

1916 September

The workers of Matopo and Mtschabesi met in Conference at the latter place, Sept. 4, 1916. H.P. Steigerwald, Moderator, H.J. Frey, Secretary.

Art. I

Shall we petition the F.M. Board for a Medical Missionary?

The African natives are a disease-ridden people, being troubled with many loathsome and repugnant diseases. The infant mortality is large; and those who escape the dangers of infancy frequently inherit affections that trouble them through life. To add to this difficulty, the witch-doctors ply their magic arts with impunity, thereby largely accelerating the rate of mortality. The skilled physicians are few, and usually far-distant from the native population; and the time of the regular missionary is usually too fully occupied with other duties to do justice to the sick, not to mention the fact of his not being properly prepared for such service. Moreover, a medical man could be of very great service to the people in a spiritual way. Indeed it is the usual experience of medical missionaries that their being helpful to the body also opens the way for their being helpful to the soul.

Considering these conditions, and the further fact that the health of the missionaries would doubtless be better were a skilled physician in their midst, there is evidently a very large and open field for medical work, which would doubtless be fruitful of much good. Therefore,

Resolved, that we petition the F.M. Board to seriously consider the question, and endeavor to secure a well-equipped medical missionary for the African field.

Art. II

Reconsideration of Art. III, 1915.

This Conference very greatly regrets that the F.M. Board cannot grant our request for arrangements for missionaries on furlough to have free access to the Bible school.

Resolved, therefore, that we request the F.M. Board to reconsider the question.

Art. III

Whereas, no assistance has as yet been given for the education of missionaries' children,

Whereas, this matter has been brought before the Board repeatedly

Whereas, we consider it the duty of the Church to provide missionaries who have children with the necessary means for their education, Therefore,

Resolved, that we again petition the F.M. Board to make definite arrangements in conjunction with the missionaries on the field for the education of their children.

H.J. Frey, Secretary.