

Negro Physicians
(Covers)

October 9, 1939

Dear Doctor Whitfield: I understand from Doctor Lawlah that there is some chance of your not remaining in the CCC service and that you may be returning to Chicago shortly. The matter about which I am writing you must be determined by October 21st.

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 Doctor 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 is leaving Tuskegee next month and we are seeking a successor for this important service. The salary is \$250 per month - plus travel expense. Some time during October the USPHS will deliver 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, 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 Doctor John W. Chenault. Doctor John A. Kenney, now of Newark, is returning to Tuskegee on November 1st as superintendent

TUSKEGEE
UNIVERSITY

Tuskegee Health Proj

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. I am enclosing copy of a letter which has just gone forward to the State Health Officer of Alabama regarding some of this future development. 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.

All of this is placed before you for your consideration without any commitment from us for any part of it. I merely want to know whether such a program would interest you and whether I may have the privilege of considering you along with some other applicants as a person who will be willing to work in what seems destined to become a spectacular public health program. I am sorry that time makes it necessary to demand an almost immediate reply.

Very truly yours,

M. O. BOUSFIELD

M. O. Bousfield, M. D.

MOB:RH

Dr. Harvey J. Whitfield
(Medical Reserve Corp)
Camp Houghton Lake
S-83 (Michigan)
Harrison, Michigan