

Negro Physicians
(cores)

P.O.Box 715
Mayaguez, P. R.
December 24, 1939.

Peterson

air mail special

	NOV 12/26	NOV 20	

Dr. M. O. Bousfield,
Director for Negro Health,
Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Bousfield:

Your letter of September 21, 1939 was received by me yesterday. It was addressed to Lower Harlem Chest Clinic, 111 West 116 Street, New York City and was just forwarded from there to me. I regret the delay exceedingly as I would have written Dr. Alexander of Grange, New Jersey immediately as you suggested. As it is, I am writing him by this mail. I shall also write West.

My present status here is that of Medical Director of a 200 bed insular government tuberculosis hospital. I am also the whole medical staff as well, though we are hoping that Dr. Joseph will soon be appointed to the staff. I am doing this job as a filler for the present, for I should much prefer getting into the Public Health work here in the island. There was a need for some one to fill in here at the hospital due to the illness and subsequent death of the previous director so the Commissioner asked me to take over for a while until he could find someone else. Frankly, I hope to get back to the States, preferably in New York or vicinity. Actually my public health training and education is being wasted. I feel it a pity that with the much talked of need for Negro public health workers, that when I present myself with training and education I can find nothing to do. Of course, my present work has nothing to do with public health, though I am getting some administrative experience. Life in Puerto Rico is really not suitable to me -- my organism seems differently attuned than that required to cope with tropical weather and temperament.

I am trying to do something while here. I have inaugurated a surgical service for doing pneumonolysis on pneumothorax cases and have started a pathology service under Dr. Joseph's management. Problems in sanitation and hospital management prove of interest.

May I offer you my heartiest congratulations on your appointment to the Chicago Board of Education. I am happy to see that Chicago recognizes and rewards merit.

With kindest regards from Dr. Joseph and myself, I am

Sincerely,
Jerome S. Peterson
Jerome S. Peterson, M.D.

JSP:VJ

