

WFF:WM

30th October, 1918.

My dear Braisted:

Thank you for your letter of October 23rd.

Referring to the second paragraph, up to date I have not had a single case of influenza on board any of my ships. I have kept them at sea or in pretty close quarantine and shall continue this policy.

There have been very few severe cases at the shore stations at San Diego, probably due to the climate.

Referring to Doctor Rossiter's action and my comments concerning his attitude, please don't get the wrong impression--I would under no circumstances disapprove or object to an expression of opinion contrary to my own by a medical officer, if he did it in the proper manner, and if his expressed opinions were backed by experience or by evident knowledge of the subject.

Doctor Rossiter's original action was not officer-like or subordinate, and some of his suggestions were ridiculous and indicated very poor judgment on his part.

Sea experience in all climates during the past forty years is assuredly a good teacher as regards the uniform question.

Recent tendencies as regards knitted garments indicate a woeful lack of both experience and good judgment, and an indifference to the cleanliness and the health of our men, in some cases.

I hope you are giving serious attention to the question of a Naval Hospital at San Diego. I can assure you that the need of this hospital is most urgent and the experience with this epidemic is quite sufficient to demonstrate that a hospital should be built here without delay. I believe that the Bureau has already given the matter favorable consideration, but I truly hope the project will be expedited.

Very sincerely yours,