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Cannanore, Malabar District, March 6, 1920.

Paul

Dr. Victor G. Heiser,
Director for the East,
International Health Board,
New York City.

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Dear Doctor Heiser:

Arrived in the Malabar District today and will make our headquarters in the city of Cannanore, for the time. At the request of the Surgeon-General, I broke the journey from Madras and made a stop at Ootacamund which is the summer capital of Madras. It is located 7000 feet up the Nilgiris mountains. At this place I saw a Mr. Richardson who is the planter member of the Madras Executive Council. Through Mr. R. I met the representatives of Barber and Pascoe the largest estate owners in this district. They received me most kindly and are very enthusiastic over the hookworm question and urged us to take up work on their tea estates which employ over twenty thousand coolies. Mr. R. who has big interests in the independent Indian State to the south of Malabar by the name of Travancore is going to ask the Maharaja of that State to take up the question of hookworm control, so you will probably hear from him at some later time. The mission hospitals are beginning to write to the Surgeon-General, asking what part they may take in the hookworm campaign. The Madras Publicity Bureau and the Health and Welfare Association are both anxious to aid the work. At present everything appears propitious. If the coolie and the villager responds favorably it will be clear sailing.

I am stopping at a local hotel run by an Indian but which has a reputation of being a fair hotel. There is a golf course just in front of the hotel, which I may later make use of. This is said to be a wet section.

Teda

On my arrival in Cannanore I received your letter of November 28th., containing notice of increase of salary and information regarding

the new commutation regulations. I want to express gratitude for the interest you have shown in me.

The work in Madras appeals to me most strongly. It is so much different from the problem in other places to which I have been, and furthermore it is so large and full of possibilities. Because of the enormous populations, and because of the peculiar and strong caste ties, I have formulated a system which I wish to give a trial and which I believe the men upon whom the Government must depend to carry on the work at some later time, will be able to follow with the best results and least complications. From data collected by the investigations of the India Medical Research Fund, I have ascertained that the infection rate is very high in all of the districts reached. I propose to make preliminary examinations of representative groups to determine the infection rate for that particular section. Then give every person three or possibly four treatments with thymol until such time that Oil of chenopodium may be employed. Then make reexaminations of the groups to determine the cure rate. As we are to treat the convicts in the big Cannanore jail before we go elsewhere, I will work out the proper dosage and number of treatments to bring about the best results. Do you see any objections to such a system? The obtaining of specimens from each individual has been the difficult problem in India.. Also as the populations are so huge I feel that we can cover more ground, and do it well by following some such scheme as I have outlined.

If I can keep the Government at full steam I believe that after the period of initiation and inauguration, we will be able to do real work.

Respectfully yours,

Address:

Care of U.S.A. Consulate,
Madras, India.

George P. Paul
George P. Paul,
Director for Madras, India.