police, organized by civilians, ~~are~~ ^{with} on duty, ^{and the whole city} so it has been quiet and safe.

At day break, July 31st, everybody got up and washed and packed ~~so~~ quickly and orderly - like old soldiers in camp. At the blowing of the signal ~~every~~ ^{each} body took ~~their~~ ^{his} belongings and stood in a row by ~~their~~ ^{his} ricksha listening for [the call of their number and to take] the orders ~~is~~ the day. "All right," our leader ^{says}, "start." With these words we all ~~got~~ ^{got} in and moved forward ~~as a~~ ^{like} train, the twenty rickshas ^{forming} one line, ~~but~~ ^{with} the pulling force ~~is~~ ^{was} a man bending his back in front of each of us instead of a steam engine at the head. As we plunge into the sea of fresh, bracing morning breeze, we feel nothing is impossible. Occasionally, the group sang together such songs as, "March forward to the fighting field those who would not become slaves," or "Fight on till we get back to our own homes," "The farmers' marching song," etc. After enjoying the scenery for awhile I began dozing in my ricksha, and I believed the others did the same. One may think that riding in a ricksha is very tiresome, but not so, when compared with a big truck with no seats or cover. ^{In a ricksha} you ~~can~~ sit in the only seat like a queen on her throne, and no one can touch you, while in a truck I have the feeling that my old bones and all my inner organs will shake to pieces.

We passed through several market towns before we had our breakfast. All these towns have greatly increased in population and business is enlarged because of the present situation. We reached Dehyang at five o'clock, and we went immediately to the Anglican Church where it had been arranged we should stay. I had plenty of fresh air sleeping in the corner of the open yard, but the fleas were terrible, and I did not sleep well. The following day when we had finished breakfast, the students start work at one of the tea houses with a well-planned program of singing, story telling, ^{and} ^{and} war news, ^{and} other talks. At least fifty people were present and I believe that our ricksha men enjoyed the rest and ^{the} teaching ~~most~~ ^{as much as any boy in the} ^{school}.

At Lo Chieng Hsien where we stopped the night, I overheard some boys in the courtyard preparing their English lesson. They tried so hard to drill in pronunciation and ~~keeping~~ ^{to} silent without helping them ^{made} me feel guilty. So I gave some corrections, which surprised them greatly. Very politely they drew closer to me for help. After supper the boys came with lamps in hand and I found the number had increased three times. Some ^{older men} ^{big ones} came too. With great respect they asked me to explain many words and sentences. The eagerness of wanting to learn makes me feel happy for young and new China. These boys were students of the Shengtong middle school moved to Lo Chieng. They came from good families and ~~were~~ ^{were} fine boys.

From Mienyang, the next stop, we travelled by Red Cross truck to Hangchung which took five days. From Hangchung, two women and myself, travelled by military truck to Paocni, reaching there on August 19th.

Before I speak about the main interest of this trip, the Cooperatives, I must say a few words about the hsien city of Paocni. It is located on the north bank of the famous Wei river. The city wall forms a "U" encircling the south side to meet the hill range on the north. There is only one main street

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running from east to west. This city was of little importance until the Longhai railway was built, and now it has become the terminal of that railway. The population has been increased seven times with war refugees from Hopeh, Shantung, Shansi. Honan and Hupen provinces bring with them their business and workmanship. People live mostly in the ancient caves - except those who live on the street. The city possesses large capacity for expansion. There are three banks on the main street: Shanghai Commercial, Bank of China, and the Bank of Communications.

[The history of Cooperatives in Paochi begins only a year ago, and during this short period ~~it~~ ^{the movement} has grown enormously. The headquarters are established ~~at~~ the hsien city and the branch offices are located in fifteen different places. According to the August report, they have already organized two hundred and seventy-one cooperatives of various industries, such as, candle making, tailor shops, shoe making, tanning, printing, paper making, soap, ~~glaze~~ and cotton for medical use, spinning and weaving of all kinds - material, towels, blankets, cotton for soldiers uniforms, 90 of this number are in Paochi or the nearby district. [When] you walk through the streets, you notice cooperatives everywhere.

