

August 21, 1944

19

Mr. Manfred Bowditch, Director,
American Industrial Hygiene Association,
Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries,
23 Joy Street,
Boston 14, Mass.

Dear Bowditch:

I am very grateful to you for writing to me and sending me various items of correspondence in relation to the problem of a meeting place for this year.

Let me hasten to say that I am in complete agreement with your opinion concerning the present difficulties of going along with the A.A.I.P. and S. Certainly the commercial aspects of this matter have been much too prominent and have been allowed to submerge more primary considerations. I want no part in any such procedure, and I should like to dissociate myself from the necessity of dealing with such considerations. It would be my instant reaction to escape from this situation at once and directly, so as to make the issue quite clear, except for one consideration. In my opinion it is not the intention of the Board of Directors and the common run of members of the A.A.I.P. and S. to run the show on this kind of a basis. I believe that in time we can effect a relationship with this organization in such a manner as to eliminate the features that are now embarrassing and so as to develop a mutually beneficial and scientific relationship. I object as much as you do to stalling and appeasement, and if we cannot make some headway in achieving our purpose, the A.I.H.A. will have to cut loose. The consequences of this, in my opinion, will be worse for the doctors than it will be for the industrial hygienists. Perhaps it is for that reason that I feel as strongly as I do on the subject, but I think not. In my opinion, the importance of our going along together is so great that we can afford to carry on for a time with unsatisfactory conditions, not, however, without presenting our own case and fighting for what we consider to be necessary.

From the more recent correspondence received from Mr. Bloomfield and others, it appears that the issue has been settled for this year and that we are to meet with the A.A.I.P. and S. as in former years. As chairman of this year's program committee, and as a member of certain committees in the A.A.I.P. and S. organization, I shall have an opportunity to forward the point of view

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Mr. Manfred Bowditch - (2) - August 21, 1944

which you have expressed and in which I concur, from both the outside and the inside. I shall do this as vigorously as I am able. So far as I am concerned I am willing to abide by the results of this year's attempt. I am not sending copies of this letter to anyone else, because I do not wish to appear to be playing both ends against the middle in this situation. On the other hand, in view of your remarks I feel that I would like you to understand just what I have in mind and why.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kenoe, M. D.

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