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Nanking
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re. Union Medical School, Shanghai
1921-1922

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re. Union Medical School, Shanghai

see also under Academic

1921-1922

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Dr. Charles Patton

November 7, 1921

Dr. Charles Patton,
20 Museum Road,
Shanghai,

Dear Charles:

I intended to see you while I was in Shanghai, but you were not in the office on Monday and I was indisposed the remainder of the time.

There is a meeting to be held at the Treasurer of the American Church Mission at Ming Hong Road at 2:30 P. M. Wednesday the 9th. Dr. Pott may have sent you an invitation. It is called to decide the organization and development of a Medical School in Shanghai in connection with St. John's University for this part of China. I had expected earlier to be present at the meeting. Now, it seems hardly probable that I shall attend. You doubtless know that we are finding it pretty difficult at the University to meet our obligations. We may have a shortage of \$80,000 Mexican in closing the year. The demands for developing the University, Hospital, Nurses' School and the Language School for the missions increases steadily.

When we gave up our medical department it was with the assurance from the China Medical Board that a big medical school would be established in Shanghai. Now that we have given it up, we have carried on the hospital with enlarged development and increasing demands. We also expected our students to go to Tsinan-fu where they could be trained under missionary teachers for work in missionary hospitals, or to the Peking Medical School where our men of independent funds could receive the highest training in medicine for independent practice.

I do not see how our Church or mission could at the present time take on additional financial responsibilities for medical education. We are now finding it exceedingly difficult to find doctors to staff our present hospitals and stations. All possible missionary medical teachers seem to be absorbed in the Peking Medical School or Tsinan or Yale. I believe it could be very difficult for our Board and mission to contribute either men or money for another school in Shanghai.

St. John's University has strong and influential alumni and they have a number of medical graduates in Shanghai. They could carry on with increasing Chinese aid and support whereas other missions would have to secure new men and new funds and have no Chinese basis of cooperation in Shanghai through which they could influence the product of the school

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Dr. Charles Patton

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November 7, 1921
to cooperate in the development of missionary work.

Some of these ideas I thought might be of interest to you in attending the conference.

Dr. Charles Patton,
50 Museum Road,
Shanghai.

As ever yours,

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November 19, 1921.

Dr. R. C. Bebee,
5 Wainsan Gardens,
Shanghai.

My dear Dr. Bebee:

I am considerably perplexed about the organization of another medical school in Shanghai and also about the problem of the "United Universities" that Dr. Burton has suggested for east China. I have not been able to think through the problem, especially of the "United Universities", but an enclosing copy of a letter to Dr. Gamewell on the general matter.

I am more clear regarding the medical school. While I think it would probably be a good thing if we could have a medical school in Shanghai, I do not think it at all possible that the Mission Boards which would necessarily be concerned would be able to finance it and also the other work they are now responsible for. If we are to do college grade work and university work in the institutions now established and the departments now established, the Missions or some one will have to put in much more money and considerably more staff. There is no one institution, including our own - which is the most completely staffed and best equipped scientifically - that is giving scarcely any time to investigations. Almost every man has "his nose to the grindstone" on the daily teaching. Very few are free to do research work, either for their own improvement or for the finding out of what ought to be done and can be done in the way of investigations of all kinds. We are doing a little of it in silk and in cotton. To do this kind of work would require much more money than we have and several rather highly specialized men, and we cannot finance what we have now. This is somewhat true of the other colleges and universities and would be altogether true of them if they were doing the real college and university work with the standard of staff and equipment that we have or that the American college has. Therefore, I do not see how the same Boards, organizations and friends of these institutions can take on another and more expensive school - the medical school. However, that is only one phase of the difficulty. The initial expense of it could be raised probably - a million or so gold; then the annual maintenance of perhaps \$250,000 Mexican would be almost a direct burden upon the co-operating Boards; but even more serious than the finances would be the question of staffing such an institution. The China Medical people, through the Union Medical College at Peking and Tsinan Medical School, have skimmed the whole country for possible teachers of medical subjects so that the source of supply has been entirely exhausted. Outside of a small nucleus that St. John's could offer there is no other source of supply in China for the staff of a new medical school. Therefore, they would have to be secured from America, and to get fifteen or twenty first class physicians to come out in these days upon a missionary basis is, I think, almost hopeless.

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The more I think of it the more I am inclined to believe that, so far as the Missions are concerned, it would be much wiser and a better expenditure of money to get behind the school at Tsinan and the school at Changsha and utilize more the Union Medical School in Peking, which can be done provided they have the help of the various institutions in this part of China in their pre-medical work. I am not at all sure but that it would be the best policy for the Christian forces to back up the medical schools we now have rather than try to start a new one.

