

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

August 9th,  
1927.

Dr. Wilder Penfield,  
Presbyterian Hospital,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Penfield:

My best thanks for your three letters and the parcel of reprints. Your general statement I received about ten days ago, but have not yet had an opportunity of laying it before the Medical Board or the Governors, neither of which bodies has had a meeting. I communicated through the Superintendent to the President, Sir Vincent Meredith, the substance of our talk and your general attitude, together with the information that you would not be available until next year. The President is, I think, sympathetic but merely repeated that the matter would have to be left until September or October, as there was no quorum to be got during the summer. Things are, therefore, at a standstill for the moment, but I may say that I am quite determined that you shall come here. If you do I expect that ten years from now the Hub of surgical neurology, in this continent, will be transferred from Boston to Montreal. There is nobody in Boston who can fill Cushing's shoes, and I shall expect at the very least that for the eastern half of the continent you will dispute the honours of the game with Dandy, with Grant following as an indifferent third. Not one of them all, that I know of, is doing any fundamental work in histology, and scarcely anybody in physiology or experimental surgery. With your training along those lines you will repeat Cushing's career, and do better than he did along the experimental line.

I am having a résumé made of the neurological work during the past year that has been done, including the question of my earnings. I have practically no doubt of being able to secure the amount of money you will need. I am quite encouraged lately by the number of private patients that I have had, and I feel sure that you would earn a considerable sum even the first year.

I cannot promise segregation of beds in a separate ward, because our wards are practically all large; but they can easily be segregated in the general ward, and I may get a separate ward for women and children.

*Your other conditions as to constitution of the Service are O.K.*  
I am delighted to know that you had so encouraging a talk with Fred Mackay. I can say nothing as yet concern-

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

ing the extent to which patients of the General Hospital would be open to you for operation, but it would be practically certain that you could have all their pathological material, and very possibly that you could be made consultant. In addition the Children's Memorial and the Shriners' Hospital, including altogether about two hundred patients, would be available.

I am sorry that Mrs. Penfield could not come up with you. I am anxious that she should come and see this place, because I realize that a transfer means even more to her, perhaps, than to you. Could you not bring her up, or send her up for a week-end? You would be extremely welcome at my house. She could form her own ideas of the city and of all the other questions that must concern the wife, and Mrs. Archibald would be delighted to have her. See if you can manage that some time in the next two months. A little break would do her good, anyhow.

Yours always,

*Edward Archibald*

*Dear Dr. Archibald.*