

September 12th, 1944

Dr. F. Cyril James,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University.

Re: Internal Alterations of M.N.I.

Dear Dr. James:

You have in hand the estimates of Mr. Fetherstonhaugh for internal alterations necessitated by our desire to increase the turnover in hospital activity. The total of \$89,822.50 is considerably larger than I had anticipated. I have, therefore, reviewed the whole undertaking. There are some details that can be altered with a consequent deduction in the cost. Nevertheless, it seems necessary to face the possibility of the cost coming as high as estimated. There is no other way of breaking the bottleneck and at the same time keeping the type of equipment and provision of work up to what it is in the rest of the building. I would, therefore, urge that this work be undertaken.

All of the work is of a permanent nature and will not have to be undone no matter what the future may hold for us. The provision of neurosurgical consulting rooms on the 8th floor is, of course, temporary, but the fellows' rooms which will be occupied will not be changed and the additional rooms which are obtained by use of the squash court are carefully planned for other purposes in the future when the time comes that other provision is made for neurosurgical offices.

The largest single item is the installation of a system for purification and conditioning of the air in the new operating room. A large part of this cost is due to the fact that the unit had to be placed at a distance and a good many alterations made in order to get it going. Both this installation and the building of the new operating room, with its fees, and the lighting and sterilizing for the same room might be put together as a unit, and it would seem to me an altogether fair request to make of our good-wishers in New York. The operating room will be an entirely new unit of its own and should be called the "Service" operating room, inasmuch as it is being added for the purpose of handling service patients during the immediate

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emergency which lies ahead. I have figured in, with Mr. Fetherstonhaugh's help, the fees on the installation, but not on the building of the operating room.

In regard to special equipment yet to be ordered, or yet to be paid for, I enclose an attached statement which shows two autoclaves which we have ordered for \$4,589.00. According to our discussion of yesterday, I will ask Col. MacKenzie if he is willing to recommend that the Government purchase these, as they have done the x-ray table. Items that we have not yet ordered, and which we had intended to submit to New York, are also listed there, totalling \$3,600.00

To return to the possibility of an outside donation for the operating room, it seems to me quite understandable that, because of the fixed policy of the Canadian Government not to build additions to hospitals, it becomes impossible for them to undertake this although they are showing their goodwill by ordering certain things that would go with it. That puts the University in the difficult position of expanding its service and makes it quite reasonable for it to ask for help.

I do hope that we can get this whole thing under way with the least amount of loss of time.

In regard to the handling of the Annex, we had a meeting of our staff this morning, together with Dr. Stephens, and we would recommend to you that upon completion of the Annex the service personnel should be provided by the Neurological Institute in so far as possible. This applies to orderlies, maids, nurses, and medical staff. We recommend that payment for service patients should be carried on as at present at so much for public and so much for private beds. I will send you a more detailed recommendation in regard to this, but am adding this thinking you may wish to discuss it in its broader outline.

Yours sincerely,

WGP/AD  
Encl.