

ABSTRACT OF
Dec 5/18

No 1.

January 9th 1918.

My dear Dr Gray:

You have probably heard by this time that the Porto Rican troops of the National Army are to be trained in Porto Rico, which fact affects us in relation to Dr Lippitt, who was to become Medical Director of St Luke's Hospital. As he told us in New York he was compromised to accept his commission in the Army if the troops should be trained here. In accordance with the above, Dr Lippitt has felt constrained to accept the said commission in the Army and has notified me that it will be impossible for him to accept the position as Medical Director of the Hospital.

The matter of Dr Lippitt's appointment had stirred up considerable opposition in the town especially among the Physicians, on account of the competition he would bring, and it looked as though we would have to depend upon him alone for the patronage of the hospital. The other Doctors were making their preparations to take their cases to other hospitals, and when Dr Lippitt notified me that he would not be able to accept, we were in danger of being left out altogether. I therefore had to act quickly and definitely in accordance with my best judgment, in order to save the situation for the hospital with the local Doctors. I was careful to consult everyone concerned in the matter, the Deaconesses, Dr Moss and Mr Haughwout, as well as others, and everyone agreed with me as to the wisdom of the course. In effect my decision was to give up the hope of having a missionary Doctor, and depend upon our nursing staff entirely for the missionary effort. My experience so far has given me sufficient justification for this decision, and I believe the whole outfit will gain by this in the long run.

The details of the matter, in short, are as follows: I have asked Dr Lopez Nussa, a Porto Rican of excellent family and unimpeachable character, to become Medical Director when Dr Moss' resignation takes effect. He is to serve without salary. We will appoint a House Surgeon, nominated by him, to whom we will pay a salary of \$700. per year, without any further guarantee, who will give to the hospital a percentage of the medical fees earned by him at the hospital. It is not likely that this percentage will amount to any appreciable sum, and we are not counting upon it, as part of our income. The hospital will depend for its earnings upon the receipts from patients, as we have done in the past. Our Doctor's fees have never been any considerable part of our net income. This plan will insure to the local Physicians the use of the hospital upon terms favorable to them, and Dr Lopez has accepted the appointment with much appreciation. I feel sure it is the right move, especially in the present moment when it will be impossible to find a Physician in the States and much more difficult to find one missionarily inclined. Please place the matter before the Committee for their approval. It means the use of the appropriation Item No 20 for the house surgeon.

Very sincerely, *Chas B. Blum*