

**BOX  
10  
FOLDER  
106**

**Hospitals**

**1910-1913**

July 28, 1910.

Sir:

The United States Government has an hospital at Ellis Island. There are a large number of beds in it, but it is now in disuse. Congressman Bennet informs me that if the city needs it he thinks the United States Government will turn it over to the city. Can you inform me whether the city should have it? If the matter does not come strictly under your jurisdiction, I should still be obliged to you if you would consider the matter, and consult the hospital doctors and Commissioner Drummond on the subject and report to me, as I should very much like to have your investigation and opinion.

Very truly yours,

*J. J. May*  
Mayor.

Dr. Ernst J. Lederle,  
Commissioner of Health.

11-2-9



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.  
FOOT OF EAST 26TH STREET.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE  
"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES, FOOT OF EAST 26TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY."

MICHAEL J. DRUMMOND,  
COMMISSIONER

FRANK J. GOODWIN,  
1ST DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

THOMAS L. FOGARTY,  
2ND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

J. MCKEE BORDEN,  
SECRETARY.

WM. J. MCKENNA  
3RD DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

July 29, 1910

Hon. William J. Gaynor,

Mayor, City of New York.

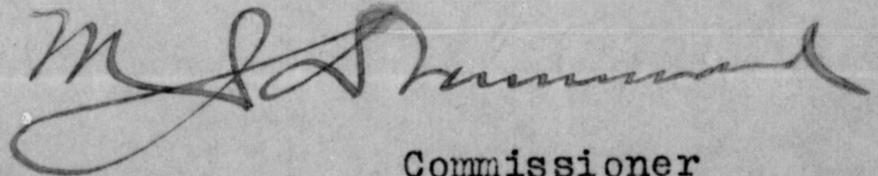
S i r :

Replying to your letter of July 28th in regard to a proposed article on the hospitals of New York in the Century Magazine, beg to say that this Department has not abandoned any hospital on Blackwell's Island nor does it contemplate doing so. As a matter of fact every effort is being made to extend the operation and increase the importance of our City hospitals on the Island. I think what is really behind the whole matter, is the effort being made by parties in the interest of the Russell Sage Pathological Laboratory to create the impression that we are desirous of interfering with their work. The Russell Sage Pathological Laboratory has, in my opinion, no legal standing. There is no contract between it and this Department. Their desire is to conduct their work without any control and entirely independent of the Department although they are occupying City property and using City buildings and drawing on this Department for some of their supplies. I am having the whole matter of the relation of the Laboratory to the medical boards of this Department investigated at the present time.

Under my predecessor, the Architect Mr. Almirall, prepared some plans for a proposed new building for the Russell Sage Pathological Laboratory. They selected a site so close to the present Penitentiary building that the Laboratory could not be completed without encroaching on the land on which the Penitentiary is erected. It is contemplated in time to remove the Penitentiary but this will take at least two years.

Dr. Gilman Thompson was one of the active spirits in getting up a slanderous circular against you during the Mayoralty campaign. He is always very active in any work that will enable him to exploit his personal and scientific interests. I think the Century Magazine should submit their article before they publish it so as to do no injustice.

Very truly yours,



Commissioner

Photostat of New York City.  
Century Magazine article on the  
July 20, 1910. Re-arranging

July 29, 1910. Regarding  
Century Magazine article on the  
Hospitals of New York City.

Department of Commerce and Labor  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

85900

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION  
ELLIS ISLAND, NEW YORK HARBOR, N. Y.

July 21, 1910.

Frederick Trevor Hill, Esq.,  
Secretary, N.Y. Association for Improving Condition of Poor,  
105 East 22nd St., New York City.

Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your favor of July 19 in which you state as to our new contagious disease hospitals that "these buildings might be profitably used for convalescents from various New York City hospitals with advantage". Your letter appears to assume that these new Ellis Island hospitals will remain idle for some time. This is not likely to be the case, though they have not as yet been opened for use. (The grounds are still in an incomplete condition.) The Government has never before had sufficient hospital facilities at Ellis Island, and it is not likely to be long before it will find ample use for the new buildings. While I feel satisfied that there are several insuperable difficulties in the way of carrying out your suggestion, yet for present purposes it would seem sufficient to point out that shortly after the time when you might have created a proper staff to manage them it would probably be necessary to inform you that the Government required them for its own purposes. Under these circumstances you would hardly care to undertake to operate them, and it becomes unnecessary at this time to discuss the other difficulties above referred to.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. Williams

Commissioner.

