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INTERNATIONAL HEALTH BOARD

~~61 BROADWAY, NEW YORK~~
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COMMISSION FOR THE
PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS IN FRANCE

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September 7th 1917

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Dr. Wickliffe ROSE,
Director General
International Health Board
61, Broadway,
NEW-YORK . U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Rose :-

In transmitting the accompanying statements and budget I should like to add a few words of general explanation and comment.

We find the general situation as was to be expected extremely complex and somewhat unstable on account of the emergency war conditions. We are unanimous in feeling that it would be unwise to inaugurate our work under the auspices of any existing French organization and we shall therefore at least for the immediate future retain our independent organization and shall operate as such. We shall work in close harmony with the Comité National leaving until later the question of closer union of the two organizations. Any amalgamation at the moment would be fatal on account of the political and other cross currents.

We are agreeably surprised at the amount and quality of the antituberculosis work actually being done by the French themselves (much of which has been organized during the past year) both in Paris and in certain departements, notably the "Loire". This fact will simplify the problem of working out model districts. At the same time the greater part

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of France is untouched and the opportunity for American cooperation is most appealing.

The Hospital and Sanatorium problem is in an encouraging state and can probably be handled entirely through French agencies with aid from the Red Cross for the immediate future.

It is clear that the model dispensary and training school establishments with their adjuncts of day-camps etc., must be temporarily financed by American funds. This can be done within the limits of the tentative financial outlay foreseen before leaving New-York. The establishment of a clearing house on a modest scale for tuberculosis patients in Paris is a pressing need which we are convinced can best be begun under our auspices, as indicated in the detailed report.

The establishment of a central registry we also feel will be of far reaching importance and will prepare the way for the broader public health plans of the future.

I must also call attention to the change in conditions brought about by the advent of Americans in the war. Prices of every kind have mounted to an alarming degree. Office space is at a high premium and difficult to obtain and the same is true of office supplies of all sorts as well as of clerical assistance. Free space etc., is entirely out of the question. The competition for everything available is keen and often hysterical.

The general spirit of cooperation is admirable. The union between the Commission and the Red Cross is complete and impregnable and I think we have the confidence thus far of the other agencies in the field both French and American. The Edith Wharton tuberculosis activities have been handled in a masterly manner by Dr. W.C. White who has acted throughout in close connection with this Commission. On his recommendation they have now been taken over bodily by the Red Cross and Dr. White himself has accepted an appointment on the Red Cross Staff. I am asking that he be appointed an Associate Director of this Commission without salary, in order to insure the continuance of the unified work already begun.

The educational campaign is proving difficult to open actively but the preparations are proceeding satisfactorily and will not be long delayed.

The reception that we have received has been everything that could be desired and there is no doubt in our minds of the accomplishment of results.

The puzzling question is the fundamental one of official French auspices. This we shall not attempt to decide finally until we are perfectly sure of our ground. In the meantime we shall start active work as indicated by the accompanying reports and budget. It will be understood that the accompanying budget being for the remainder of the current year will be followed, late in the autumn, by a proposition for 1918 based upon the experience of the immediate future. We shall hope by the Spring of 1918 to present to the Foundation a comprehensive report and recommendations as to the possible treatment of the whole problem.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Livingston J. Sanford

Director