

614-01
M-FF2
1922

September 26, 1922

Dr. Lee K. Frankel,
Brown Palace Hotel,
Denver, Colo.

My dear Dr. Frankel:

You will be interested, I think, in the results of the meeting of the Committee on Municipal Health Department Practice which was held here yesterday. We had full attendance at what will probably prove to be the last meeting. The report was accepted and ought to go to the government printer (U. S. Public Health Service) within ten days, making a document of, I suppose, between 450 and 500 pages. It is not the bulk, however, that will make this report important. We all felt that we had for the first time collected the important facts with reference to the activities of American health departments and had worked out a standard practice which would guide the individual health officers to higher achievements. The book will be very much used and we all feel that it will be a most useful contribution.

What I want to tell you is that at the meeting, there was unanimous sentiment to thank the Company most heartily for what it has done to make this contribution possible. I could, of course, do nothing in that matter. But, all the other members voted a statement which will go into the first page of the Introduction, acknowledging the indebtedness of the Association to the Company. But, more important is the fact that at the last meeting of the Committee on Reorganization of the American Public Health Association, it was moved that the Association continue to carry on the activities of our Committee as one of its permanent and vital functions. In fact, Dr. Vaughan's plan is to make this work the starting point for the new life of the Association. With this in mind, they have approached Dr. Vincent of the Rockefeller Foundation, asking for an appropriation with which to establish a bureau. They have in mind about \$25,000 a year for a number of years, which would obtain the services of an outstandingly able man to head up the work. He would keep the files of the Association up to date on everything that is going on in the health departments of the country, answer inquiries and stimulate the process of raising the tone of the various departments of the country; evidently, something very much akin to the plan you developed last year and tried out on Emerson. Possibly, you have talked with others about the plan because everybody on the Organization Committee now talks your language and feels that that is something for the Association to do. I personally said nothing because I knew this was your plan which you would probably want to keep for the Company as one of its activities.

At the luncheon which we gave to the Committee, I reiterated your plans, emphasizing the point that you felt that we were in an extraordinarily favorable position to stimulate public health work through our Managers and staff, and through the support which any good plan would receive from our policyholders.

Dr. Frankel - September 26, 1922 - 2.

To which, the comment was made that it would be better possibly for all concerned if the Company, the American Public Health Association and the Rockefeller Foundation joined forces, each doing what it could toward the common goal. The impression was that Vincent would be more likely to participate if he could count on the Company's cooperation, either in terms of money or service. He suggested the name of Gunn as the logical person to head up this work. I feel that you should know right away all these items because you may wish to get in touch with Winslow at once and let him know what the Company is preparing to do.

You will be interested also to know that the antagonism to the Company which found expression during the last few months in some resolutions of Dr. Harris has given place to a resolution of appreciation, which Dr. Harris will offer at the Cleveland meeting. He was shown how silly his suspicions were of any domination by the Company and confessed that he had made a mistake and is making amend by offering this resolution thanking the Company for all that it has done during the last decade to strengthen the American Public Health Association. Nobody hears anything from Coon or from Goler these days. I thought you would be particularly pleased to know the change of front on the part of Dr. Harris.

I need hardly tell you what a load is taken off my hands in the completion of the report. We have been at it for two years now. It was easily the most important thing we were doing and yet not being a Company activity, it had to be carried on in what little spare time we had after the day's work was done. We have had splendid support from the best men in the health movement including, Winslow, Chapin, Emerson, Freeman, and a really most valuable contribution is now at hand, which I know will bring credit to the Company.

I hope this finds you and the other officers well, and I beg you to remember me to the President and to all the others.

Very truly yours,