

Stephens College
A Junior College for Women
Columbia, Missouri

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 5, 1935

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I hesitate to make a request of a woman who is necessarily as busy as you. The matter is of so much importance, however, that I trust you can find time to give it some thought and to let me have the benefit of your advice.

The problem is this. Eleven years ago we began, under the direction of Dr. W. W. Charters, a study of the activities of women. Our basic objective was to discover what women did with a view to making such alterations in our curriculum as might be necessary to prepare them for those activities. During these years, through the cooperation of the General Education Board and the Carnegie Corporation, we have been able to spend considerable sums of money in this study. Three hundred forty-eight different experiments have been carried on. We are now preparing to establish a curriculum for the education of women based upon the conclusions drawn from these experiments.

In making this evaluation, Dr. Charters and the faculty are to have the official guidance of President Harry W. Chase of the University of Illinois, President L. D. Coffman of the University of Minnesota, Chancellor S. P. Capen of the University of Buffalo, and Dr. J. D. Elliff, Professor of Secondary Education of the University of Missouri. These men have accepted membership on our Board of Curators. It will help them materially in setting up their program if they can have an expression of opinion from women like you who are familiar with social and economic problems.

Could you possibly find time to give me your answer to this question: "What points should a college for women emphasize in the education of its students, touching upon not only their intellectual, but also their social, physical, ethical, and vocational training?"

Your cooperation will be deeply appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

James M. Wood