

Third Sect. Contd.

Copy

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Department of Epidemiology

Baltimore, Md. April 5, 1922.

Dr. Louis I. Dublin,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company,
1 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Dublin:

I have your letter of March 30th enclosing copies of Dr. Emerson's summaries of activities in a number of cities, and asking for an opinion upon these reports. I have not as yet had an opportunity to do more than look over a few of the reports, just enough to get the general plan, and as I will not have an opportunity to do more for several days I can undertake at this time only to give my first impressions, subject to revision if this seems necessary after I have gone over the reports somewhat more carefully.

My first impression is very definitely that the summaries as drawn up are not suitable for the following reasons:

(1) They are too diffuse; with the result that the facts as to organization and activities in any city can be dug out only by reading several pages of description and discussion. I think it would be much better to have the facts stated as succinctly as possible in a skeleton outline with headings as nearly uniform as possible for all cities.

(2) I object to the inclusion of opinion along with the statement of facts; believe that the committee's report should confine itself, as far as individual cities are concerned, to giving facts. I cannot see how it is possible for anyone without a thorough personal knowledge of the actual workings of a city organization to express reliable opinions as to their efficiency. Moreover, even if opinions could be reliably formed I doubt that it would be good policy to include them.

(3) There is too much revelation of details as to individuals, especially as to the health commissioners. I think it should be a cardinal principle to avoid revealing matters of individual training, salaries, etc. Although as to salaries, these are matters of public record and it may be permissible to include them.

It seems to me on the whole that it would be much better to substitute for this form summary an entirely different form, giving in brief outline the bare facts as to organization and activities of each city, requiring I should judge not more than about one printed page for each city, certainly not more than 100 to 125 pages for the whole series.

As I find that Dr. Freeman has not received a similar letter from you, I have turned mine over to him, asking him to answer it independently.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. H. Frost