

Colorado Springs
Dec. 28 - 1913

Dr. G. F. Black
Chicago Ill.

Dear Doctor Black -

Your letter dated Dec. 4 came duly to hand and glad I was to have it although I am deeply grieved to know of your impaired health. I don't know what I can say that will properly express the distress I feel but feel that I need not assure you in all sincerity that my hope is for your steady improvement and the restoration of your normal capacity for work and study which means so much to all of us.

You will remember when I last wrote you that I had sent a sample of water from a certain ranch which had produced the brown discoloration in three native children. I asked the chemist for a report as to a possible arsenic content and he found nothing.

This was following Prof. Sturby's suggestion that in a random further "standard" analysis of water but in the future test for "traces" of the rare elements. I am up against another

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stone well here in this regard as I find that the ordinary chemical laboratories have not the spectroscopes nor polariscopes that will detect these rare elements.

I feel more than ever certain that we must have effort and funds from the outside and before going further with the idea of asking aid from the U. S. A. Research Fund I have put out a query to the Dept. of the Interior at Washington to see if aid cannot be obtained from them.

I have read carefully your proposed plan for laying a report of the matter before the U. S. A. Fund Committee but since your letter came a tentative invitation has been received from the Panama-Pacific Dental Congress Managers through the Chairman for Colorado, Dr. Hayden of this city, that I prepare the work of investigation to date as an essay to be presented at the Congress in 1915. No definite proposal has yet been received but the matter is under advisement and doubtless will be settled soon.

It has seemed to me that perhaps this would

be an advantageous ³ thing to do inasmuch as it would serve to record in an authentic way the work already done and also as a new basis from which to start if the time ever comes when outside aid is asked.

Many men will undoubtedly be there who are studying along such lines as the essay would cover and their discussions would act as a sort of clearing house for ideas and future lines for work might be indicated. Also new geographical lines might be laid out by men present, so taking it all in all I am inclined to favor it.

Before deciding however I want to ask your candid opinion and hope that you will not hesitate to give me your freest and frankest expression.

If this were done it would serve in an admirable way to bring it before the Committee of the Research Fund who would then understand fully what the problem is if we were to ask for aid.

The point is that if this essay is to be presented there is no use in our preparing a report. Now considering the work of locating geographical

Areas completed at least locally, and the
futility of gathering more water analyses, what
form should our further work of investigation
take? What is the next step? I confess that
I am at a loss to know, and am doing nothing
except correspond with those who I think can
give a suggestion.

I am going to send two teeth to Dr. Rice and
write him again. I think he was decidedly "off"
in what he said in his first letter to Mr.

I will appreciate your early reply advising
me in the matter of which I particularly spoke
and in the meantime I want to extend to
you my heartiest good will and esteem for
the past year and express the hope that I
will have the opportunity of wishing you many
more happy New Years.

Sincerely yours

Fredrick S. McKay