

Lake George Village,
August 10, 1914.

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:-

In the principal matters to be considered at the meeting of the 13th, I think I can state such views as I have better and more briefly in writing; quite willing, without further discussion on my part, to leave the issues to the decision of others.

1. I favor the termination of the Hookworm work in the south January 1, 1915, giving notice of same now to all concerned, with appreciative word of services rendered and recital of what has been accomplished. A careful paper might be made up as valedictory and widely circulated. The intelligent cooperation of the south should receive deserved recognition.

2. If there are known islands of dense infection, consisting of grouped counties yet untouched, the work might be continued in, and restricted to, these for a limited time, say July 1, 1915 or January 1, 1916, and so announced. For this, selected workers might be retained - selections made mainly for skill, also occasionally for other worthy reasons. This limited and fractional work, if any, should be done without change by the original organization, I think, for obvious reasons. Funds needed could be supplied by the Foundation or even by the International Commission.

3. At the last meeting, I called for the maps, and now again refer to them to show how extensive has been the survey. This survey is sufficient, both extensively and intensively, to disclose the areas of heavy infection and make the same public, and to disclose also the

vast and, indeed, quite general areas of the south in which infection is absent or so light as to furnish no serious menace to health - no more serious menace, for illustration, than any of the lighter current diseases.

4. At the last meeting, I analyzed the latest reports to show that the work now being done, with the exception of that in certain isolated sections, is not that of combatting a serious and very damaging infection, but of survey, very costly indeed and not supported with local funds to any extent, but nevertheless necessary for a comprehensive picture and a fully approved factor of our work. Conceived as a curative agency, such a survey would, indeed, hardly be justified at eight to ten dollars per case disclosed, with local physicians everywhere competent to handle the serious cases. The survey has been necessary, however, for years past for the purposes of disclosure. This survey has now, however, proceeded far enough, in my opinion, to furnish and permanently place in the hands of state officers and local physicians and public men generally, all the information needed about the prevalence of the disease in the respective states and portions of the same, and can and ought now to be discontinued.

5. Dr. Rose has done his work well. His plans were well conceived, his methods effective, the results have been comprehensive and decisive. Against universal incredulity, he has secured universal recognition of the existence, the wide distribution, and, in places, the destructiveness of the disease. He has disclosed its cause, its

method of propagation, its symptoms, its treatment and cure, its prevention,- all demonstrated by Dr. Stiles in the laboratory and to science, to the common people of half the nation. He has cured more than half a million, has traversed the most heavily infected districts with traveling hospitals, had evoked immense popular interest, called forth no inconsiderable public aid, and practically banished the disease as epidemic from the regions for the most part where it has been found to be seriously destructive. He has awakened the Boards of Health in all the states to the existence and distribution of the infection in their several states, has secured for them special legislative appropriations, has shown them models of effective state organization and county and local canvass. He has trained them in the use of all this machinery by employing them as his own agents. He has not only enlisted county aid, but with the greatest unanimity, the whole body of local physicians in every county of every state. No disease is better known, more easily recognized or more promptly cured by the average southern physician. The work we undertook to do has been done within the time fixed, done within or but little beyond the sum we thought necessary (\$500,000.), and very much more has been done than we then planned or thought possible. Hookworm disease has not only been recognized, bounded and limited, it has been reduced to one of the minor infections of the south, perhaps the most easily and universally recognized and cured of all. This now. More than this, a most admirably adapted and equipped state machine has been set up in each state, ready at hand, for the local authorities to employ whenever further work is thought of sufficient importance to justify public funds.

The southern leaders are overwhelmingly influential, they are intelligent, they are public spirited, they can do what they will with their people, especially in matters philanthropic. And public funds are not wanting for things thought necessary. The hookworm work, with the possible exception mentioned above, may now reasonably and safely be left to local intelligence in every state. If so, it ought to be so left, and needless further aid from us is damaging rather than necessary or helpful. So I say to Dr. Rose, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, we will make thee ruler over many things; henceforth, thy field is the world."

II.

Not to be confounded with this local, temporary mastery of a single curable epidemic disease, even in thought, is the mighty question of national health, sanitation, preventive medicine. Here we are on far other ground - universal, mysterious, unknown, ground on which they who know most are most hesitant and doubtful. This greatest and most difficult of enterprises, a thousand years will not accomplish. We ought to enter on it with the utmost circumspection, if at the outset we do not set it back rather than forward. Clearly, it is a work for the Foundation, and is not to be associated in any way with our southern hookworm activities,- a question different in every element of its essence as well as scope, a question involving totally different organization and agencies.

What, then, can the Foundation do for public health, sanitation, preventive medicine, in, say, the United States? Probably the greatest

single thing has been already done - the founding of the Rockefeller Institute. For preventive medicine is not yet even a science. It is through this and other like agencies that men are beginning now to know some isolated facts, on which, in part, a science may yet be created. Nor will real and fundamental progress be made in preventive medicine any faster than these agencies afford the basis for it.

As to doing something further, the first thing should be to consult the best experts, singly or in groups, before we do anything else. I can guess that these will suggest that we establish, either independently or in connection with a selected medical school, an institute or a department of preventive medicine. Not so much for investigation as for teaching to groups of fit men what is now known on the subject of public health, sanitation, preventive medicine, with a view of making a profession and furnishing experts - if experts are possible in an unformed science.

I should hope that such a department or institute would draw together permanently under one roof the best qualified minds on this subject. That of itself would promise much. It opens a rich field for the imagination. Among other things chiefly, such a group would be best qualified to advise the Foundation on what next, and then next, it might do to further by a little the great question. And such a body would also be best qualified to suggest to us the best agents for such work, partly among men of distinction outside, partly their own students best qualified.

I suspect these men will tell us first to assist and cooperate with existing agencies in the great cities, then in lesser cities, then

in suburban towns, finally in rural communities. This is the order of need, of hope, of least resistance, of logic. They will suggest methods of enlightening public opinion, already partly illuminated. They will suggest laws for regulating sources of disease and giving needed authority to public health officers.

But I need not proceed illustratively further. Let us, then, before doing anything, get good and wide expert counsel.

Very truly,

F. T. Gates.

P.S.- As I sign my name to this letter, Dr. Rose's full and elaborate review of his work is placed on my desk. I have not read it. I doubt if it will essentially change any of the views I have stated, as I am already familiar with the work done.

Latest and Last. Dr. Rose's report and suggestions make no change in this letter necessary. Let the surveys and all work except above mentioned be closed January 1, 1915, would be my counsel, and turned over to the State Boards of Health with all property.