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December 23, 1942

Brigadier General Fred W. Rankin Office of The Surgeon General War Department Washington, D. C.

Dear Fred:

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I regret very much that I was unable to see you in Washington last week to congratulate you personally on the well deserved promotion to the title which was confirmed by Congress. This, of course, will delight your multitude of friends and especially your close associates on the American Board. I cannot tell you how pleased I am over this and equally pleased that you have consented to continue your affiliations with the Board. I realize that your duties will make it impossible for you to attend as regularly as you have in the past, if at all, but the honor and prestige of having your name continued on our Board will make all of us feel very happy and will unquestionably help us in our work on the Board.

In my talk with Fred Coller in Washington and subsequently with Stewart Rodman in Philadelphia, I feel that the vacancies, which occurred as a result of the termination of terms of duty, have been exceedingly well filled and both Stewart and I, and I am sure you will agree as a member of the Executive Committee, are confident that the new members - Johnny St. John, Nate Womack, Pete Churchill and Howdy Gray - will continue the traditions and standards of the Board.

Please accept my very best wishes for the Holiday Season both for you and Mrs. Rankin and your delightful family.

Sincerely yours,

Allen O. Whipple, M.D.