

Negro Physicians
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The University of Chicago

Department of Medicine

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				March 15, 1937

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Mr. Raymond Paty
 Director for Fellowships
 Julius Rosenwald Fund
 4901 Ellis Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Paty:

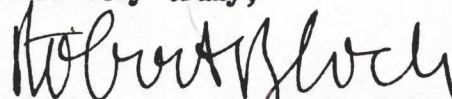
Let me apologize for not having replied to your inquiry concerning the proposed work of Dr. Ruth M. Easterling at an earlier date. Your letter with the attached papers was mislaid. I doubt if my reply will be of any assistance to you now.

I hesitate in advising against a total expenditure of \$15,000 for the proposed work because there can be no doubt that serological research in tuberculosis still offers great possibilities. In spite of the great disappointments in this particular field during the past few decades, it cannot be denied that the ultimate solution of the tuberculosis problem may lie in this field. For present day purposes of diagnosis and especially for the early diagnosis of the disease "prior to the onset of signs and symptoms", as Dr. Easterling puts it in her application, such an investigation, in my opinion, is of questionable value. We know perfectly well now-days how to find pulmonary disease at an early stage if the patient is made accessible to our investigation. Unfortunately, he is not. The chief aim of a serological method would probably be not so much the finding of a tuberculous lesion as the determining of its activity. The activity is such a labile factor that ^{without} clinical evidence of it, that is, without symptoms, the pitfalls are so many that they lead to much over-diagnosis of clinical disease where it is not present and carry the danger of frightening the public where it does not need to be afraid. The country is just going through such an experience with wholesale tuberculin testing.

I am not acquainted with the values of the Hinton reaction and can judge only from a general point of view. From a research point of view Dr. Easterling's proposal, I think, is interesting and worthwhile. From a public health and diagnostic point of view, hardly so.

Again, with my apologies for the delay, I am

Yours very truly,



Robert G. Bloch, M. D.

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P. S. I am returning the letters and the paper by Dr. Easterling.