I am going to be away for about three weeks, and, of course, the Commission will be discussing these problems. Dr. Williams will be in Shanghai from time to time, and I would like very much for him to talk over the whole matter with you and get your judgment upon these questions so that we shall know better just what to do finally. I think these are two very perplexing and important questions,- the establishing of a new medical college and the "United Universities" plan for east China. It seems to me that the best thing and probably the only really necessary thing is to have a thorough-going and strict co-ordination and limitation of the present colleges and universities, not only for east China, but for all China, and then have that controlled through the Association of Christian Colleges and Universities. It seems to me that is all the organization that is necessary and that there is no special need for a "United Universities" unless it is to be used to finance and control the medical school in Shanghai.

I hope to be able to have a talk with you about the matter later in December. I am giving Dr. Williams a copy of this letter and am also sending a copy to Dr. Gamewell. I am very anxious to talk over the whole matter with you and Dr. Gamewell before anything final is agreed upon, so far as Nanking is concerned at least.

We have had a splendid time here with the Commission and it is a splendid Commission. We only regret Dr. Burton's inability to be present.

Very cordially yours,

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December 15, 1921

Dr. A. J. Bowen,
University of Nanking.

Dear Dr. Bowen:

Just a few notes to be added to my memorandum in regard to the Medical School in Shanghai.

On Tuesday of last week, Dr. Houghton called and remained with me for lunch. He was full of the medical school in Shanghai and jumped right into the midst of the matter as soon as he came in the office. His reaction to the meeting in Shanghai seemed to be in many respects similar to my own as reported to you. There had been no steps taken to unite forces now working in Shanghai. It was evident that the Christian mission and St. Luke's Hospital would withdraw from the union enterprise. No steps had been taken to correlate the medical and surgical work in the Margaret Williamson Hospital and St. Luke's.

We talked again of the possible basis of support of the medical school from the cooperating missions. At this point, I indicated how little interested the Christian mission would be and the Methodist mission North, the Presbyterian North or even the Presbyterian South, since they have Dr. Shields in the school at Tsinan and their hospital would look to Tsinan rather than any other school. It would settle down in Shanghai to the interest of the Episcopal mission, the Baptist mission and the Southern Methodists, together with the Margaret Williamson Hospital. The Margaret Williamson hospital seemed to have a considerable block of money to use.

He had suggested to Dr. Pott their purchase of a site and the dividing of the work on property lines to the Margaret Williamson hospital and the Episcopal mission, one carrying the hospital part and the other carrying the school part of the equipment and buildings. He gave the impression that he thought it was a long, long way to the development of the medical school in Shanghai as judged by any results now within sight. He spoke of the difficulty of having missions to contribute to a union enterprise as loyally and heartily as they did to a denominational enterprise. In response, I pointed out how our union work had grown here and how the missions had stood by. He said this was due to an ardent apostle or two of the cause. He said that Dr. Peter was getting support for his campaign for hygiene and sanitation not because the missions were willing to cooperate and contribute, but because Peter's enthusiasm and ardor was wearing down the indifference and lack of cooperation. I suggested to him that we mean to keep up that same sort of apostolic zeal and enthusiasm for union and that we expect to continue to receive cooperation and support.

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December 15, 1921 2

He said that Dr. Wilson had given him such an enthusiastic report of the science work here that he wanted to look in and see if it was so. After a visit of about an hour with Thomson in the laboratories, he told me that Wilson had not overestimated the work.

He was eager to know our reaction to the work of the Educational Commission and what they were doing. I told him of our respect and admiration for the personnel of the commission and our belief that if anything could be accomplished they would accomplish it.

We did not discuss the hospital situation. I referred to the pre-medical work of the college and he remarked that they were waiting on the commission's report.

Sincerely,

J. E. Williams

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ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY.

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

January 6, 1922.

Dear Sir:

In the spring of last year, June 18, 1920, a meeting was held at St. John's University to consider the possibility of organizing a union medical school in Shanghai. At that meeting representatives of Nanking University, Soochow University, Hangchow Christian College, Shanghai College and St. John's University were present. There was an informal discussion in regard to this proposal, and the representatives of St. John's were asked to formulate some definite plan which could be discussed at a later meeting.

