To Members of Commissions
Board for the Investigation of Epidemic Diseases in the Army

With realization that since the declaration of war some members of Commissions of the Board for the Investigation and Control of Influenza and Other Epidemic Diseases in the Army may desire to apply for a commission in the Medical Corps or may require deferment, if within the draft age, to enable them to continue with interim investigations under University contracts with the War Department, plans are being made to carry on the interim investigations and field studies with as little disruption as possible.

A list of essential members of Commissions has been compiled and filed with the Surgeon General and the Procurement and Assignment Service. You are at present included in this list.

Interim Investigations. - For those members of draft age who are essential for interim investigations and who have not been deferred for other reasons a letter requesting deferment for the period of the contract will be prepared by the President of the Board, upon request, and sent to the member's local draft board. Request for a letter should state the member's address and order number and the full address of the member's local draft board.

Field Investigations. - For those members of draft age who are actually engaged in field investigations at the time when they are to be classified by their local draft boards the same procedure as that specified under Interim Investigations will be followed upon request to the President of the Board.

Commissions in the Medical Corps. - For those members who desire to apply for a commission in the Medical Corps and at the same time to continue to be available for field investigations when needed, plans are being made to have them assigned to a General Hospital, the personnel of which is under the control of the Surgeon General's Office. Under this arrangement they could be relieved of duty at the General Hospital to take part in a Commission study of an epidemic in the field for the duration of the investigation, returning to the General Hospital upon completion of the investigation. For your information it should be stated that the regulation now is that individuals of draft age (below 35 years) are ordinarily taken in as 1st Lieutenants, and that those above 35 can be commissioned as Captains.

In order to further this plan as rapidly as possible it is requested that you let me know as promptly as possible your desires with respect to applying for a commission in the Medical Corps and send me any information concerning your draft status which you consider pertinent.

Sincerely yours,

Francis G. Blake, M.D., President