

Lt. Col. E. H. Borrerell

B.

No. I Neurological Hospital
R.C.A.M.C.
Dec. 14 1942.

Dear Dr. Penfield;

Bill Stewart will be bringing this by hand for his health has made his return to Canada a necessity. I don't know how much he has written to you or to Cone, or even to his wife but he has been in poor general health for some months and finally Monty Montgomery (M.G.H.)— and Bennett from No. 8 General, with his medical board, decided he simply was unfit to carry on without a real rest. Bennett is the senior chest man overseas. His board has been on the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis with impaired general health due to recurrent bouts of sinusitis and oral sepsis. He had in addition a number of severe attacks of ~~xxx~~ vaso-spasm last winter and spring but has remained free from further attacks this autumn.

Bennett believes that the pulmonary lesion is an inactive sort of lesion and is unlikely to cavitate but is strongly of the opinion that he must have a rest and get into much better general health when he should be able to carry on with his own job. From working with Bill for the last couple of years I am strongly in support of these views for I feel that he has steadily become less well over the last year and then a some.

Bennett has also written to Bill Warner, the consulting physician I think he is now, to part of Canada. However I have felt impelled to write you fully about this for Bill Stewart has done a fine job of work during the last year and in my humble opinion is a sound and good surgeon quite apart from being a most loyal associate and friend. I am most sorry to see him go home. However if he is to regain his health and get into shape to carry on his work and someday soon take on a job of his own this break is essential. Over the last two and a half years we have all observed just how much sinusitis drags him down and I should say that it is imperative that he live in a warm dry sunny climate.

We are now in the position of requiring a reinforcement in the form of a competent all out neurosurgeon as a "specialist" for with the expansion of the hospital and the possibility of a second front we must be prepared in terms of men as well as bricks and mortar. I have suggested to the ~~XX~~ O.C. Col. Montgomery (not Monty from the M.G.H.) that he should request another man and ask for Arthur Elvidge. This has not yet got very far through regular channels so there is no official approval outside our own ~~little~~ set up of this plan. Nothing has come through yet of our plans to get Harold Elliott three months with Jefferson. However he is working away and helping keep the wheels turning here, & I think in due time that the scheme will receive official blessing.

I am sorry that I cannot write more fully at the moment but the party is about leave and they must take this with them. Please give my very best wishes to Colonel Russel for a speedy recovery.

The compliments of the season to you

Yours sincerely, *Harry Borrerell*

Sorry about this typing but it is much better than my writing.