

NATHAN STRAUS.

SIXTH AVENUE AND FOURTEENTH STREET.

New York, June 8, 1895.

To His Honor,

The Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I have received so many letters of inquiry from municipal authorities, physicians and others throughout the country in regard to my work in providing pure milk nutriment for the sick children of New York, that I have been prompted to prepare the following items of general information for the guidance of those whose public position or personal sympathies may give them a special interest in trying to reduce the sum of infant mortality. It is a fact which unfortunately requires no demonstration, that many thousands of infant lives are annually sacrificed for the lack of a pure milk diet. The harvest of death is especially abundant in Summer when intestinal complaints are most prevalent among children under five years of age. The infant nourishment commonly accessible to the poor is in hot weather so often replete with the germs of disease that it is the rule rather than the exception to find in the food relied on to sustain life the instrument of death.

This yearly "slaughter of the innocents" goes on in small communities as well as in great cities. A neglect of simple precautions in the use of infants' food will produce the same results everywhere. I have long held that the day is not far distant when it will be regarded as a piece of criminal neglect to feed young children on

milk that has not been sterilized. I have addressed myself during the last two years to the task of placing within the reach of every poor family in this city absolutely pure forms of infant diet. These have been either milk carefully sterilized without admixture, or in combination with barley water and a little sugar. Of course due precautions are taken to see that the milk is drawn in the first instance from healthy cows kept in stables of a proper standard of cleanliness.

The best possible evidence of the value of this work in saving life is to be found in the impression which it made on the infant death rate of New York last Summer. In presence of a long and exhausting period of very hot weather favorable to an increased mortality among the children of the poor, there was a decrease in the month of July, as compared with the corresponding month in 1893, of 7 per cent. in the deaths of children under one year, and of 11 per cent. in the deaths over one and under two years. For August the decrease of deaths in the one year class was 6 per cent., while in the two year class it reached as high as 34 per cent. Considering the well-known dangers attending the second year of childlife, these figures bear very eloquent testimony to the possibility of greatly lowering the average of infant mortality. Taking the deaths in New York from diarrhoeal diseases alone, of which 89 per cent. are those of children under five years of age, and there is found to be a decrease of 454 in 1894, as compared with 1892. But, allowing for the increase of population, there should have been in ordinary circumstances 420 more deaths from this group of infantile complaints in 1894 than in 1892. This saving of 874 children's lives has been largely due to the institution of my sterilized milk depots. The

application of similar methods have been productive of satisfactory results in Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and Yonkers, and no phase of public hygiene is at present attracting so much attention in Europe. It is simply impossible for any man of ordinary feeling to study the simple appliances of a work like this, and to note their efficacy in fighting the forces of disease and death, without being prompted to engage in it himself.

I am frequently asked for estimates derived from my own experience of the cost of placing sterilized milk at a nominal price within the reach of those who in a given community need it most. This is difficult to do for several reasons. I set out with the definite purpose of reducing the infantile death rate of the city, and all considerations of expense were held subordinate to that main object. In bringing the work to its present stage of development I have spent a good deal more money than I would were it to be done over again in the light of acquired experience. Then, the conditions of no two localities as to transportation, distribution and handling can be quite alike, and these figure largely in the element of cost. While, therefore, I may safely claim to be able to speak with authority as to the best processes of preparation, bottling, etc., I should hesitate to give an opinion as to the number of bottles that could be filled for a given expenditure. Some practical details will be found embodied in a little pamphlet which I am having printed and of which I shall send you a copy, but I know of no absolute standard by which the cost of such a work can be ascertained in advance.

