

Negro Physicians
(Cores)

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November 21, 1939

Dear Doctor Jenkins: I want you to know that I am always keeping you in mind for a possible placement. We are now seeking a man to operate a \$10,000 truck as a traveling V.D. clinic in Macon County, Alabama, and the position must be filled by December 1st. I want to count you in as one of the persons who would be eligible for this appointment, and I regret very much the necessity of writing you at this late date and therefore on such short notice. The following information and enclosed copy of a letter to the State Health Officer will very well acquaint you with the details of the program.

Along about 1930 the Julius Rosenwald Fund, in cooperation with certain southern states and the United States Public Health Service, carried on widespread syphilis demonstrations in six southern states. Macon County, Alabama, in which Tuskegee Institute is located, reported the largest incidence of syphilis among the Negro population of the six counties served in this project. About two years ago the Fund went back into Macon County and began a syphilis control project there under the direction of Doctor William B. Perry, who is now in the United States Public Health Service and working in North Carolina. During the past year this work has been under the direction of Dr. Frank E. Steele, who was before that time a first assistant in charge of venereal disease control in the Central Harlem Health Center in New York City. Doctor Steele has left Tuskegee and we are seeking a successor for this important service. The salary is \$250 per month. The USPHS has delivered a truck specially made for this work at a cost of approximately \$10,000. It is expected in time that this program will be carried into the neighboring counties - from Tuskegee as a center.

In addition to this important work, the State of Alabama and the Macon County Health Department, along with the Julius Rosenwald Fund, are developing a midwifery program, and two nurse-midwives have just begun service there as of last month in pre-natal, delivery, and post-natal care. This work will ultimately be taken over completely by the State.

In addition to this, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has made a grant of \$165,000 for a building,

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equipment, and maintenance of an addition to the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital for the care of crippled children. This work is under the supervision of Dr. John W. Chenault. Dr. John A. Kenney returned to Tuskegee on November 1st as superintendent of the hospital. I should like you to consider whether you can take charge of the venereal disease program and so incorporate yourself into the hospital organization that you become part and parcel of the staff as well, looking forward to further development of this unit as one of the most important rural health centers among Negroes in the country. In other words, while your immediate work would be that of operating this traveling clinic for venereal diseases, I would expect that you would, with your excellent clinical training, have a very much wider field after the proposed developments are attained.

Preparations have been made by the Julius Rosenwald Fund to guarantee a three year extension of this work from the present time, so that it is relatively not a temporary job. This work seems destined to become a spectacular public health program, and it is my opinion that such experience as you gain here will definitely fit you for any future you would care to consider in the field of public health.

I regret that this letter comes merely to determine whether you will take this position if I can finally offer it to you. Another man has a forty-eight hour commitment from us, and when he makes his decision I will know what to say to you. In the meantime, you have this material to look over, and I suggest that you take it under consideration until I write or wire you. Should our plans throw this offer into your lap, it will be necessary for you to make immediate arrangements to meet me in Tuskegee, Alabama, on December 1st. I will let you hear from me before the end of this week.

Sincerely yours,

M. O. BOUSFIELD

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MOB:RH

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