

American Medical Association

SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

SECTION ON PREVENTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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Dr. Robert Kehoe
Kettering Foundation
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Bob:

Some time ago I wrote to you for advice regarding a foreign guest speaker. Since I intended to have a symposium on industrial medical education I wanted someone whose paper would be a prologue more or less to that subject. It seems likely that Ronald Lane will be the man. I was his host while he was here on the coast and got to know him quite well -- well enough to request of him the type of paper I want.

Regarding the symposium on industrial medical education I have gone very slowly for I wanted to make no mistake as to the make-up of the panel. For some weeks I have been inquiring of many individuals as to what has been done and what their ideas are as to an adequate basis of education in this field. My plan is to send special invitations to the Association of Deans of Medical Schools, to the members of the Council on Education, and to many men who are interested in this subject from the field of investigation, from the field of toxicology, etc. In other words, I am striving to have an audience representative of all phases of industrial medical education.

The most important choice is that of a Moderator. I want one who can in his preliminary introduction state the issues, the objectives, and possibly hint at the solution. This man must have a broad view of the whole subject and not a viewpoint such as might come from someone in Public Health or from one now engaged in teaching Preventive Medicine who feels that the preventive program is concerned only with sewerage disposal, filtration plants, etc. In other words, the man to be Moderator must have in mind the objectives which you stated to me in your letter and which you mentioned to me in our ride back to Detroit from St. Clair. By this time you have sensed who that man is --- namely, Robert A. Kehoe.

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Bob, I feel that this is a great opportunity to bring out into the open what is on the minds of many in this field. Admittedly the Council on Industrial Medicine and the Council on Education, as well as the A. A. I. P. S. have discussed this subject within their own sanctums. But I know of no previous gathering where all of these various agencies have gathered under one roof to consider this subject. I feel that this symposium offers a chance to stimulate more constructive action than any heretofore.

Now I know you are busy, and I know that to accept this job will be an imposition -- that is always true. Nevertheless, I feel you can make a real contribution at this time. This is the time to secure some real action.

Before I go further and invite participants for the panel I would like you to suggest such members and to suggest the subjects they should discuss. Various persons have been suggested to me. Victor Johnson, Secretary of the Council on Education, has suggested Dr. Jean Curran of Long Island College, and Loren Chandler of Stanford University. Carl Peterson suggests that Dr. Weiskotten be on the program since he is interested in this field and is on the Council on Medical Education. Since Pitt has made some fair progress in Industrial Health, Dean McElroy has been suggested to represent the Deans. Your friend Alan Gregg suggested Dr. James Waring of the University of Colorado, Dr. Thomas Dublin of Long Island Medical College and C. E. A. Winslow of Yale (now retired). All of these men are from the field of education, as you can see. We must have men on the panel from other fields.

Now Bob, first let me have your acceptance and in the same letter let me have your idea as to whom you consider would be good participants, and the subjects they should discuss in order to make it a well rounded symposium. In asking you to do the latter, I am not trying to shove onto you a burden that is rightfully mine. But I didn't want you to accept a job as Moderator over a program in which you had no previous guiding hand. If you can sense my enthusiasm regarding this opportunity to make this program outstanding and one from which can come much action, I am sure you will accept and dig in with me to make things hum.

Sincerely yours,

R. T. Johnstone
R. T. Johnstone, M. D.

RTJ/lds

P. S. Please let me hear from you real soon.

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