National Board of Health,
Washington, D.C., April 10, 1879

President of the National Academy of Sciences:

I respectfully invite your attention to the following Resolution as adopted this morning by the Executive Committee of the National Board of Health:

"That the President of this Board be authorized to address a formal communication transmitting a certified copy of the act approved March 3, 1879, entitled an "Act to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases into the United States, and to establish a National Board of Health" and requesting that the Academy will take the necessary steps to appoint an agency with which this Board will confer in order to carry out the provision of Section 3d of said act."

In compliance with the requirements...
of this Resolution I herewith transmit a certified copy of the Act in question and respectfully request that the Academy will take such action as may be necessary in the premises.

Very respectfully,

J.W. Selleck
President A. B. of Health.

Your letter sent in reply also stating that it would be gratifying to members of the Academy if the

Member of the Board of Health were present at the meeting.

J.W.S.
Prof. O. C. Marsh
Act. President, National Academy of Sciences

Dear Sir,

Representing the Executive Committee of the National Board of Health, I addressed to you on the 10th with an official communication, which contained by anticipation a partial answer to your letter of the 3rd received at a late hour on the same day. I desire now to say that that letter was laid before the Executive Committee and it was expected that Vice-President Billings and the two other members of the local sub-committee would accept your invitation to attend the meetings of the Academy during a part of this week.

I learn, however, that Dr. Billings is actually prostrated with sickness of a grave nature. I take leave to express the deep regret I experienced in view of the impossibility of my going to Washington at this time. Of that J. Turner, Secretary of the Board, will be at hand to give any information which may be desired by the Officers and Members of the Academy. But I may remark that inasmuch as the Act to prevent the introduction of infectious or contagious diseases into the United States, and to establish a National Board of Health” approved March 2, 1879, provides that the Board of Health...
With the assistance of the Academy of Science shall report to Congress at its next session a full statement of its transactions, together with a plan for a national public health organization, which plan shall be prepared after consultation with the principal sanitary organizations and the sanitarians of the several States of the United States, it appears to me that nothing further can be done at present on the part of the Academy than to appoint a committee to confer with the Executive Committee of the Board of Health at the proper time, namely after due consultation with the principal sanitary organizations of the United States.

As an announcement of initial steps towards such consultation the National Board of Health has issued a circular (No. 3), a copy of which accompanies this communication, in which it earnestly asks the counsel and cooperation of all persons who are interested in establishing permanent sanitary administration in connection with the General Government.

Should the Academy be disposed to adopt a different plan of procedure the Executive Committee of the Board of Health will be pleased to give it due consideration.

I am very respectfully,

[Signature]

J. A. Leavitt

[Signature]

J. A. Leland

[Signature]