Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your very kind letter of 11th inst.

We were sorry of learning about your troubles with the "turbellarians", but up till now we have not got any troubles by this worm, so unfortunately we can not help you by giving you any informations regarding this parasite.

At the same time, however, we take the opportunity of mentioning to you another plague amongst oysters, which especially in Holland means as much as a "crash" to the planters, and as you might know we some years ago have transplanted some Dutch oysters in our beds, so that we have become touched of it too - although only to a minimal extent, as the illness does not seem to be contagious.

The most visible symptoms are that the shells - and especially the round ones - are covered with some black points, which by the most serious attacks are quite "spongy" and it seems as if the attacked parts of the shells consist of a tough substance. - Furthermore the illness makes the oysters very gaunt and watery and by the heaviest attacks they will die.

From our point of view the illness has to be considered as being a kind of Cancer, but we should be very much interested to hear from you if you know anything about it - especially what causes the illness.

We hope to be able to serve you better another time, and remain

Yours very truly,