Dear Professor Osler,

In reply to your note of June 6th, regarding the organisation of our Branch of the National Association, I think it may be of some slight service if I give you a sketch of its history and the work which it has done.

The foundation was primarily due to the Dublin University Biological Association, a body composed chiefly of medical students at Trinity College, Dublin.

During the session of 1898-9 the subject of the Prevention of Consumption had been considered at the meeting...
If the Association and a Memorial was transmitted, I think at the instigation of Dr. Percy Kirkpatrick, to the Royal Academy of Medicine asking that body to take steps to bring public opinion to bear upon the matter.

This resulted in the calling of a conference which met at the Royal College of Physicians under the Presidency of the Lord Lieutenant, Earl Cadogan, K.G., on July 1st, 1899. The Marlborough House meeting had just been held, and it was decided to work in conjunction with the newly formed National Association. Branches were subsequently formed in Belfast, Cork, and Dublin.

The first Secretary of the Dublin Branch was F. J. Kussi, Durham, while S. Joseph Carroll and Professor McWilliam acted as Treasurers.
These gentlemen under the Committee carried on the work of the Branch until 1902 when the officers of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer were amalgamated and transferred to me. Since then the execution work has been in my hands under the direction of the Committee, the present constitution of which I give on the enclosed slip. From the first we had difficulty in overcoming the dead weight of indifference which amounted almost to fabulous. The masses regarded tuberculosis as "the will of God," the educated considered pneumonia in the light of modern science, as a medical fad. We were regarded as amiable visionaries and it seemed that we were but voices crying in the wilderness. Still as I look back on those years I am amazed at the amount of work we were able to do on an income of about £30 per annum.
We warned the Railway Companies about the cleaning of carriages and
had them to put up notices regarding
spitting in the cars and stations.

We did the same with the Tramway
Company and got both to obtain from
the Board of Trade sanction to a
by-law making spitting an offence
punishable by a fine not exceeding
40s. We got the Board of National
Education to send officially our
pamphlets to every national school
teacher in Ireland. They also sent out
our posters to be displayed in every
school in their system.

Thirty-six Technical Instruction
Committees under the Department
of Agriculture and Technical Instruction
distributed our literature, while
individual officers of the Department,
e.g. eminent instructors, aided
materially in this work.

We made also St. Patrick's College
for the training of the Roman Catholic
Clergy at Maynooth, the Dublin Division
Sponsored by the Presbyterian Episcopal Church, the Dublin Presbyterian Church, the Dublin Methodist Church, the Post Office, many commercial firms, the Traders Institute, the Workingmen's Clubs, two important educational companies and many other bodies.

In this way the Branch did an immense amount of pioneer work and we had sympathizers in almost every part of Ireland who were ready to lend a hand when the need came for the more activist campaign.

In 1907 I brought before my Committee the question of having a small Tuberculosis Exhibit at the Dublin International Exhibition which was then in preparation. The Committee could not see their way to undertake the work and weur
expense which we had no money to meet, accordingly my modest scheme fell through. Although independent of this, I did not need the assistance of the Lady of Aberdeen, who had just started the Women's Health Association, learnt from Dr. Tait MacKensie of Philadelphia of the value of Tuberculosis Exhibitions in the States. She summoned a small meeting to consider the possibility of organising such an exhibition in connection with the International Exhibition.

Mrs. Raeburn as organising Secretary of the Women's Health Association, and myself as Honorary Secretary of the Dublin Branch of the National Association became Honorary Secretaries of the Exhibition Committee.

The subsequent history of the movement is well known to you, led by a lady of positive and personality...
If took on a vigour it never had before and success is attaining its efforts to a degree greater than perhaps any of us had expected. How far this result has been due to pioneer work done by the Dublin Branch I cannot say, but I believe that our efforts played a not inconsiderable part in the matter. Practically all our active members have become engaged in one or other of the enterprises of the Women's Health Association and the Dublin Branch has passed into a committee of one or less suspended animating as a working body. It still exists however, and its pamphlets are still circulated. There is a small credit balance at Bank.

I have no doubt that in a scheme for general re-organisation of the National Association, my Committee would join actively, and if a definite line
of work were assigned to the Branch. I think it would be helpful if useful functions without clashing with the Women's Health Association whose energies are scattered over as wide a field in its efforts towards social betterment.

Faithfully Yours,

Alfred L. Seyd.

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Ripon Professor of Medicine
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Dublin.
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DUBLIN BRANCH.

Royal College of Physicians,
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1910.

President.
The Earl Cadogan, K.G.

Vice-Presidents:
The President, Royal College of Physicians.
Royal College of Surgeons.
Royal Academy of Medicine.

Committee:

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Sir Charles A. Cameron, C.S., M.D., Dublin City.
Dr. James Craig, Fellow, Registrar, R.C.P.
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