

To Dr. Flick from Dr. Knopf.

New York City,
Dec. 22, 1903.

Dear Dr. Flick:

As a result of my open letter in regard to the Tuberculosis Congresses I have received numerous replies of approval, and quite a number of men are willing to come to Baltimore in order to discuss the situation and form a national representative Tuberculosis Committee.

In view of the importance of this vital subject I should like, before presenting any ideas in Baltimore, to have the advice of men like yourself. From letters received from Letulle of Paris and Pannwitz of Berlin it is evident that our European confrères are under the impression that the Bell Congress in St. Louis is the real thing, and many of them have already concluded to participate.

The more thought I give to the matter, the more it seems to me that there are but two ways to solve this problem. First, a petition signed by the best men of the country, should be sent to the United States Government stating that the so-called Tuberculosis Congress under the management of Mr. Clark Bell is not representative of the American medical profession; that he has used the names of leading medical and statesmen without authority and seemingly in order to mislead American and foreign physicians as to the standing of this Congress; and to advise the government to withdraw its influence from the Bell Congress, and to retract the invitations already issued. A copy of this petition should also be sent to all representative antituberculosis societies of the world and to individuals known for their interest in the antituberculosis crusade.

A second way of solving the problem would seem to me to have in St. Louis, under the modest title of "Tuberculosis Conference", a counter-manifestation of the Bell Congress, in English, French, German and Spanish, and thus cripple Mr. Bell's efforts, which if they should be successful, would be a disgrace to the American medical profession.

Let me know what you think about these propositions, or if you have others to make. With the best compliments of the season, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

S. A. Knopf.