The fact is that much good can be done by a very simple plant and by the most modest expenditure. A more or less elaborate equipment is, of course, necessary for doing the work on a large scale,

but it is, perhaps, better that this should be a growth from tentative efforts confined within a limited area than that it should be adopted at the start. Any person of moderate intelligence can become thoroughly familiar with the methods and processes of my Sterilized Milk Laboratory in less than a week, and can readily apply the knowledge thus acquired to the duplication of its work on any scale that may be attempted. I shall be glad to give any such person, duly accredited to me by some responsible authority, free access to every department of my now completed system of preparation and distribution, and all possible data needed to guide him in adapting the work to different conditions. I know of no other way in which a satisfactory trial of its benefits can be secured than by such personal investigation and preparation as I have indicated. Should there be a desire to make such a trial in the municipality of which you are the head, I beg that you will consider all I am able to show of the practical working of the system entirely at the service of any one whom you may be pleased to designate. I am so deeply impressed with the benefit which work of this kind is fitted to confer on humanity, that my freedom in addressing you on the subject may be held not to require apology.

I have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully,

Nathan Straus

Pamphlet enclosed.

NATHAN STRAUS.

SIXTH AVENUE,
13TH TO 14TH STREET
NEW YORK Dec. 18th, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor,
City of New York.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your recent favor and beg to say that the suggestion of Mr. H. P. Hubbard, as enclosed, will receive proper attention. Before receiving it I had determined to attempt some more ornamental structure for the milk depot in the City Hall Park.

With great respect,

Yours very truly,

Nathan Straus
1006

Great Barrington Mass. Sept. 6/97

Hon. William L. Strong.
Mayor of the City of New York
Dear Sir

I have had on more than one occasion evidences of your appreciation of the efforts which I have been making during the last five years to reduce the needless sacrifice of children's lives in this city. I am encouraged, therefore, to believe that it will not be regarded as an intrusion upon your time to ask your attention to some considerations bearing on the conduct of that work, which certain public officers in the departments of Health and of Docks have recently forced with disagreeable emphasis on my attention. —

I think the claim will be generally admitted that my work belongs to that class of benevolent agencies to which, among all civilised peoples, the aid and encouragement of the Government are freely extended. It is my own conviction that it is a work which in every great city of this country should be done by public authority at the public expense. I merely express the judgment of every physician who has given the subject any attention, when I say that there is no system of milk tests, either now in operation or capable of being generally applied, which is sufficient to protect the lives of young children against the noxious

germs present in a large proportion of the milk delivered in its natural state in this city. I regard it as simply criminal, and in this too I have competent medical authority to back me, to feed children of tender age with milk which has not been Pasteurized.

My work, in placing prepared milk food for infants within the reach of the poorest and in giving it away to those who have not the required penny to spend, may thus be reckoned as a valuable aid to the efforts of the Board of Health to guarantee to the public a pure milk supply. It has been so regarded by that Board in the past, and the visiting physicians of the Board in the tenement districts have freely availed themselves of the milk tickets of which I have annually placed an unlimited quantity at their disposal. My work is, therefore, in no sense different from that which the Board of Health exists to perform, and I can confidently claim for it the utmost efficiency attainable by the employment of the most approved scientific methods. As to its results a remarkable decrease in the infant mortality of this city for the last five summers, and of Brooklyn, where it was partially applied last summer, bear convincing evidence. — The Health authorities of New York have borne emphatic testimony to the good results of my system of Pasteurized milk distribution among the poor, and the Health authorities of Brooklyn have attributed to it

the lower rate of infant mortality which for the first time in the history of the two cities, New York has recently shown as compared with Brooklyn. —

It has been only during the last two years that I have encountered in the prosecution of my work any opposition from public officers of this city, to whom I thought I had every reason to look for active aid and encouragement. That opposition has recently culminated in a policy of deliberate annoyance, misrepresentation and persecution which compels me to consider whether the demands even of a duty so imperative as I regard this one to be, can be satisfactorily met in face of the apparent determination of men holding places of public responsibility to discredit my work and fatally impair its usefulness. It should hardly be necessary for me to disclaim all desire for public notoriety or business profit, direct or indirect, in the performance of the work which has been a very considerable drain both on my time and purse. Those who know me are well aware of how sacred I hold the mandate to be of the child now dead who first turned my thoughts in this direction, and how utterly repugnant to me would be its association with any sordid or interested motives. To the multitudes whose sick

babies have had the benefit of my Pasteurized milk foods, I am but a name, and the vast majority of them know nothing of either my commercial or personal relations. Certainly neither have been obtruded on their notice, and in all the necessary publicity given to my work there has never been a syllable uttered with my knowledge, consent, or approval relating to the business houses with which I am connected. - Until the suggestion came from one of the public boards of this city, I had not dreamed that the most perverted ingenuity of defamation could originate the idea that my devotion to the saving of infants' lives could be prompted by a desire to advertise myself or the firms to which I belong.

