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[1929]

McGill University
Department of Neurosurgery

Payfield Pearce
~~ag~~

431 Pine Ave. West
Montreal,

28th January 1929.

Different drafts?

Richard M. Pearce, Esq.,
Rockefeller Foundation,
61, Broadway,
NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Mr. Pearce,

Would you be good enough to give me an interview if I come down to New York this week sometime - any day but Friday? Possibly you will remember that last Spring the Foundation helped me to go to Germany to study and to visit the neurological centers on the continent of Europe.

Up until that time I was attached to the Presbyterian Hospital and Neurological Institute in New York, and since then to Hospitals in Montreal and to McGill University. We have a good laboratory for neuropathology here in space allotted us in Laboratories of the Department of Medicine and clinical facilities in the Royal Victoria and Montreal General Hospitals.

We can adequately meet the problems of neurology, it seems to me, only by a more comprehensive plan. This was evident from my ~~short~~ study of the clinics in Europe, and I suggested a closer relationship of neurology and neurosurgery in a report sent to Mr. O'Brien last summer.

Conditions here at McGill are suitable for the projected Institute for Neurological Investigation to be outlined below. This institute would remain an integral part of the Royal Victoria Hospital. Patients would be removed from the Hospital and returned to it. It would connect directly with the general operating rooms, where neurosurgical cases would be done, and with the medical laboratories.

Building: (a) Seventeen laboratory rooms for neuropathological work by men working in neurosurgery, neurology and psychiatry. This would give a space for voluntary workers as well as for men on the staff. These rooms with hall space would require about 7225 sq. feet, or if on one floor a building 150 ft. by 48 ft.

Travel grant

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36 patients

(b) Accommodation for Patients: (b) Patients would be taken to the Institute only for study and investigation of neurological conditions. They would remain here during active investigation and treatment such as:- preoperative study, the interval between ventriculography and operation, and the early post-operative period when special care and treatment are necessary. Non-operative neurological patients might also be kept here during a period of active investigation. Psychiatric patients might be brought here temporarily, if operative or active procedures of an investigative or therapeutic nature were undertaken. This would not include the detention nor the study of such patients from a purely psychological point of view. After the period of active investigation or treatment were passed, the patients would be returned to the general wards or the private patients pavillion.

The space for patients should accommodate 20 public patients, 10 private patients and 6 semi-private

Offices and special examining rooms: (c) 9 rooms would be required for private patient offices and for exercise and special examination of all patients of whatever description.

To concentrate

The whole institute would be dedicated to investigation and the active treatment of diseases of the nervous system, and to the pathological material from such patients. It should give opportunity to the staff to practice upon a University basis, bringing together the patients and the means of study and treatment without losing contact with general medicine and surgery. We should give up active work in other Hospitals and concentrate all of our activities.

*Anatomical
Meeting room
& Psychiatric*

Such an institute should serve as a center for post-graduate study in neurology and neuropathology and give opportunity for effective investigation. We have the personnel now to begin such an undertaking. Dr. William Cone is at present in charge of the Laboratory and is carrying out much of the neurosurgical work. The Laboratory has all of the voluntary workers it can accommodate. Dr. Colin Russel, Professor of Neurology, is working with us both clinically and in the Laboratory. It was planned to set aside 4 rooms in the Laboratory for Psychiatry. These rooms would not be put to full use until the psychiatric wards which are projected are built at the Royal Victoria Hospital. These wards would be separate from the institute.

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The common meeting ground for psychiatry and neurology would be the anatomical laboratory.

Centre of Neurological thought

I hope you will pardon this long letter. It is written to you in the hope that the Rockefeller Foundation might make it possible to build and run such an institute. It is not intended as a purely local undertaking. I believe that we could provide a center for neurological thought which would serve the whole continent, and that we could work effectively upon the unsolved problems in neurology unhampered by the artificial division between medicine and surgery.

This plan meets with the entire approval of Dean Martin, Dr. Archibald and Dr. Meakins. It was my desire, however, to lay the plan before you entirely upon its merits. Will you give me an appointment to talk to you about it?

Yours very sincerely,

Wilder Penfield.

WGP/HL

This plan I have long had in mind and ~~with~~ and discussed various phases of it ~~with~~ whenever opportunity presented. It has only ~~of~~ just now been p