



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
IN REPLYING ADDRESS
THE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
(HYGIENIC LABORATORY)

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 18, 1930.

Dr. L. W. Kolb,
United States Public Health Service,
c/o United States Consul,
Dublin, Irish Free State.

Dear Dr. Kolb:

It won't be long until you will be able to say that you have less than a year to stay abroad. You see I keep tabs on the men who have been at the Laboratory. There has been such a tremendous development in the mental hygiene line, including drug addiction, in United States Prison medical matters, that I suppose there will be no chance to get you back here again.

Thus far the National Institute of Health is precisely like the Hygienic Laboratory. The Ransdell Bill, of course, changed the name but that was about all it did that was immediately effective. The provision for a new building was not included, or perhaps I ought to say it was authorized but not appropriated; however, that will come later. Dr. Kerr was Chairman of a Board that determined whether the expansion should take place on the present location or elsewhere, and they decided that if we could get enough land here to make a total of about 30 acres, the expansion should take place with the present buildings as a nucleus. It was decided that if we could not get adequate space we would have to consider moving to a likely new site. I cannot get much excited over the prospective expansion, or rather the mechanics of it; I have always been interested solely in the output of useful research, and it seems that I have nothing to apologize for in that connection.

There was a conference on drug addiction on the 12th, but nothing much was decided so far as I know, although I did not stay until the end. Your old friend Dr. Terry reported on a very extensive and expensive investigation at Detroit, but the figures had no legitimate requirements and really did not differ sufficiently from those gotten by DuMez to be of much significance.

Dr. L.W.Kolb:

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8/18/30

Your manuscript came in due time and was referred to Professor Voegtlin; he suggested a few minor changes which DuMez has made and the paper is now back on my desk. There will be a little delay because some of the charts need to be redrawn and the artist will be gone for just two weeks more. You know it usually happens in the summer that when you need somebody pretty badly they are away on annual leave. I want to congratulate you on the work. I sent it to Reid Hunt, not so much for his criticism as for his information, and he says it is the best piece of work on the subject that has been done.

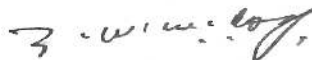
Our major problem just now is Typhus, and Dyer, Rumreich and Badger are all working energetically on it. Fifty cases have occurred in the general neighborhood this summer and the death rate is somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 per cent. We still do not know how it is conveyed but it is certain that one must leave Washington to get it; no one has been infected who has stayed in the City, but those who have gone into the surrounding rural districts for a holiday have given a number of cases. This will confirm my long cherished view that the most dangerous thing any one can do in the summer time is take a vacation.

Spencer has just returned from two months in the Yellowstone studying a peculiar outbreak of gastro-intestinal poisoning that they have there every year.

Perhaps you have seen Dr. Stiles who is in Europe attending some meetings. He will be gone until towards the end of September. Butler of the Navy is also over on the same mission.

I hope you will enjoy your last year abroad and that this will find you as well as it leaves the McCoy family.

Respectfully,



G.W. McCoy,
Director.

GWM:kh