

YOUNG, WILSON D. ^{CO.}

September 26, 1918.

Miss Mary C. Wiggin, Executive Secretary
Consumers' League of Massachusetts,
4 Joy Street, Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Wiggin:

Please pardon my delay in acknowledging your letter of September 13th reporting unhygienic conditions in the handling of glass tubes for the Surgeon General's office in the William D. Young Company's factory. I shall be glad to take the matter up with Colonel Mock of the Surgeon General's office, who is Chairman of a Committee connected with the Woman in Industry Service. As far as I know there is as yet no industrial service work in the Surgeon General's office and it is therefore difficult to know to whom such matters should be referred. I shall report the results to you later.

Sincerely yours,

MVK/AL

Mary Van Kleeck, Director
Woman in Industry Service

September 26, 1918.

Lt. Col. H. E. Mock,
Surgeon General's Office,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Colonel Mock:

I have just received a report from Miss Mary C. Wiggin, Executive Secretary of the Consumers' League, 4 Joy Street, Boston, Mass. concerning a plant which is probably working for the Surgeon General's office. Miss Wiggin reports, "

"The William D. Young Company, 15 North Washington Street, is making little glass tubes to be filled with iodine to be enclosed in cheese cloth cases, to be forwarded for use with the wounded in France. These are supposed, ofcourse, to be prepared under most hygienic conditions, but no towels are provided by the firm, and I think no soap. As the class of girls employed are from our Jewish and Italian sections of the city, it seems to me a rather precarious arrangement; yet we cannot touch it by our State law, which simply requires that the roller towel should not be furnished. My attention was called to it by a nurse who had been in their employ, and felt that the girls were working with very dirty hands, as they failed to bring their own towels. If you will do the best you can about this matter for me, I shall be very grateful."

If you will advise me as to the official in the Surgeon General's office to whom such matter should be referred, I shall appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Van Kleeck, Director
Woman in Industry Service.

MVK/AL

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TELEPHONE, HAYMARKET 1019

4 JOY STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

September 13, 1918.

Miss Mary Van Kleeck, Director,
Woman in Industry Service of the
U. S. Department of Labor.

My dear Miss Van Kleeck:

I have not had a chance to congratulate you on the advance to a position with even greater opportunity for influence than you had before. You know, I think, without my assurance, how glad I am of the appointment, and especially that our dear friend whom we found usurped the position last year has disappeared from your Board.

I am writing now, hoping that you can cover a case which does not come under the Ordnance Department. If it should be referred instead to the Surgeon Department, I know that you will attend to that for us. The William D. Young Company, 15 North Washington Street, is making little glass tubes to be filled with iodine to be enclosed in cheese-cloth cases, to be forwarded for use with the wounded in France. These are supposed, of course, to be prepared under most hygienic conditions, but no towels are provided by the firm, and I think no soap. As the class of girls employed are from our Jewish and Italian sections of the city, it seems to me a rather precarious arrangement; yet we cannot touch it by our State law, which simply requires that the roller towel should not be furnished. My attention was called to it by a nurse who had been in their employ, and felt that the girls were working with very dirty hands, as they failed to bring their own towels. If you will do the best you can about this matter for me, I shall be very grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Mary C. Wiggin
Executive Secretary.