

copy sent in air mail letter Apr 25/41

April 7th, 1941

Lt.Col. Colin Russel,
#1 Neurological Hospital, RCAMC,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Dear Colin:

I had a great talk with Baker. He tells me very complimentary things about the way your service is running and the way your juniors are coordinating. I think that is grand.

In regard to any possible transfer, Colin, both Archibald and I have talked tentatively with the D.G. but he is definitely opposed to it. I am sure he would feel entirely different if he receives any recommendation from London. It seems to me that, quite frankly, such a recommendation should be made on the basis of health. Why do you not plan on coming back to Montreal and taking up your work at the Neurological Institute again. I do not think that McGill will enquire into age limits as long as the war lasts, so that during that time you could get back into the old swing and collect your practice. That would mean that after the war you could step out of the Institute as far as ward work was concerned, but continue as Honorary Neurologist, and continue to see private patients either in the Institute or outside depending upon what the decision might be. I am only making this as a suggestion; your plans and desires may be entirely different, but it does not seem to me that you ought to figure on going through another winter over there. I suppose, if you come back, you will have to decide between work in Ottawa and work here in Montreal, but if you come back to Montreal full time and take up teaching and routine work, you could figure on \$1000.00 Institute salary. That is not much but your private patients would do the rest.

I am terribly sorry that my going over has been postponed, but I think we will start the arrangements going again in July without any trouble. Postponements and delays, I suppose, are the fate of those who want to get into or out of military service or who want to do anything in the service!

I hear from many of the men that you keep them on a level keel and give them an example of philosophy which helps them all.

Please give my best wishes to all the boys.

Yours sincerely,

WGP/AD

Letter to Lieut-Col. Russel

is about ready to be used.

We are anxiously watching to see whether or not you will go east. There were rumours of it in the papers yesterday.

Norman Petersen is able to come in for a little time each day now. He keeps his spirit up just the same as ever.

The announcement of the broadcast of #1 Neurological Hospital was made in the paper among the outstanding things on the radio on Sunday! Quite an occasion was made of listening to the broadcast, and people who are interested in the Unit were notified that it was to occur. We hoped for some direct report by you or Bill, and others, rather than fifteen minutes of music. The whole thing was a great disappointment. I suppose the distance and the air did something awful to the harmony. One song would have been excellent, especially that first one which is the theme song. In the others, someone was flatting quite near the microphone. The only message was given by Boulton to members of his parish. That would be fine if you were running a medical missionary unit! or if there had been other messages. Dr. Cross said a few words, and we only wish he had said more. I am told that the American Hospital under Phil Wilson had an excellent, dignified, broadcast later in the day, and they really sent some word, partly professional and partly personal. Perhaps it is not important, I do not know. I certainly enjoyed your letter. I have had messages by John Fulton.

With my best to all,

Yours sincerely,

WGP/MM