

Insurance Department
A. L. Kirkpatrick, Manager

December 14, 1945

Mr. Manfred Bowditch, Director
Division of Occupational Hygiene
Dept. of Labor and Industries
23 Joy Street
Boston 14, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Bowditch:

Thank you for your letter of December 11. You have probably received the letter and questionnaire about the clearing house by this time. I can see the advantage of a central bureau, but I do think there is considerable in the argument for the position that the technical organization can best handle its own personnel. For instance, when a physician writes to Carl Petersen saying that he is interested in industrial medical service, it is important for Carl to know first whether he is really equipped with the technical background for rendering an accurate service; and second, whether he is planning to use this simply as a stepping stone for some other field of work or expects to devote his life to it.

On the other hand, when industry writes to him inquiring as to physicians, he should know something of the demands of that particular industry from a professional standpoint, its willingness to provide the necessary facilities and its conception of the program as well as the type of men who will fit the needs of that particular industry.

I think the determination of all these factors required some professional training and some understanding of the requirements of the job and the necessary professional equipment for the job. The same would be true of nurses, dentists and other technicians. Anyway, that was the decision and we apparently must follow it. I think undoubtedly there is, in some instances, some professional pride and like our world situation, an unwillingness to relinquish a degree of sovereignty which is all nonsense both in this matter and in world events. But don't get me started on the world situation, or I'll write you a book!

I can imagine with what anticipation you're looking forward to the work with Gardner. I rather envy you the opportunity and I wish for you the greatest happiness in that job.

With sincere best wishes for Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

Howard

Howard Strong

Secretary

Health Advisory Council

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