

Headquarters Department of Cuba.

Hospital Las Animas.

Calzada de la Infanta.

Havana, Cuba Sept. 1st 1901.

My dear Doctor:

I am in receipt of your letters of Aug. 23rd and 27th and of the cablegram of the 29th. I should have gone ahead but my man proved to be immune. His military carriage inclines me to the belief that he probably served on the Island as a Spanish soldier and probably also has had Y.F. Hence his willingness to be bitten. He is now in the 8th day and I shall discharge him tomorrow upon receipt of your letter strongly advising against further inoculations. I countermanded my order to an agent for more men. When the telegram came later I told him to hunt them up again (he had four) but they had seen the papers and declined. A young American employee of the hospital who has resided in New Orleans and claims not to have had the fever, offers himself. An American employee in the city has written offering himself and promises to come out during the coming week. Ames has been detailed and I am securing nurses to care for the patients. Dr. Menocal suggested the other day that I locate at their station at Tuscomia. In view of the present scare in the city, that would probably be an excellent location and I shall inquire further into the matter. Fortunately Gen. Wood is to return today and after looking around I shall consult him. I have written to Dr. Matienzo and look for a reply shortly. If it is practical to work over there that would be even better. Ames had a mild case at Principe the other day but I did not see him until the 3rd day when his temp had fallen from 104 to normal, and the pulse from 84 to 59. His eyes were a little yellow, but not infected; there was epi- and hypogastric soreness; skin of chest of a dark red color & especially circulation sluggish; gums congested deeply and bled on moderate pressure; history of headache & pain in the back and liver; temp showed a complete intermission on 3rd day; it rose afterward not above 100°; no chill; no malarial parasites found in several examinations made by Agramonte.

Of course you know of Dr. Caldes' hasty departure and his claim that all the mosquito cases here were septicemia and not yellow fever at all.

I am glad you mention the matter of using controls because I had come to the same conclusion that they were not necessary because they have invariably proved positive. Should the filtrate infect I shall then repeat and try to ascertain the thermal death point.

I am sorry I can give you no news but this is a dead place now. Only 12 patients in the whole hospital and only four of these in bed. I can only wait and pray and trust that the opportunity will come soon.

Very sincerely yours,

James Carroll

Major Walter Reed, Surgeon U.S.A,
Army Medical Museum
Washington, D.C.