

R.M.A.  
For Appendix.

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Dept. Work 1930

APPEND

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Laboratory of Neuropathology  
Royal Victoria Hospital  
February 2nd 1931.

February 2nd 1931

Dr. C. F. Martin,  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine,  
McGill University,  
MONTREAL.

STET:

Dear Dr. Martin,

In answer to your letter of January 30th in connection to research which has been carried on in our department, I can point out that there have been several different types of work going on. Dr. Colin Russel has been doing some interesting work upon the relationship of congenital defects in the blood vessels of the brain to subarachnoid haemorrhage. He has also been making moving picture studies of clinical cases, which were utilized in a presentation of a case at the American Neurological Association meeting in Atlantic City in May 1930.

Dr. William Cone presented a study of the relationship of the aseptic embolism to histological changes in the brain and the cellular change in the spinal fluid. This piece of work is at present being published.

Work has been continued upon the classification of cerebral tumours and a paper was read by myself at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Winnipeg in the summer of 1930 on Classification of Brain Tumours and Its Practical applications.

The major portion of the work which has been going on in the Laboratory has had to do with various aspects of the problem of epilepsy and its relationship to the cerebrospinal blood vessels. Dr. Joseph P. Evans has completed a study upon the effects of different types of wounds upon the susceptibility of animals to experimental epilepsy. Dr. E. L. Gage is at present studying the effects upon experimental epilepsy in animals and the removal of various portions of the sympathetic nervous system. Dr. Georg Chorobski is at present studying the origin of the perivascular nerves of the brain. I have myself been chiefly interested in the pathology of traumatic epilepsy and have published several papers upon that subject.

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Dr. C. F. Martin.

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Most important perhaps is the fact that we have demonstrated that the blood vessels within the substance of the brain are equipped with perivascular nerve fibers like the blood vessels elsewhere in the body, a fact which up to the present has been denied.

We have also found incontrovertible evidence that at least in the case of epileptic patients vascular spasms of the arteries on the surface of the brain are associated with epileptic seizures induced at the operating table. This opens up the possibility of obtaining further knowledge of the nature of epilepsy by a more careful study of the vascular mechanism of the brain.

Dr. Cone and I have been working upon the method of treatment for spina bifida and the new treatment has met with gratifying results.

The other things that are going on in the laboratory are of a miscellaneous nature. Dr. I. M. Tarlov is studying the ~~spinal~~ structure of the cranial nerves. Dr. A. R. Elvidge is making a pathological study of a large collection of cases of hydracephalus. Dr. M. E. Brodie is continuing his studies of the sequelae of encephalography.

Yours sincerely,

Wilder Penfield, M.D. for the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery.

*Dr. J. N. Petersen is studying the vasomotor system of epileptics by special methods.*

WGP/MD

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