

National Board of Health,

Washington, D.C., April 10, 1879

President of the National Academy of  
Sciences -

Sir:

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<sup>d</sup> 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 provisions of Section 3<sup>d</sup> 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  
Yours obt Servt

J. L. Cabell  
President A. B. of Health.

Your letter sent in reply also stating that it  
would be gratifying to members of the Academy if the  
members of the Board of Health would attend its  
meetings.

J. L. C.

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National Board of Health,

*University of Virginia*  
Washington, D.C., April 14<sup>th</sup>

, 1879

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 10<sup>th</sup> inst an official communication which contained by anticipation a partial answer to your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> received at a later 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 other members of the local Sub-Committee would accept your invitation to attend the meetings of the Academy during a part of this week.

Learning, however, that Mr. Billings is actually prostrated with sickness of a grave nature I take occasion to express the deep regret I experience in view of the impossibility of my going to Washington at this time. Prof. 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 3- 1879, prescribes 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 organization  
and the Sanitariums 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 Com-  
mittee of the Board of Health at the proper time, namely after due consultation  
with the principal sanitary organizations of the United States.

As a necessary initial step 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 General 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 suggest 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  
Yours ob. Servt.

J. A. Cabell

Pres't. N. B. of Health