Aug 4 1910  
Re the use of  
Government  
Asp. Ellis Isl.

Commissioner.

(Signed) Ed. Williams

Respectfully,

difficulties above referred to.

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Ernst J. Lederle, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

J

City of New York,  
Department of Health,  
Office of the Commissioner of Health.

Ellis Island Hospital.

New York, August 4, 1910.

To His Honor

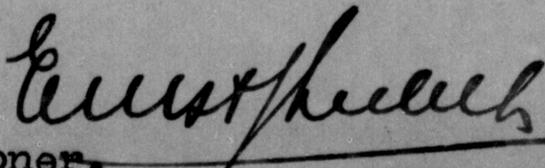
The Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:

In accordance with your letter of July 25th, I have carefully looked into the matter of the possibility of the city obtaining the use of the Government hospital on Ellis Island, and have had a representative of the department call upon Commissioner Williams to obtain information as to the capacity and equipment of the new hospitals on the island, but Mr. Williams stated that it would be necessary to obtain this information from Washington.

As far as I can learn, it is not at all likely to be possible to obtain the use of these hospitals, however desirable this might be. I enclose a copy of a letter addressed by Commissioner Williams to the Secretary of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, which throws a good deal of light on the subject. You will realize, of course, that this letter was shown me by Commissioner Williams under a certain obligation of confidence, and I would request that it be so regarded.

Respectfully,



Commissioner.

✓  
Nov. 2, 1910.m

Dear Mr. Drummond:

I hope you will find time to read a very excellent article in the current Century Magazine on hospitals. It gives a fair description of the proposed one on Blackwell's Island. We must have a talk about that, and next year we should have an appropriation to go on with it, I think. Did you get any for that purpose this year?

Sincerely yours,

*M. J. Drummond*

Michael J. Drummond, Esq.

Commissioner of Charities.

11-2-D

Nov. 3, 1910.k

S i r :

I am now ready to make the transfer of the Flatbush Lunatic Asylum for the Randall Island property, and should be glad to have you get the deeds executed as soon as possible. I suppose that the deed to the state should have a clause in it that the property reverts to the city if the state should ever abandon it for the use of the lunatic asylum. You can advise me about that.

of County? 2

Very truly yours,

*W. H. Taylor*  
Mayor.

A. R. Watson, Esq.,  
Corporation Counsel.

11-2-D

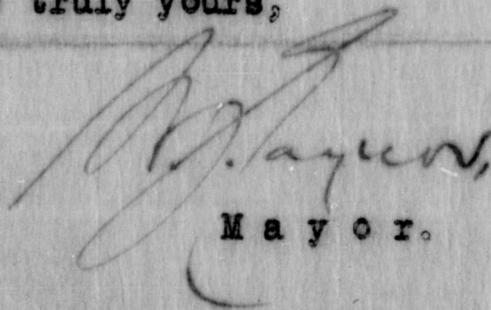
✓  
Sept. 6, 1911. 8

Dear Doctor Brannan:

I am very glad to receive your letter about the tuberculosis hospital at the seashore. I was well aware that the hospital was to be for surgical tuberculosis, namely, of the bones and joints. All I had in mind was that the bed linen at the seashore hereabouts during several months of the year is exceedingly damp, so much so that many people whom I know are unable to sleep at the seashore during those months. That being so I thought that tuberculosis patients would experience the same discomfort. But I am not an expert on the subject. You have evidently studied it very carefully. If the conditions are the same at the seashore hospitals which you mention, then we are safe in following their experience. But if they are situated on dry coasts, or coasts free of fog and dampness, then may not the case be different?

I have been considering for several days the question of whether the present hospital board should be changed to a single commissioner, and I think the Legislative Committee has now concluded to make no change. You have not expressed your views to me, and if their conclusion does not suit you I shall be glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

  
M a y o r.