I believe you will sympathize with me in very keenly resenting such an imputation, which concerns the public aspect of my work in so far as it affords evidence of a fixed design on the part of some of your subordinate officers to do all in their power to misrepresent the character of that work and defeat its purpose. - I cannot help regarding an attitude like this as a wilful tampering with human life, as proof of a callous disregard of the sorrow and anguish which come to the poor no less

than to the rich with the death of a child. I can imagine no more awful responsibility than that of men, who allow personal or political animosity to assume such a form as to make them regardless of the preventible sacrifice of the lives of thousands of these little ones. Permit me to add that I know of no way in which the work of the Board of Health can be so effectively supplemented and carried to its logical conclusion as by undertaking under its own supervision, the preparation and distribution of Pasteurized milk food for the use of the children of the poor.

As I have already publicly stated, I am willing to equip at my own expense, and convey to the city free of charge, a laboratory with all its appliances and adjuncts sufficient for such an expansion of my work as the needs of the population of New-York demand. There must soon come a time when the yearly increase of the consumption of Pasteurized milk by the children of the poor will outrun the ability of any private individual to supply it at the nominal price to which I have adhered. I had hoped to continue the work till the imperative necessity came for inviting some public association or the city itself to

take it off my hands. But if the treatment which I have recently met be a sample of what I have to expect from those responsible for the conduct of public affairs in this city, I shall no less in justice to my own reputation than to the efficacy of the work in which I have engaged be compelled to abandon it, and leave the responsibility for its failure where it belongs. It is for you, sir, to determine what shall be the future of an effort in public well-doing with whose scope and purpose you are entirely familiar, and about whose value to the people of New York you are as competent to judge as is

Yours Respectfully

Nathan Straus

Great Barrington, Mass.

Sep. 13/1892

Hon. William L. Strong

Mayor of the City of New York

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your very courteous reply to my communication in regard to the obstacles, which the heads of some of the Departments of the City Government have seen fit to place in the way of the distribution of Pasteurized milk food to the children of the poor. Its contents increase the regret I had felt over my failure to consult with you in advance about some of the public aspects of this work.

I am deeply sensible of the value of your appreciation of my efforts, but you have been so evidently misled as to the true character of what I have been trying to do, that I must take the liberty of adding a few lines of explanations to those which I have already addressed to you.

I cannot too strongly emphasize the fact that a clear line of distinction must be drawn between the sale of milk by the glass in its natural or sterilized state, & the sale of Pasteurized milk and its modifications in feeding bottles. —

It is not necessary, in addressing you, to correct

the preposterous misstatement that there could possibly be a profit in the conduct of such a business at the merely nominal prices which I have established. But I have apparently not made sufficiently clear the fact that while the sale of milk in its natural state or in the sterilized form at a cent a glass is merely a reasonable service to all, who may choose to enjoy its benefits, the distribution of the Pasteurized milk foods is an imperative public necessity. —

As to the quality of the milk for adult use placed on sale at my depots, I can answer with the utmost confidence... From the dairy to the depot, there has never been, in all the years in which I have dealt in it, the slightest possibility of reducing it below the highest attainable standard of quality. But while the cans stand open in places wholly or partially accessible to any one who chooses to enter, I run the risk of having the milk tampered with by any one disposed to cast discredit on this kind of public service. The fact that water had been added to this milk in one can and in one place for whose supervision I must accept the responsibility, is

sufficient to convince me that I can no longer afford the risk to which such responsibility subjects me.— In presence of an apparent disposition on the part of the inspecting officers to seek a pretext for my prosecution in the dishonesty or treachery of scores of people to whom my milk cans are accessible, it would be folly to attempt to continue this part of my work.—

But the distribution of the Pasteurized milk foods for infants rests on quite a different basis.— The processes by which these are produced place them beyond any danger of being tampered with. The tenement house corps of physicians of the Board of Health have had the gratuitous use of tens of thousands of tickets calling for the free delivery of these feeding bottles, & they may be assumed to be competent judges of their value.

