

negro Physicians

VIRGINIA M. ALEXANDER, M.D.
2104 JEFFERSON STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 20, 1936

	MOB	3/23	MOB	3/26
	ERE		ERE	2

Dr. M. O. Bousfield,
Associate Director,
The Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Bousfield:

My sister-in-law tells me that she spoke to you about me when she was in Washington last week. I understand from your conversation with her you are afraid I will not find employment in Public Health after I complete my training. I am really not disturbed about the matter of employment at all because I am sure that I shall be able to carry out a plan of Public Health Service even if I return to the private practice of medicine. Indeed I should rather do the thing privately except that I believe that my program should reach other people than those I contact privately. When I interviewed people in Philadelphia who are connected with the Department of Public Health here I learned from two reliable sources that Philadelphia has a plan of districting Public Health Service in a way similar to the New York system. Only the lack of money keeps this plan from coming into being now. I feel that with the training at Yale University and the recognition that the Doctor of Public Health degree will give me I shall be able to influence people with philanthropic interest to initiate the program that I am now suggesting and which will become better defined during the year at Yale.

For several years I have considered very seriously the nearly official invitation that has come to me to become the campus physician to women at Howard University. My main reason for hesitating is because I have wanted a year of formal training and careful writing before I would be sure that I wanted to do institution work. I am enjoying a good practice now and I think it should go good for a number of years. It will be a real sacrifice for me to give it up now, but seriously I must attempt to do the think that I feel led to do. ^{As} I have talked with men in medicine I have the impression we do not begin to have enough people in Public Health and that more plans could go forward in the various states if there were more Negroes with ^{the} Public Health degree.

I do hope you will not feel that I am contentious in this matter. I am afraid I have impressed you rather differently than the way I usually impress people. Perhaps we may come to know each other better some day and I may be able to wipe out your first impression of me.

Yours very sincerely,

Virginia M. Alexander
Virginia M. Alexander, M. D.

VMA:T

APR 1 1936

YALE UNIVERSITY