Dr. John W. Brannan,  
President The Board of Trustees,  
Bellevue and Allied Hospitals,  
New York City.

April 9th, 1912.M

Dr. Cleveland H. Shutt,  
Hospital Commissioner,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor desires me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 4th, asking for a copy of the ordinances governing the management of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, and to say that he has referred your letter to the President of the Board of Trustees of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals and asked him to kindly furnish you the information you desire.

Respectfully,

*James Matthews*

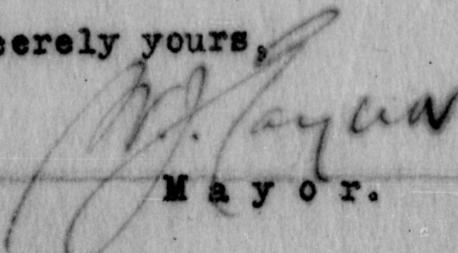
Executive Secretary.

Aug. 8, 1912.k

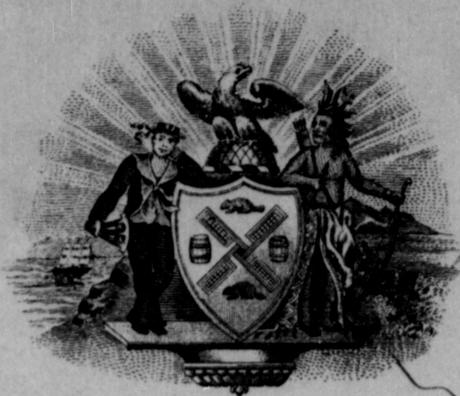
Dear Dr. Wyeth:

I entirely agree with you. They should build their new hospital in some other locality. I am also of opinion that Bellevue Hospital should not be enlarged further, but that the money should be expended in building emergency hospitals in different parts of the city where they are very much needed. The lower part of Manhattan is greatly in need of such a hospital. If you will give me an opening to the trustees of the New York Hospital I will see what I can do to dissuade them. I authorized the chairman of the Ambulance Board to see them on the subject. Please communicate this to him.

Sincerely yours,

  
M a y o r.

Dr. John A. Wyeth,  
244, Lexington Avenue,  
Manhattan.



DR. JOHN W. BRANNAN, PRESIDENT.  
 JAMES K. PAULDING, SECRETARY.  
 LEOPOLD STERN.  
 JOHN G. O'KEEFFE.  
 ARDEN M. ROBBINS.  
 JAMES A. FARLEY.  
 SAMUEL SACHS.  
 MICHAEL J. DRUMMOND, EX-OFFICIO.

*Bellevue and Allied Hospitals.*  
*Office of The Board of Trustees.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and 26<sup>th</sup> Street.*

*New York,* October 2nd, 1912.

Hon. W. J. Gaynor,

Mayor of the City of New York.

S i r :

In reply to your letter of September 30th, I beg to state that an investigation of the records at Bellevue Hospital show that no patients have been admitted to the wards as the result of injuries received from hat pins during the last eighteen months. Two cases, however, have received attention in the hospital dressing room; one was a laceration of the face as the result of coming in direct contact with a hot pin in a car, and the other was a woman under the influence of liquor who in inserting her pin penetrated her scalp, and in removing the hat her scalp was slightly torn.

Respectfully,

*John W. Brannan*  
 President, Board of Trustees.

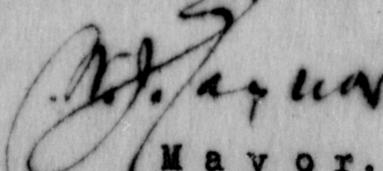
P.S. Letter of L. Perlen is returned herewith.

March 11th, 1913. s

Dear Doctor Feldstein:

Your letter is at hand, but I am unable to see any serious objection to requiring the venereal diseases to be reported by the hospitals. It is no more a breach of confidence to report those diseases than tuberculosis or any other disease. The time is coming when something must be done to check the spread of venereal diseases. These are my views on the subject, but I may be wrong.

Very truly yours,

  
M a y o r.

Dr. Zama Feldstein,  
62, West 82nd Street,  
New York City.