

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Von DeLaney Mizell, M.D.

Report Requested of Dr. Russel Oppenheimer

The above named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. A statement of the candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate a frank statement of your opinion of this applicant's abilities and personal characteristics, and an appraisal of his plan of work. An early reply to this inquiry will be of great assistance in allowing the Fellowship Committee sufficient time for an adequate review of the large number of candidates who apply for grants.

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

Director for Fellowships

REPORT

I became acquainted with Dr. Von D. Mizell sometime during the early part of his medical school career, largely because of the fact that one of the Board of Trustees of Grady Hospital was at that time interested in him.

At the request of this Board member I met Mizell and talked over his work with him. Since that time I have seen him a number of times and he has discussed his progress and problems with me. He still writes to me occasionally for suggestions and for an opinion concerning problems.

He spent a summer here at Grady Hospital as an orderly, so that he might get the experience obtainable in that way. The house staff were very kind to him and he gained considerable during this period.

I have never had much of an opportunity to form a valid opinion as to his ability. However, I have always been impressed by his seriousness and his great desire to do something more than become a general practitioner, which so often falls to the lot

of the negro physician. From my own observations of him, from the fact that he is a southern negro interested in the South and in negroes, and from the fact that he seems to have a sincere desire to do something for his own people, I believe the Rosenwald Fund would be justified in offering to help in the project which he has presented to you.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Yes

Signed

Russell H. Oppenheimer, M.D.

Position or Title

Dean, Emory University School of Medicine

Address

50 Armstrong Street

Atlanta, Georgia

Date March 6, 1937

(Please return to Raymond Paty, Director for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.)

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JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Von DeLaney Mizell, M.D.

Report Requested of Mr. Kendall Weisiget

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Director for Fellowships

REPORT

The promise of Dr. Von D. Mizell before he attended Medical college was brought to my attention by Mr. Arthur I. Harris, a prominent Atlantant, in whose house Mizell was then employed as servant.

After he had begun his studies at Meharry Medical College I was instrumental in securing for him employment as a nurses aide at Grady Hospital in Atlanta during two of his vacations for the purpose of enabling him to gain some experience in a large hospital for negroes and as a result of this he did very much better in his studies than he otherwise might have.

Dr. Mizell has recently taken the State Board examinations in Georgia and Florida and passed both. He afterwards became an interne in the Kansas City Hospital where he served until recently when he became attached as an interne to the John A. Andrews Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee Institute.

He has received an appointment as a senior interne at the St. Louis Hospital effective July 1937.

During the years that Mizell was at Meharry I kept in touch with him and may have been of some little help to him in organizing his study procedure in keeping notes of his experiences at Grady Hospital, and the like, and I have since been interested in the promise that he has shown in the field of medicine so I was much interested in the plan that he has worked out for

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himself and I was pleased to learn that Dr. Oppenheimer had concurred in it.

I think you would make no mistake in furthering Dr. Mizell's plan for broadening himself so that he can return to his people in the South and render them a better and a broader medical service.

Mizell is a fairly light mulatto of good appearance and with a distinctly better than average personality which was evidenced by the way he ingratiated himself with all of the staff at Grady Hospital from Dean Oppenheimer down to and through the medical students who afforded him unusual opportunities to see and learn a good many things that otherwise he might not have been permitted to do.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

- answered above -

Signed Caroline Wenger

Position or Title Educational Director of Blue T.T.C.

Address Atlanta Ga

Date 3-5-37

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JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Von DeLaney Mizell, M.D.

Report Requested of Mr. Author I. Harris

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Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Mar. 5, 1937

My dear Mr. Paty:

I have known the above applicant for a period of several years. When he was preparing in one of the negro colleges here to become a contractor, my wife became interested in him and loaned him money to help finish his education. She loaned him various sums from time to time and they were always repaid. I gave him employment in our factory for two years and when he decided to study medicine, my wife loaned him \$100.00. This amount has not been repaid because he has not been in position to pay it, nor, as a matter of fact, do I want it repaid, but I have not told him this, as I prefer to tell him it is a present at some future date.

