

Copy of letter  
March 4, 1929  
GKS to F.F. Russell

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History

March 4, 1929

Doctor F.F. Russell  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
61, Broadway  
New York City

Dear Doctor Russell,

In reading over the section dealing with organization, in the January 3, 1929 minutes of the Trustees Meeting, I noted with special interest the enumeration of the IHD functions. Among these is research in public health. I presume this category was included to regularize the research which is being supported in connection with our efforts in the campaigns against hookworm disease, malaria and yellow fever, but, the term "research" is so sweeping in character that a vast number of laboratory and field investigations could be undertaken without transgressing the other limitations of our program.

There are in Europe 6 or 7 institutes of hygiene which have been created, at least in part, through the assistance of the IHD. Each does and should concern itself with research in public health. There are innumerable problems pressing for solution, not only in regard to the epidemiological, immunological and etiological aspects of communicable diseases but also those relating to administrative procedures in maternal, infant, preschool and school hygiene, to mention but a few examples.

There is need for continuous research to improve organization and administration and to discover a better "yard stick" with which to measure the value and effectiveness of present health activities.

Opportunities for aid in this general field are certain to arise and I am not sure but that a good deal could be done to develop them with relatively little expense.

I have no plan in mind and besides this is probably not the time to bring up the subject for official discussion but I do want you to know of my interest. Hence I have taken the liberty of writing you personally. When time permits and if you care to do so, I should be glad to learn how you interpret research in public health, and whether you would be interested in seeing the activity developed.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) GKS

P.S. Since writing this letter I have seen Tisdale, who gave me your brief message concerning research.