Between April 23rd and June 23rd there were ten cooperatives organized by women, ^{a unique} ~~this is~~ ^{development} ~~certainly~~ ^{plans known} an unusual occurrence. Women had been given the opportunity to work out their own ^{solutions in} the general office at Paochi. Right now they are busy weaving and spinning in order to produce army blankets. All upper grade workers are sent out to train local women in the use of the improved apparatus, and also to direct the organization of women's cooperatives. A great number of the women members are war refugees from Wuhan who had been skilled workers in the cotton mills there before the war. Some told me of their gratitude to Madame Chiang for helping them to come out from Wuhan.

^{Some of the workers are illiterate and illiterate} Many people are in urgent need of education, [Yet, on the other hand] ^{some} there are wives of army officers, and some student refugees, ^{plan} joining these cooperatives, and their aim is ^{to} help build ^{the} national defence ⁱⁿ the line of economics, ^{then} to make a personal living. Nine reading classes for both members and non-members are functioning at Paochi now, the total attendance being 137. ^{They} (1) learn three to five new words each day, (2) ^{write}, (3) ^{learn} principles of cooperative, (4) spiritual talks, (5) lectures on common knowledge, ^{such as war news and reports of national affairs} 10 items on war and 4 heroic stories per month. One recreation club for women and children with 70 women and 30 children as members has been established. [The activities are: Recreation, round-table discussions] Reading classes for children are operated at 14 places for the children of the members. The courses of teaching are like those of a regular grade school except that they are shorter. The text book for language is specially edited to suit interest and needs. Besides these classes there are periodical gatherings of [great] educational value.

Training courses are arranged which last two months. The second month is devoted to practical work, such as, methods of weaving, best way to join broken threads, how to use the new spinning wheels, ^{weaving} of towels, etc. They start the day with morning drill and end the day with recreation: singing is enjoyed most. Public speaking and methods of conducting meetings are given every week. It is very interesting to see young girls and older women (over 40) sitting among the men to be trained to be managers of cooperatives. The total number of women trained in this first session is 40, ⁶³ of ~~these~~ ^{of these} are natives of Paochi. Discussion meetings are held at which the work that has been done is reviewed, and decisions made about future work. At the summer vacation institute besides reporting on work and discussing problems, such subjects as the future of the present war, international problems, and problems concerning manners and cooperatives in general are discussed. They concentrate on one subject for one week. An effort is being made to recruit students to work as

Chinese characters

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local leaders. At present the aim is not to increase the ^{number} quantity of ^{the} co-operatives, but to improve the quality of those already in existence. A children's home and day nursery will be established for children of workers. They are very enthusiastic about education, not only for children, but for officers and members.

^{our} A whole day spent at the village of caves ^{was} is really unique. ^{Many stories of} How they marvelled at ^{my} good health ^{today}. They ^{did} do not know that I ^{had} have been ill not long before I came to them. I ^{wondered} ~~was~~ how I ^{could} climb up and down the steep paths between those caves without feeling the least bit tired. We rested and had lunch - such good food - in the well-equipped club house which is a big cave. Our ancient poets described these caves, and the ladies described in some of the love songs ^{lived} in them. I studied these stories as a young girl, ^{but} I never dreamed that I would actually ^{get} get into one of them. Modern industry and civilization has gone back to caves, and if China shines, she must shine from there.

Although I ^{do} not get very tired, ^{my} beginning at six and lasting till nearly 11 o'clock is really too full. I ^{tell} them that I came to learn and not to teach, but they insist on my speaking to them. I ^{wish} wish for more learning so that I could answer the questions put before me.

The general office for Paochi consists of two rows of new buildings in the shape of an "H". Part of it is the men's dormitory and part is for offices. The offices are crowded with desks where men are busy at work. The walls are covered with charts and posters of all kinds of facts, and diagrams of systems and organizations.

