



OFFICE OF
MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

American Consulate General,
Hamburg, Germany,
December 20, 1929.

Dear Doctor Kolb:

Thought that I would take this opportunity to answer your letter before the holidays since living may be somewhat strenuous then. Was mighty glad to hear from you and learn the condition of the Irish weather. We have been having fine weather here in Hamburg since I got back---so much better than in Italy. We also have the advantage of a pretty good weather prognostication so that we can anticipate what is coming. A very good weather map is also published in the daily news-paper and this gives the conditions pretty much all over Europe. Previous to December 15th Ireland had been covered by areas of low pressure for quite a few weeks so that I had surmised that you were having the usual "soft mornings".

The work here has been about as usual, although I am expecting it to pick up some after the 1st of January when the U. S. Lines get to going. We have about ten examinations a day on an average, and as there is only one regular stenographer to type the visas I have time to do a brief mental examination on about 50% of the people passing through. The form boards, particularly the Fergusons, work fine in spite of all language difficulties. Yesterday I had a peasant (female) from the Volga River---one of those German Mennonites. In the primary examination she was terrible and could answer questions pertaining to general knowledge and calculation scarcely at all. However, she gave me a 20%ile performance on the Fergusons, did both the Healy A and B in the allotted time, and showed a more normal psychological reaction.

I am sending you a copy of the percentile tables for the first fifty men and women examined. The work has been done just as it was in Ireland, age limits are 16 to 35, and time limit is 5 minutes. The tables are very interesting, especially when they are compared with the Irish tables; the Healy A and B have been performed by the people here in half the time roughly required for the Irish applicant for each percentile group. The women are giving way to the men to some extent, contrary to what I at first thought, but they are not lagging like the Irish women so far behind and are actually ahead of the men on the Healy A.

I expect to get about three or four hundred of these tests performed during the present fiscal year and if they will be of any value for your paper when you publish it you are welcome to them. If you cannot use them, I expect that I shall just send them in to the Bureau to show the Surgeon General that I have not



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been loafing. I want the percentile tables primarily for the work here so that they may be used for future reference, and then, too, I don't imagine that a standard has ever been made for Germany on the Ferguson Boards.

I think the new consul there displayed rare judgement in becoming a member at Elm Park. This is one of the finest places I know of for getting exercise and a good golf score. While on the subject, just want to say that I haven't gotten started yet, and it is too cold to make a try now until the Spring. If you get a chance to drop by here then be sure to bring your clubs along and, if you don't play before that time, we will have a consolation game.

Doctor Grimm has probably gotten started on his trip by this time. A great pity that someone else is to have life-long dreams of "sunny Italy" spoiled. And I guess it won't be just sunny Italy either.

We had quite a large party here Thanksgiving. Dinner at the Hotel Vierjahreszeiten and a special dance immediately afterwards given by the Cosmopolitan Club. Had to invest in a swallow-tail coat because I didn't want anyone to go the old U.S.P.H.S. one better.

With best wishes for the merriest of Christmases and a prosperous New Year to you and all the family from both of us,

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Vanderh

*Answered - & request made to do more - very sincere
also for some Penton no language*