

Negro Physicians

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~~SCHOLARSHIP~~

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

My dear Dr. Bousfield:

I went to Harrisburg to see Dr. Edith MacBride Dexter, Secretary of Health. I had a most unsatisfactory visit. She was emphatic about her decision not to help physicians to take long courses in Public Health; she insisted that the provisions of the Social Security Act were for the advancement of health in rural districts. Physicians and nurses in rural districts are to be given short courses. She was by no means friendly nor interested.

The man who was formerly in an active position in Public Health in Philadelphia was recently moved to Washington. He was the type person that you had advised me to see. I had a sympathetic letter from him urging me to go to see Dr. Dexter but advised me not to use his name and warned me that it would be unlikely that I could gain her support.

I am convinced that I should go on with my plans for graduate study. When I first began my plans for this work I knew nothing of the possibilities of the Social Security Act, nor was I at all aware of the fact that national and state plans were pointing a way for the very thing that I was feeling the need of. Certainly, eventually, some of us will of necessity be used in the public health field.

I get momentarily panicky over my insecurity for next year. I have no idea whatever what I should do if the Rosenwald Fund should turn me down in July. I am staking my all on a brief trip to England, Norway, Sweden and Germany this summer mainly for a rest, after nine years of hard work with time out only for an illness and an operation. I expect to matriculate at Yale on September 30th. If the Rosenwald Fund does not underwrite my expenses, I shall have to call upon you and others to help me personally. It is clear to me that I must do just this. I hope and believe that if the Rosenwald Fund should grant me the aid I ask that you will have reason to be satisfied that the grant will not have been given in vain.

Yours very sincerely,

*Virginia M. Alexander*  
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