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May 24, 1920.

My dear Admiral:-

Your letter of May 13, 1920, in reference to the relative merits of Mare Island and Goat Island as a site for the training station has been received.

It should be borne in mind that the question should not be settled on the basis of vital statistics alone and great weight should not necessarily be given to differences in the statistics of the two stations for epidemiological considerations entirely apart from location may be found to account for the differences.

Any board which looks into the matter should give consideration to all the circumstances, those pertaining to administration and convenience as well as sanitation.

copy sent forward to record.

So far as statistical data are concerned, the enclosed summaries show comparison between the two stations for the years 1918 and 1919. It must be remembered, however, that vital statistics may not give a true picture of health conditions because there are so many determining factors which might have had a bearing on the incidence and prevalence of disease and upon the number of deaths as well. These can best be determined by a careful study made locally.

In the accompanying tables deaths have been charged to the station from which the patient came even though death occurred later in hospital.

Very truly yours,

W. C. Braisted.

(M. & S. Files)

Surgeon General, U.S. Navy.

Rear Admiral
A.M.D. McCormick, M.C., U.S. Navy,
Naval Medical Supply Depot,
Mare Island, Calif.

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