

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Mark Anthony Thomas, M. D.

Mary Dickinson, Exec. Sec., Atlanta Tuberculosis Assn.

I wish to commend to you Dr. Mark Thomas who is a member of the staff of the Atlanta Tuberculosis Association.

No doubt you have a record of Dr. Thomas in your office since he was granted an internship in 1932 at our State Sanatorium in Alto, Georgia. Dr. Thomas served under Dr. M. F. Haygood who was the superintendent at that time. Dr. W. W. Alexander, Mr. James P. Faulkner and others were interested in his placement.

After leaving Alto Sanatorium Dr. Thomas became a member of the staff of the Atlanta Tuberculosis Association in January 1935. He has organized and taught a group of colored physicians over a period of two years. As a result our colored increase has jumped from 44 per cent to 54 per cent during the last twelve months.

Mr. Forrester B. Washington, Director, Atlanta School of Social Work, 247 Henry St.,
SW, Atlanta, Georgia.

I have known this young practicing physician for approximately eight years. I have observed his work as the first Negro physician to be attached to the State Sanitarium at Alto, and as senior Negro physician attached to the Staff of the Local Tuberculosis Association and as a part time teacher of Public Health in our school with particular reference to tuberculosis control.

Dr. Thomas is able, energetic, ambitious and truly social minded. While still quite a young man he is most active in civic



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affairs in this city. He is a real force in linking up the local Negro Medical Association with general movements of Public Welfare.

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Dr. M. F. Haygood, Deputy Commissioner of Health, Iowa State Health Dept.,

Dr. Thomas is an unusual man. I have found him to be unusually well informed, quite sympathetic to the problems and medical needs of his people, and, I think possesses a well balanced attitude toward inter-racial matters. He was the first colored interne (for colored unit) Georgia Tuberculosis Sanatorium, during my Superintendency. He paved the way for a continuing service of this kind in that institution. If since I left there, a lapse has occurred, I am sure that such was a matter of "politics."

Personally I do not hesitate to recommend Dr. Thomas. He's really an outstanding man of his race. You'd probably like to know that the Atlanta Tuberculosis Association would not consider putting colored M.Ds. on the medical staff until Dr. Thomas returned to Atlanta (from Alto). After finally placing him on the staff, his good work opened the way for the addition of 3 or 4 other young colored physicians on the staff.

It really gives me pleasure to recommend Dr. Mark A. Thomas to you.

