

August 28, 1946

Dr. Futherford Johnstone,
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Dear Ned:

I have just come across a notation that reminds me that I promised to send you some information concerning our general plans for a program of post-graduate instruction in industrial medicine. I have an idea that I may have sent you a reprint of a rather general talk which I made on this subject some time ago. However, I am not sure that I did so and I am sending you a copy of this reprint at this time. I expect to amplify this paper in an article which I shall prepare for the Journal of Occupational Medicine, but for the present this should serve to give you my general ideas on the subject.

Actually some progress is being made toward achieving these ends. I am not attempting to move rapidly, but rather am trying to build a sound foundation for a faculty of a School of Industrial Medicine. We are working experimentally in collaboration with the Department of Dermatology and to a lesser degree, with the Department of Medicine. I have two associates with sound training in internal medicine and with close professional relationships to various departments in the hospital. We are finding problems that interest us in the medical wards and in the pathology department of the hospital, and we are giving assistance from both the clinical and laboratory point of view in the diagnosis and in the following up of cases of industrial origin. Moreover, the Laboratory is more and more employed in connection with the hospital as a source of technical information as well as diagnostic assistance. In this way I anticipate that this Laboratory will be the means by which all of the clinical departments enter into the consideration and investigation of problems of industrial medicine and industrial health. We have a series of volunteer men in the medical and surgical specialties. A number of these men have no funds or facilities of any kind for investigation, and little or no time for following up certain types of cases. We expect to provide the means whereby these opportunities and facilities are provided. In return for these services we can expect to receive the collaboration of our colleagues in clinical work and in teaching. Our goal is obviously the establishment of an adequate background in the form of a going out-patient and in-patient industrial service. I have no doubt that additional hospital facilities will be required here for this purpose, and it appears that it is feasible to obtain such facilities. Along with such facilities we anticipate having a certain number of beds for metabolic and clinical studies of a purely experimental

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character. So much for the clinical end of the work.

From the point of view of research and teaching in industrial hygiene and industrial toxicology, our facilities are good. However, they need to be expanded and in some respects intensified, to the end that we shall be able to give the graduate physician comprehensive training in the problems of industrial environment. It is here that I anticipate the extension of our work into various physiological aspects of the field, with special reference to the contributions that can be made by the dermatologist, the neurologist, the ophthalmologist, the otologist and the physiologist. I am thinking here of the problems of heating and cooling, lighting, sound control, control of radiant energy as well as the control of toxic hazards. As you well know, medical men as a group know very little about these problems, whereas the medical men in industry need to know something about them.

I think you will see from the above comments how I expect to go about the clinical and laboratory ends of the training in Industrial Medicine. Having accomplished these phases of training, I should then expect the candidate for a certificate or a degree in this field to spend a year in industrial plants on rotating service which will acquaint him with the practical problems and the manner in which these are being made in current practice.

Much could be added to the program that I have in mind, for like the training in medicine, there is almost no aspects of modern life that is not of importance to the industrial physician. However, what I am interested in primarily is in having him know thoroughly the tools of his own trade. I do not expect to make a paragon of wisdom in all fields of human thought, out of the industrial physician. I do believe that he can be made a sound practitioner of the science and art of industrial health.

I trust that this belated letter may be of some use to you, and in any case I take pleasure in giving you my ideas.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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