This branch of my work did not & could not enter into competition with any refreshment privilege on a public pier or elsewhere.—

The use of these Pasteurized infant foods has been, if you will permit me to say so, quite as important an element in the saving of

infant life as clean streets or better regulated tenements. It is and has been a very important part of the improved hygienic conditions, which have made so striking an impression on the infant mortality of this city.

Neither for the sale of milk by the glass nor in the feeding bottle, was I ever invited to make terms with the Dock Department. The Third St. Pier refreshment privilege was awarded without any knowledge of mine. It was a matter about which I could have had nothing to say, because the only service which I had to render was a purely public service & not, in any sense, a commercial enterprise. It was & is a work which directly interferes with no agency of a business character, & is manifestly a service which it is the duty of any public board to aid and encourage by every means in their power. -

I cannot profess to be a judge of the methods which the Board of Health should

employ to secure to the people of New York a supply of pure milk - a work in which I may claim to have been a pioneer - but I do insist, as I have already done, that the interruption of the work of saving children's lives is a very serious responsibility to be faced by any man or body of men, in public or private station.

I trust that I have succeeded in removing some of the misconceptions which you have been led to entertain on this subject, & I earnestly hope that your successor in office may have a no less sincere desire than you express, to urge the taking hold of this work & of continuing it under the auspices of the Board of Health.

I have the honor to be
Yours respectfully

Nathan Straus

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 16, 1897

Benjamin L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September 13th enclosing complaint of John H. Neville in respect to overflowing cesspool on premises of Francis Conlon, southeast corner of Tremont and Franklin Avenues, is received, and herewith please find copy of communication this day mailed to the complainant., as requested.

Very respectfully,

Engene W. Scheffer
Acting Chief Clerk.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 16, 1897

Mr. John H. Neville,
1928 Franklin Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your communication of September 12th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to overflowing cesspool on the premises of Francis Conlon, southeast corner of Tremont and Franklin Avenues, has been referred to this Department to answer. In reply I respectfully inform you that there have been but two complaints entered in this Department against the above named premises. On May 10, 1897, a complaint was lodged with our Complaint Clerk, the result of which was an inspection and report, of which the following is a copy:-

"Cesspool is full and is defective. There is a leakage of filthy matter therefrom on to adjoining premises, which is offensive. Waste pipes of 1st floor sink and laundry trays in dwelling discharge upon cellar bottom, the water running thence into a drain which was constructed for the purpose of draining the cellar. Cellar bottom is rendered filthy and offensive.

I recommend that cesspool be disinfected, emptied and cleaned and made water tight; that the waste pipes of 1st floor sink and laundry trays in dwellinghouse be made to discharge into cesspool by proper pipes with lead calked joints, and that cellar bottom be cleaned and disinfected."

On May 17, 1897, the following order was issued:-

"That the cesspool be disinfected, emptied, cleaned and made water-tight; that the waste pipes of the 1st floor

2- J. H. Neville, September 16, 1897.

sink and laundry trays in the dwelling house be made to discharge into the cesspool by proper pipe with head calked joints; that the cellar bottom be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected."

On May 24, 1897, the owner of premises, Mr. Francis Conlon, reported that the order had been complied with except to have the waste water from a small frame house discharge into a new cesspool that he built for a new flat house adjoining, and made application to have that portion of the order rescinded, stating that the street was soon to be widened at the point mentioned and the premises removed. The application was granted June 15, 1897. On June 2, 1897, the second and last communication from you was received, complaining that "the nuisance had not ~~been~~ been abated." On June 11, 1897, another inspection of the premises was made and the facts as stated by the owner found to be true. The following is a copy of the report of inspection made by Sanitary Inspector Hurd, after your communication to His Honor, the Mayor:-

"I have the honor to report that this day (September 15) I inspected the premises on Tremont Ave. S.E. Cor. Franklin Ave. This building was sold at public auction about two weeks ago, and will be removed in about a week, to make room for the widening of Franklin Ave.