A good half day spent in the Paochi main magistrate's office taught me much about the hardships and problems and the importance of a magistrate's job. Mr. Wong, the magistrate, showed me charts and explained what was being done about rural problems.

What I realized more clearly from ^{my} visit in Paochi ^{is} that Industrial Cooperatives, ^{are} a very complex kind of cooperation. Although at Paochi it ^{has} had an enormous growth in a ^{considerable} short period, it is not an easy task to ^{develop}. Able specialists with zeal to work are not easy to collect, and favorable conditions are not available everywhere. The ^{rapid} growth ^{and} huge growth - of cooperatives at Paochi is partly due to the ^{local} conditions and partly to the efforts, ability, and true patriotism of the workers there. To build a national economic defence is the slogan with which they operate. The war has crippled the larger manufacturers and made impossible the importing of much goods. This gives room for the development of the ^{moderate}, moveable unit of manufacturing concerns. Whether this movement ^{will} be permanent or temporary ^{will} depend upon how we go at it. This is a unique time - a favorable time to mark out an economically democratic nation. ^{With} ease and facility. Interest ^{should} not be hard to arouse among persons who are to gain profits. ^{Suppose}, one day they all wake up, what will happen? The problem will be to manage things so that ^{there} will be no unhappiness between classes ^{will} develop.

The whole trip took one month and seven days, out of which some sixteen days were spent ^{mostly} in travelling. During this time we stopped from one hour to two or three days at some twenty-four ^{main} cities or small market towns. Nights were spent in both Government and missionary school rooms, in newly built modern hotels with tub baths and fairly comfortable rooms furnished with wooden beds, and in very small straw mats about six feet square. Many a time the only way to get a bath was to go to the brook and dip ^{your} towels.

The highway into the north-west from Chengtu is of tremendous importance right now, and it is very busy. Counting roughly on one day, August 19th, there were some two hundred big trucks which passed us. At one place the

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traffic became so congested that it took quite a while to get through them. There are no regular passenger cars, ^{well} they are all for military purposes or at least connected with ^{no small amount of} that business. Beside these trucks there are ^{well} numerous old-fashioned cars drawn by two or three donkeys. They are all required to use rubber tires instead of iron wheels in order to protect the road. ^{The loads were} They are heavily loaded with wool, salt, cotton, cloth, paper, peanut oil, gasoline, and other articles for civil and military use. The loads were sometimes ten feet long and nine or ten feet high. In a great many parts these form an unbroken line on one side of the road. Among them were quite a few carts drawn by man power. The drivers and pullers usually sleep under the cart at night, the wheels being big enough to leave a rather spacious room underneath. There were no women carrying loads as we often see in Szechwan.

The Shi Li Poh Weaving Cooperative

The name means "ten li marketing place" and it is a smaller place than a regular town. The Shi Li Poh Weaving cooperative ^{was} had been organized by seven native farming women. The story is that when they learned ^{of} the idea of organizing cooperatives, they gathered eight ^{women} and tried to organize themselves but when some of the teachers told them of the responsibility they would have to share, they became ^{frustrated and discouraged} scared and fell back. It took a long time for some of the native men to persuade them to continue, ^{and that if they all worked hard they would not lose money.}

Chien Chin Women's Weaving Cooperative.

Chien Chin means "advancing." This cooperative was organized by both native women and wives of soldiers. The leader is the wife of a wounded army officer. She said, at the opening meeting, that when our men are fighting at the front, we women at the rear ought to work hard to produce supplies just as fast as we can, even without pay if necessary.

December 19, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Macmillan,

Herewith a copy of Miss Hoh's account of her trip north this last summer condensed from the original manuscript. Some pictures of her trip were sent previously.

We had a preliminary air raid warning yesterday after a rest of over six weeks. It is reported that the Japanese bombed a place north of Chungking.

Dr. Wu left last Wednesday for Jenshow and is expected back today. I am afraid it would be rather a tiresome trip for her. She took her own richsha which would be more comfortable than a hired one.

