ASSOCIATED BOARDS

May 16, 1934

Dr. Henry W. Luce
Hartford Theological Seminary
Hartford, Connecticut

My dear Dr. Luce:

Since the meetings here in New York during the last week in April I have been so busy clearing up minutes and accumulated correspondence that I have not had an opportunity to write you with regard to the two matters we discussed while you were here.

You suggested that if Dr. Hume did not find it possible to accept the promotional directorship of the Associated Boards we might well approach Mr. Staub. It soon became obvious that Dr. Hume could not give up his plans for the united medical office in order to assist the China Colleges, and I at once suggested Mr. Staub to Dr. Warnshuis, the chairman of our Committee on Promotion, and to several of the others who have been most active in our promotional affairs. In each case the one to whom the matter was suggested reached an independent decision. After thinking the matter over and making a number of inquiries it was concluded that Staub is not the solution to our problem. Some of the chief reasons that they gave are the following:- Mr. Staub is so closely identified with the Near East Colleges; and has won to those Colleges the support of practically everyone he can reach, that for him to shift now to the China Colleges might cause criticism and misunderstandings and make it necessary for him to develop an entirely new constituency than the one with which he has dealt in the Near East Colleges. Mr. Staub's salary in the Near East Colleges has been about twice the size paid for the administrative and promotional men serving the China Colleges and serving the mission boards generally, so it would be very difficult for Mr. Staub to adjust himself to our salary scale or for the China Colleges to pay him anything like the amount he has been receiving.

In the Near East Colleges Mr. Staub has been able to play pretty much a lone hand, and has not had to adjust his methods to the necessity of keeping together a large variety of denominations nationalities, and institutional constituencies. It is feared that he might insist on being somewhat more autocratic than would be desirable for the group of China Colleges. Certain other considerations have also been raised but those I have named have seemed, in the judgment of all those I have approached, weighty enough to make it advisable for us to explore this possibility no further. We would like your own comments.

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