The hotel adjoining which will stand on the corner when the avenue is opened, has a cesspool in the rear yard (there being no sewer in the avenue); this cesspool was not overflowing at the time of my visit.

The complainant was with me and saw that the ground about the cesspool was quite dry. The owner of the hotel informed me that he had had the cesspool cleaned about twice a month for a number of months."

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Eugene W. Scheffer,

Acting Chief Clerk.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, October 16, 1897

Charles F. Roberts, M. D.,
Sanitary Superintendent.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that on the 10th day of September, 1897, John Hunt, Scavenger, of Kingsbridge Road and Decatur Avenue, was arrested for violating Section 87, of the Sanitary Code, viz; dumping night soil on the ground at Classon's Point Road.

He was convicted and fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) in the Court of Special Sessions, on October 15, 1897.

I would, therefore, recommend that the Mayor be requested to revoke his license.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Alfred Lucas,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ENDORSEMENT.

SANITARY BUREAU

New York, October 19, 1897.

Approved and respectfully forwarded to the Board.

(Signed) Chas. F. Roberts, M.D.,

Sanitary Superintendent.

A TRUE COPY.

C. F. Roberts
Secretary pro tem.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK.

Complaint and Report of Inspection in reference to premises.....139 Avenue A.

TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

I, Patrick F. Doyle, holding the position of a San. Police Inspector in the HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, do report; That on the 28th day of September, 1897, I personally examined and carefully Inspected the premises situated 139 Avenue A, and found the facts as follows: Said premises consist of a butcher store, of which Charles Necker, of premises is owner, and in violation of Section.....of the Sanitary Code, were found in a condition dangerous to life and detrimental to health, for the following reasons, viz.:

Could not find complainant, no such person living on premises. Inspected and found smokehouse in operation and no smoke or odors escaping. Owner has Permit No. 7698, issued April 4, 1894. I could find no cause for complaint.

(Signed)

John H. Phillips,

Patrick F. Doyle,

A TRUE COPY,

E. Golden

Secretary pro tem.

Sanitary Police Inspector. s.

No.

Complaint and Report

On 139 Avenue A.

Filed 189

SANITARY BUREAU.

New York, 189

*Respectfully referred to Chief Sanitary
Inspector for inspection and report.*

CHAS. F. ROBERTS, M. D.,
Sanitary Superintendent.

139 Avenue A.

San. Police

28th

139 Avenue A.

premises

owner.

butcher store.

could not find complaint. no more persons living on premises.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK.

Complaint and Report of Inspection in reference to premises.....139 Avenue A.

TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

I, Patrick F. Doyle,, holding the position of a San. Police Inspector in the HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, do report; That on the 12th day of October, 1897, I personally examined and carefully Inspected the premises situated 139 Avenue A, and found the facts as follows: Said premises consist of a smokehouse and butcher shop of which Charles Necker, of premises is owner and in violation of Section.....of the Sanitary Code, were found in a condition dangerous to life and detrimental to health, for the following reasons, viz.:

Could not find complainant. I inspected premises complained of and found smokehouse in operation and no smoke or odors escaping. Premises clean and in good sanitary condition. Saw the housekeeper, who informed me there is no person named H. Harris living in either house and that she never heard of such a person. None of the tenants complain. Mr. Necker has a permit to use smokehouse dated April 4, 1894. Its number is 7698. No fat is rendered on premises. I found no cause for complaint.

A TRUE COPY,

(Signed) Patrick F. Doyle,

Sanitary Police Inspector.

Secretary pro tem.

No.

Complaint and Report

On 139 Avenue A

Filed 189

SANITARY BUREAU.

New York, 189

*Respectfully referred to Chief Sanitary
Inspector for inspection and report.*

CHAS. F. ROBERTS, M. D.,
Sanitary Superintendent.

1890.

Health Department.

