

To Dr. Osler from Dr. Flick.

Philadelphia,
October 31, 1903.

My dear Dr. Osler:

Your letter of the 30th inst. to hand. Monday November 30th will suit us just as well and we will fix that date. We cannot altogether dispense with the reception as that is the only ^{way} in which you can keep in touch with the medical profession at large and get in touch with the people. We can compromise matters, however, by having a dinner such as you suggest at 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon and having a less pretentious reception after the lecture. We can do all this without any greater expense than we were under last time by taking the New Century drawing-room hall, and having the reception in the hall immediately after the lecture. We will have what is called a light reception such as ice-cream, cake, coffee, and a few sandwiches. If agreeable to you, I would like to ask Dr. Musser to introduce you. I expect Dr. Phipps to be present at the lecture and of course we will have him at dinner. If the ideas here outlined do not please you, I shall be glad to have your criticism.

The title of your lecture pleases me very much and I see nothing to modify in it. We shall at once get our tickets ready. If you can let us have the abstract early we will prepare it for distribution in advance, so that the medical journals throughout the world can have it. I would like very much also to have in advance a very brief biography of yourself and a good photograph. I know this is repugnant to you but you are well aware that the present-day newspapers insist on having something of the kind and that they will get it in some form in spite of all we can do. It is better to have something we approve of than something which we do not, and the only way in which we can have what we want is to give it under our own control.

If I may be permitted to say a word on another subject at the present time, I would like to bespeak your cooperation in our endeavors to unite the workers on tuberculosis in this country for the purpose of bringing the International Congress on Tuberculosis here in 1905. As you know, the former Congress on Tuberculosis, so-called, has brought much odium on itself and the men who were interested in it are now divided. We wish to steer clear of both factions and to bring together the workers in each state under the form of a league against tuberculosis and have these various leagues send delegates to Philadelphia sometime prior to the next meeting of the American Medical Association for the purpose of extending an invitation to the Congress, and formulating plans for its work and entertainment. I have been told that some good men have allied themselves with one or other of these factions and it may be in your power to influence some of these to keep aloof, so that the workers may ultimately be united. It seems that the invitations have been extended to one or other of these factions to foreign countries to send delegates. Perhaps it is in your power to induce your confrères in England and in Canada to hold aloof for a little while until matters can be properly shaped here. I assure you that any assistance you can give us in this work will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly

Lawrence F. Flick.