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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
240 LONGWOOD AVENUE, BOSTON, MASS.

Dec. 9th 1922

My dear Gerard:

Your letter has filled me with a mixture of pleasure and dismay, pleasure because you are so nice in at once accepting my plan, but dismay because you seem to think it a substitute for the one that Dr. Drinker - and I quite as much as he - has been proposing to you. Indeed I never for a moment meant to go behind his back and take onmyself alone a job, which if it is to be done thoroughly, will need much expert knowledge which I do not possess. What I suggested was a rapid, preliminary survey, of the medical end, of factory conditions, and of any special hazards which might be found. Then I thought that, after consultation with Dr. Smith, a scheme of medical practice could be worked out which you could put in force in all the plants as a Harvard Medical School standard, without incurring the opposition which Dr. Smith's plan would. This is what I understood him to want.

As to the larger plan, of a complete survey covering all the phases of factory health management, that I shall still hope for, and this will not take its place. Perhaps when you come up here after Christmas we can meet with Dr. Shattuck, Dr. Drinker, Dr. Lee and the rest and discuss it.

I am immensely taken with the idea Dr. Smith has cherished, of making all these valuable records he and others are gathering, available for medical people. Think what it will be to be able to follow from year to year the health records of thousands of working people. It has never been done before.

So you see, I do not want to supplant Dr. Drinker in any way. I only want to do a small preliminary job.

Cordially yours

Alice Hamilton

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