Sincerely,

Lillian Kirk

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Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N.Y.
October 27, 1945

Miss Phoebe Hoh
Ginling College
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Miss Hoh:

Thank you for your letter of September 21st, giving the views of the alumnae faculty on the general matter of women's education in China and specifically on Ginling's place in the plan. This letter is most valuable to us and we greatly appreciate the time and thoughtful work that has gone into it.

I wish that all of you could have shared in several long heart-to-heart talks that Dr. Wu and I have had recently. It is difficult, indeed almost impossible, to put on paper all that could be brought out in conversation. However, I shall attempt to state the position of the Planning Committee, the United Board and the Ginling Board of Founders, as we understand it. I say "the position" advisedly, as there is no basic difference of opinion among these three groups, which of course, are overlapping to a certain extent.

The Planning Committee's statement is in the form of a suggestion, with at least two qualifying phrases in it, thus making the whole very tentative. You will note that it reads: "At Nanking, the University of Nanking and Ginling College should, if feasible, be located on near-by sites with maximum coordination of their facilities and educational programs. We welcome the suggestion of the British Planning Committee that consideration be given to a scheme.....etc." This indicates that the Planning Committee itself felt that this particular situation needs still further study before final recommendation can be made. Even if the statement from the Planning Committee had been a definite one, with no qualifications, it must always be remembered that no real authority lay behind it. That body can only state the results of its deliberations. It has no power to enforce them. That final decision resides in the administrative Boards on the field.

The United Board has no authority to alter the independent status of any of the colleges without the consent of the governing bodies of the institution concerned, so there is no use to say anything more about the effect of the new organization on Ginling. It is interesting to add, however, that Dr. Eric North, Chairman of the United Board, has said without qualification that he supports an independent woman's college, i.e. Ginling.

You have had the minutes of the meeting of the Ginling Board of Founders of November 12, 1943, showing that the Board of Founders have placed themselves squarely behind a woman's college and pledged their "continued and increasing financial support" to Ginling. This action was reaffirmed at a meeting on June 28, 1945, and still represents the opinion of the Board. Naturally financial considerations will have an important place in final decisions. As plans are now being made for the return of the colleges to their home campuses, it must be borne in mind that such reestablishment must be regarded as an ad interim measure, not as a final step, superseding the recommendations of the American Planning Committee and the Planning Commission in China. Decision on permanent plans will be governed by the amount of funds available and by the measure of cooperation deemed necessary. The chief concern in all the deliberations in America has been to conserve any constructive and valuable program that is being offered in China, and at the same time to present a plan that will win the wholehearted support of those to whom we appeal for funds.

This gives you the formal actions and informally expressed opinions of the groups in America definitely concerned with and responsible for Ginling. It is indeed most unfortunate that unfounded rumors have been circulated and that so much misunderstanding has resulted.

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Miss Phoebe Hoh

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October 27, 1945

The report that the Planning Commission in China has presented to the Council of Higher Education has just been received in New York. It takes a more definite stand on the whole matter of women's education than the American Planning Committee recorded, and recommends an even more thorough-going coordination between Nanking and Ginling than is sponsored in America.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

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Mrs. Harold B.

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GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

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MISS WU YI-FANG, Ph.D., President
AMERICAN OFFICE
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

COOPERATING UNITS

WOMEN'S AMERICAN BAPTIST
FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL
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BOARD OF MISSIONS, METHODIST
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WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY, METHODIST
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BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS,
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BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS,
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U.S.

UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY

FACULTY, ALUMNAE, AND
UNDERGRADUATES OF
SMITH COLLEGE

"Pasture Bars"
Keene Valley, Essex Co., New York
July 12, 1940

Mrs. Harold Hoskins;
14 Sutton Place, South;
New York City;

My dear Mrs. Hoskins,

Ever since I heard soon after the meeting of the Ginling Board of Founders that you had consented to be chairman of the special committee on the 25th Anniversary I have meant to write and tell you how delighted I was at the news. But absence from New York and a stenographer, closing our house in Philadelphia, coming up here to our little camp and bringing two friends with us one of whom promptly became ill, getting settled, and then going on an automobile trip — all these interfered with my good intentions.

