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To Dr. L. F. Flick from Dr. S. A. Knopf.

New York,  
Jan. 2, 1899.

My dear Dr. Flick:

Your favor of December 14th was duly received. In reply to it I would wish to say that you certainly are to be congratulated on the idea of organizing an American Society for the Study of Tuberculosis. You have already learned how much I am in favor of such a movement but my past experience makes me feel reluctant to take any initiative in the matter. When I was a guest with, and a candidate for, the Climatological Association, someone said that that society was about to become or to degenerate into (I am not certain which of the two experience was used) a tuberculosis society, to which I, upon taking the floor, replied that I would welcome nothing more joyfully than such a transformation. This and my disbelief in climate as a great therapeutic agent in phthisio-therapy, and the rigorous defence of the Brehmer and Dettweiler method of treatment in closed institutions, and perhaps something else which I don't know, resulted in my being considered as not worthy to become a member of that society.

Last week I had a very pleasant visit from Dr. Otis of Boston and, of course, we talked again on the subject of the formation of a tuberculosis congress. I told him again of my approval, but I had also to reiterate my reasons for not wishing to take any initiative. Dr. Otis is a most charming gentleman and a most earnest worker in the field of modern phthisio-therapy. We spent a few very pleasant hours together and, though President of the American Climatological Association, he is much in favor of your project. Incidentally I learned, however, that a very prominent member of that society, when approached concerning the formation of a tuberculosis congress expressed himself to the effect that all the work done in regard to tuberculosis by a special organization could very well be done within the Am. Clim. Assoc.

Whatever you do in the matter, you may rest assured that you have my sincerest sympathy and good wishes.

With the season's greetings, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

S. A. Knopf.