

August 19, 1944

Dr. Foker
Dr. Brehm
Mr. Brown

Mr. Houser
R. Markusen
Mr. Bloomfield

The attached copies of my letter of this date to Mr. Bloomfield and enclosures ancillary thereto will advise you of the present status of the question of our 1945 meeting. I hope that we have reached the closing chapter and that I shall presently be able to forward definite advice to Dr. Foker as chairman of our Program Committee.

I regret that a decision in contravention of the expressed preferences of our Executive Committee has been deemed advisable, but believe that you will concede that the reasons for this were good and sufficient. Quite apart from other considerations, Mr. Bloomfield, on the basis of the votes of the A.I.H.A. directors, had authorized Dr. Kehoe, chairman of their Program Committee, to initiate negotiations with Dr. Holmblad's organization for a combined meeting, thus committing us to a choice between convening in Chicago with the other three groups or meeting separately from the A.I.H.A., a course which I believe that all of us would wish to avoid.

From the viewpoints of those of us who have perhaps discussed these matters most fully, I think it may be said that the place of the 1945 meeting was of less importance than the fact that we found ourselves in the truly intolerable position of being obliged to defer almost wholly, in the choices of place, time and physical arrangement of our annual meeting, to preferences based upon commercial interests quite beyond our concern. It seems reasonable to expect that the airing of these difficulties which has taken place will lead to their substantial amelioration.

Copies of this communication are being sent to those with whom I have had correspondence on or discussion of its subject.


Manfred Bowditch
Chairman

cc: Mr. Barnes
Mr. Cook
Miss Dempsey
Prof. Finker
R. Harrold
Dr. Holmblad
Dr. Kehoe
Mr. Littlefield
Dr. Lynch
Dr. Sappington
Dr. Schrenk
Dr. Selby
Dr. Thomas

August 19, 1944

Mr. J. J. Bloomfield, Chief
Field Operations Section
Industrial Hygiene Division
U. S. Public Health Service
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Jack:

This is to acknowledge your letter of August 14th and confirm our telephone conversation on Thursday with regard to 1945 plans for the A.I.H.A. and N.C.G.I.H.

I feel, and know that you agree, that we are definitely pledged to give the N.C.G.I.H. two consecutive days of meeting next year, free of interference with concurrent sessions. I understand that we are also agreed that Dr. Harrold's proposal that the combined meetings of the four organizations be allowed to extend beyond one week would almost certainly not work out, due to lack of hotel accommodations. I gather that you feel that it will be possible to work out a schedule whereby the N.C.G.I.H. meets in 1945 on April 24th and 25th, the A.I.H.A. on the 26th and 27th and the A.A.I.H. on the 28th and 29th, with the A.A.I.P.S. meeting (and overlapping the two last named) on the 27th and 28th.

Though I have of course not seen most of the replies of the A.I.H.A. directors, I believe that I am not far off in figuring that the vote of this group was about sixty per cent in favor of combined meetings of the four organizations and forty per cent for separation in '45, whereas the vote of the N.C.G.I.H. Executive Committee was about forty per cent for combination and sixty per cent for separation. Since there has been no real thought of divorcing the meetings of these two organizations, I think that it would be fair to consider the two groups in combination and call it substantially a tie vote. However, in view of the strong feeling in several quarters known for sound thinking that we should again all meet together in 1945 and seek to iron out any remaining troubles at that time, I am quite ready to write Dr. Holmblad, in response to his August 10th letter to you and me, that the N.C.G.I.H. will meet in Chicago with the other groups in 1945, provided that we can have assurance of April 24th and 25th, free of interference from

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Mr. J. J. Bloomfield

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concurrent sessions of the other organizations, and you will note from my first enclosure that I have so done.

The exchange with Dr. Selby also enclosed is, I think, worth noting. If the proposed over-all committee can be set up on a proper basis, it should go far toward eliminating the objectionable features of the present scheme of things which have led to the recent welter of correspondence and debate.

Sincerely,

Manfred Bowditch
Director

MB:PMC
Enc.

P. S. Since dictating the above, I have received a copy of Mr. Littlefield's letter to you of August 11th, as well as Dr. Holmblad's letter of August 16th, stating that you and I are invited to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the A.A.I.P.S. in Chicago on October 3d. You will hear from me with regard to both of these presently. I gathered from our telephone talk that you had not then received mine of the 15th.

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