Yet even at this late date I do want to tell you how truly grateful I am that you will be the chairman and how I congratulate you at having secured the active assistance of such people as Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Cushman,

Mrs. Choate and Dr. Van Dusen. And I know I can assure you of the whole-hearted cooperation of all of the members of the Board of Founders. For myself, may I say that I want to be of all the assistance that the chairman of the Board can be, but none of the annoyance that is an equal possibility! In other words I do want to know in general what your plans are and perhaps to occasionally attend one of your meetings. But you must not feel for a moment that I must be consulted about every decision. I can see that you want your committee to be representative of the different groups interested in Gilling; Smith, Boards of Missions, Church women, Board of Founders. You already have in the representative members of the Founders its technical authority, and I suppose of course you will include its secretary, Mrs. Macmillan, who can help you to avoid crossing of wires as well as with her fertility of ideas. The chairman is no money-raiser but is at your service.

With renewed regrets at my tardy letter, and with all good wishes for every stage of your work, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Margaret E. Hodge

Chairman Board of Founders, Gilling College

JUL 12, 1940

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Mrs. Mo-chuen Hsi Tsiang

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Mrs. Mo-chuen Hsi Tsiang
Apt A 32 Thatcher Hall
2024 Commonwealth Ave.
St. Paul, 8, Minnesota
November 13, 1945

Miss Gwan-Yuen Li
541 West 113th Street
New York, 25, N.Y.

Dear Miss Li:

It is a great pleasure to hear from you just before the celebration of our Ginling's Thirtieth Anniversary on November 25th. The proposal of making a contribution in the United States for the purpose of restoring the health of our faculty and students is a wonderful idea and I accept it whole-heartedly. However, under my present financial condition, I regret to say that it is beyond my ability to fulfill my share of \$ 50.00 in as much as I want to do so very much. But I am glad to contribute to the best of my ability and ^{hope} it may add a step in the approaching of our ultimate goal.

Sincerely yours,

mo-chuen Hsi Tsiang

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December 31, 1945

Mrs. Mo-chuen Hsi Tsiang
Apt. A. 32, Thatcher Hall
2024 Commonwealth Avenue
Saint Paul 8, Minnesota

Dear Mo-chuen:

Dr. Li has turned over to the college the result of the alumni campaign for the thirtieth anniversary. The official receipt has been sent you from the office and I wish to add a word to express my personal appreciation for your contribution toward this fund. It is very encouraging to have the graduates respond so readily to this project and the gift will mean a great deal to the health of our faculty and students.

From the enclosed circular letter, you will know of the recent news from Ginling at Chengtu and in Nanking. I am sorry that again this time I have not been able to make an extensive visit to the Midwe st. However, you may have heard from Mrs. Ma that I was in Chicago for two short days. I presume you and your husband may be planning to return to China in the near future so I hope we shall see you in Nanking.

Again, with many thanks and best wishes to you and your husband for the new year.

Sincerely yours,

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Hsiung Gieh -jen

262 South Williams
M. S. C. East Lansing,
Michigan.
Feb. 28, 1947.

Dear Mrs. Mills, I am one of the Ginling College graduates and I arrived here from Nanking, China on Jan 26. It is too late for register so at the present time I am working in the Dept. of Bacteriology of the Veterinary Medical School of the Michigan State College. Our spring term begins on April first and I am going to be a graduate student in the Dept. of Bacteriology.

Before I left Nanking, I went to see Dr. Wu Yi-feng and she told me to write to you when I arrived here. As you know that I am a new comer and every thing is new to me. Now one month is over and the environment is extremely nice to me.

Do you know anything about Dr. Ruth Chester? Where is she now? I like to write to her but I do not know where she is. Will you please tell me. Thank you very much.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,
Gieh -jen Hsiung