The President of St. John's and the Dean of the Medical School went home on furlough in the summer of 1920. While in the United States they had an informal conference with representatives of the Boards of Missions which might be interested in the matter. They were advised to bring this matter to the attention of the Council on Medical Education of the China Medical Missionary Association. The Council on Medical Education met in Peking at the time of the dedication of the Peking Union Medical School and passed the following resolution:

- "(1) The C.M.B., after planning from 1915 to 1920 to start a medical school in Shanghai, has given up this scheme entirely leaving the East China Area unprovided with any plan for English Medical Education of high standard.
- "(2) St. John's University has issued an invitation looking towards the forming of a union medical school in Shanghai

"And in view of these facts the Council suggests to the missions in this area the importance of a thorough consideration of the feasibility of starting at earliest date possible a union medical school, teaching in English, in the strategic Shanghai center; this school to provide for education of both men and women."

At the meeting of the Association of Christian Colleges and Universities held in Peking, September 20 and 21, 1920, a resolution was passed asking the Educational Commission, now in China, to study this question and to make some report on the advisability of founding such a school in Shanghai.

On Wednesday, November 9, a conference was held in Shanghai at the residence of Dr. H. H. Morris which was attended by members of the different missions and institutions working in China. At that meeting the following resolutions were passed:

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1. That this conference approve of the establishing of a union medical school in Shanghai.
2. That this conference favors the cooperation between the proposed school for women and the proposed school for men.
3. That this conference invite the cooperation in this union of both Chinese institutions and individuals.
4. That a committee be appointed to draft plans for the organization of a union medical school for both men and women with instructions to report back at a later meeting of authorized representatives from the institutions or missions concerned.

The following were appointed as a committee on organization:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Doctors: J.C. McCracken | Miss E. M. Strow |
| C. H. Barlow | Dr. J. E. Williams |
| J. C. Davenport | Dr. J. F. Procter |
| Harriet Love | Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott |
| E. C. Fullerton | |

Dr. Pott was elected chairman and Dr. McCracken secretary of the committee.

The Committee on Organization, after several meetings, drew up a plan of organization and estimates for equipment and annual expenditure. A meeting of authorized representatives from the institutions and missions concerned was held at the residence of Dr. H. H. Morris on Wednesday evening, December 28. At this meeting representatives from the following Missions and institutions were present:

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| Fukien Christian University | Ginling College |
| Northern Presbyterian | American Church Mission |
| Southern Presbyterian | Shantung Road Hospital |
| Northern Methodist | St. John's Medical Alumni Ass'n. |
| Southern Methodist | Shanghai College |
| London Mission | Nanking University |
| Northern Baptist | Soochow University |
| Southern Baptist | Hangchow Christian College |
| Woman's Union Missionary Society | |
| Margaret Williamson Hospital | |

A list of the names of those who were present is enclosed (see A). The report of the Committee on Organization was presented and discussed and with some slight changes was adopted. A copy of this is enclosed (see B). The enclosed resolutions were also adopted, (see C)

In sending you the report of the plan of organization and estimates and a copy of the resolutions we would like to call attention to several interesting features. First, from the inception of this matter there has been complete harmony and a remarkable expression of the spirit of unity. All who have attended the meetings have been heartily in favor of the project. A few, however, had misgivings as to the possibility of financing it. Second, the representatives of the Women's Missions expressed themselves strongly as to the desirability of the school for men and the school for women being undertaken as a cooperative enterprise. Third, the Chinese who have been consulted are optimistic in regard to our obtaining help from Chinese sources.

One of the Chinese doctors who was at the meeting reported that a group of Chinese would be willing to go in as a minor unit from the start and would undertake to raise funds for the erection of a laboratory building for hygiene, sanitation, bacteriology and investigation of Chinese medicines, costing from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

We would also like to point out that there could be no better location for such a school than Shanghai. It is undoubtedly the most modern, progressive center in China. In certain respects work could be carried on more economically here in Shanghai than at any other place in as much as there is always a large number of doctors engaged in private practice, both foreign and Chinese, and their assistance could be obtained as lecturers for the new school.

We realize that the carrying out of the full scheme will cost a good deal of money, but we would advise in the first instance the carrying out of the five year program. The largest expense, of course, is in connection with the purchase of the property. Sixty mow of land is about 10 acres. We would not need as much land as this at first, but at the same time it would be wise to provide now for what may be needed in the future. Unless we do so we may find it extremely difficult to get additional land and the price will be considerably higher.

Such a school is of the utmost importance for the successful carrying out of missionary work in this part of China. It would furnish the doctors and assistants for whom there is so great a demand for Christian hospitals and dispensaries, and would train men of Christian character for leadership in the medical profession in China.

We would suggest that the secretaries who may attend the National Christian Conference to be held in Shanghai next May be asked to confer with our committee on organization.

Hoping that this matter may receive the most thorough consideration of your Mission and that you will communicate with your Board in regard to it,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. Hawks P. H.
Chairman

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