

Negro Physicians
(Cases)

7

May 4, 1939

Dear Dr. Peterson: While you have been doing a grand job in school in Boston a number of events have been revolving about such good scholarship and have now slowed down sufficiently to take a bit of shape.

The most significant health development in the South in the past few years is a large and comprehensive health center for Negroes in Birmingham, Alabama. The venture covers a city block. The Fund has been interested, made an appropriation of \$15,000 toward its development, and has failed to release the money because of a controversy over a satisfactory administrator for this plant. Recently Dr. John B. West was in Alabama and after seeing this layout agreed that it was an opportunity to do a significant job. He was willing to come back to Birmingham and stay a year in getting this work organized. Dr. Rice refused to release West.

You will see from the copy of the enclosed letter that Dr. Dowling, Health Officer of Birmingham, is about to go on a junket in search of a satisfactory person. We have recommended you to him and told him to look up your scholastic record. Plans would call for your spending several months under West in New York City before going to Birmingham. It is likely that the Rosenwald Fund would have to finance the expense of your participation. I think you should give very serious consideration to this possible appointment as there is no place in the United States in which you could do such an outstanding piece of public health work and which would be sure to be recognized anywhere.

Very truly yours,

M. O. BOUSFIELD

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MOB:RH

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