Centre, Elm, White & Franklen Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, _____ October 15, _____ 1891

To the Chief Inspector.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that I have made an inspection at the premises No. 139 Avenue A, and found the facts as follows:-

On the third floor of the front house lives a Mrs. Uhl; next to her on the same floor Mrs. Hardy dwells; on the same floor, rear house, live Mrs. Keifer and Mrs. Reitler. Neither of these parties have any complaint to make of smoke or odor from bucther shop.

Besides these, I saw nearly all the other tenants in these two houses at 139 Avenue A. They all denied having made a complaint or wish to make a complaint now, with the exception of the wife of the cigar dealer on the store floor, who claims that she noticed odors and smoke coming through the floor of the store, but positively denied having made a complaint. I saw no smoke coming from the smoke-house of the butcher, which was in operation at the time, nor did I notice any other odor than the one naturally connected with a butcher shop and sausage making.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Herman Betz,

Inspector.

A TRUE COPY,

E. Goldstein
Secretary pro tem.

1896
Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, _____ *October 16,* _____ *189* *7*

B. L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of October 11th I enclose copies of reports of inspections made of premises 139 Avenue A, concerning which a complaint was made by one Harris, who could not be found at the address given.

Very respectfully,

C. E. Herman

Secretary pro tem.

Enclosures.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

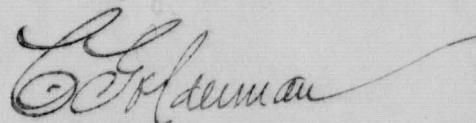
New York, October 18, 1897

B. L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of communication
this day forwarded to Francis W. Aymar, Esq., of No.
105 West Sixty-second Street, concerning alleged noises
in that vicinity.

Very respectfully,



Secretary pro tem.

Health Department.

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, October 18, 1897

Francis W. Aymar, Esq.,

105 West Sixty-second Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 13th inst. to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to the noise of hammers on iron and stone on Columbus Avenue in the vicinity of Sixty-second Street has been referred to this Department for inspection and report, and the Inspector reports as follows:-

"At time of inspection found no cause for complaint.
"The repairs being made to the tracks of Metropolitan
"Traction Company on Columbus Avenue are now completed
"from Sixty-first Street to Sixty-fourth Street, and will
"be completed as far as Fifty-ninth Street by to-morrow
" (Saturday) night, October 16. Work is discontinued at
"eleven P. M."

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. Golderman,

Secretary pro tem.

Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, _____ October 20, _____ 1898

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

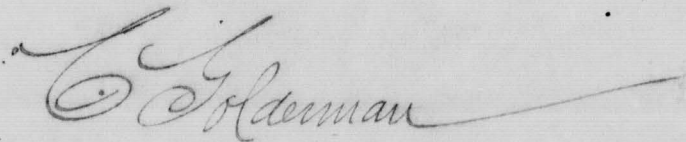
Sir:-

At a meeting of the Board of Health of the Health Department, held October 19, 1897, the following resolution was adopted:-

RESOLVED.

That a copy of the report of Chief Inspector Lucas in respect to violation of the Sanitary Code by John Hunt, Scavenger, in the Twenty-fourth Ward, be forwarded to His Honor, the Mayor, recommending that the license of said John Hunt as Scavenger be revoked.

A TRUE COPY,



Secretary pro tem.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, Oct 20th 1897

To his Honor

Mayor Wm L. Strong:

Dear Mr Mayor: This will
introduce my friend Mr. Saml S.
Ellis Jr. wished an auctioneer's
license.

Allow me to say that you
can grant him the license without
hesitation.

Very Truly Yours

Geo. B. Fowler

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building)

New York,

December 9, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

As the death-rate of a city is an important indication of its sanitary condition, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the death-rate during the eleven months ending December 1, 1897, is less than for the same period in any year in the history of the city. The deaths reported and the death-rate for the period above mentioned since 1891 are as follows:-

Year.	Deaths reported Jan. 1, to December 1.	Death-rate
1891	39,925	26.24
1892	41,113	26.26
1893	40,959	25.41
1894	38,123	22.99
1895	40,135	23.30
1896	38,803	21.89
1897	35,794	19.62

Very respectfully,

Wm. L. Wilson
President.