Through my efforts, Mr. Kendall Weisiger, Chairman of the Rotary Foundation in Atlanta, became interested in Mizell and they have loaned him money to complete his medical education. To show the type and character of the man, during the NRA I gave him employment during his vacation period and he was making \$12.00 or \$14.00 a week, but I suggested to him that he become an orderly at Grady Hospital here in the city at \$9.00 a week, because I was of the opinion that he would pick up a great deal of knowledge the two summers that he would be able to work there. He did this and conducted himself so well that the white internes went out of their way to assist him and permit him to see operations and make rounds. His school record has been very fine. He is well behaved and as a Trustee

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of Grady Hospital, the city hospital here, which has a non-political Board, I concur in his plan, and if he carries on as he has in the past and your Fund has money available, I hope that at some future date you can help establish a clinic for him.

I can recommend this young man to the limit and shall be very interested to know the final result.

Yours very truly,

A. I. Harris

Arthur I. Harris

AIH:LM

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities? *yes*

Signed

Arthur I. Harris

Position or Title

President Atlanta Paper Co

Address

Atlanta Ga

Date

March 15 - 1932

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JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

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Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Von DeLaney Mizell, M.D.

Report Requested of Mrs. Ethel E. Davis

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Director for Fellowships

REPORT I am pleased to write you with reference to Dr. Von D. Mizell. I knew him during his undergraduate days at Macbaine College, when I was Dean of Women at Spelman College. I was his ex-officio adviser.

Dr. Mizell went through college under circumstances which would have discouraged 95% of the other students. He was unexpectedly thrown upon his own resources. The way he planned and established a successful newspaper route, which required him to rise at 4 o'clock in the morning would make interesting material for anyone desiring to write an absorbing life story. More than this, the way Dr. Mizell worked out his plans to go to Medical School, in spite of

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no assurance of financial assistance, is little short of miraculous. I recall one significant statement which he made just before he entered Meharry: "Four years from now, when the others march up to get their degrees, I shall be there also" and he was!

I believe the Julius Rosenwald Fund would assume no risk (except, of course, the normal risk) in investing some money in Dr. Mizell. The truth is that he will most likely realize his dream, whether or not he is helped but he really does deserve some assistance. He possesses a dogged determination!

The project as outlined by Dr. Mizell seems practical, most worth while and entirely possible for him to carry out effectively.

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Yes, as far as I know.

Signed Ethel M. Ghee Davis (Mrs. John N.)
Position or Title Former Dean of Women, Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.
Address West Virginia State College, Institute, W. Va.
Date March 5, 1937

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JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

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Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Von DeLaney Mizell, M. D.

Report Requested of Dr. John J. Mallowney

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Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Nothing doing - he is not
good material

J. J. M.

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JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

1401 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate

Report Requested of

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Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Handwritten signature

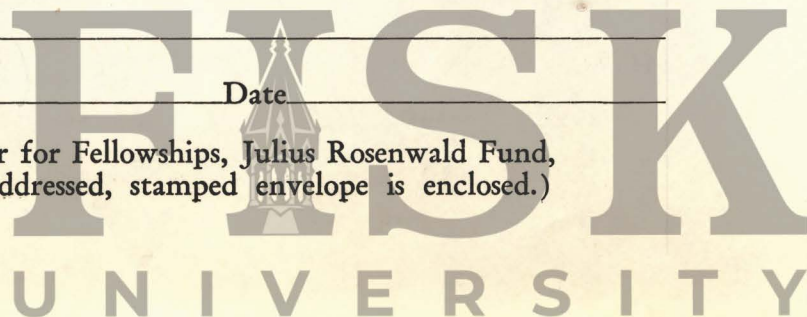
Signed _____

Position or Title _____

Address _____

Date _____

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