

November  
tenth  
1927

Dear Dr. Archibald,

Your letter of November 7th has just come. Since I last wrote to you I have had several letters from Dr. Quinby whom you know at the Brigham and I think I ought to tell you the content of these letters. Apparently they intend to organize a surgical unit similar to the medical unit which Dr. Peabody had at that hospital. Dr. Cobb also has a unit on full-time devoted to neurology at the same hospital. He tells me that I am being considered with one or two other men to head this unit. It would carry with it, of course, a professorship of surgery at Harvard and would involve a certain amount of surgical teaching.

There goes with the unit a budget of \$30,000 but it is necessary, of course, to have someone doing general surgery there and that budget would have to cover assistance and research. To quote from his letter "The plan for a city hospital is that it will be full-time as we here understand this term. That is, there will be a salary sufficient for comfortable maintenance, but the incumbent is expected to see a moderate number of private patients and the fees from these are his and not turned in to the school or hospital fund".

I cannot help but be interested in this proposition, although I do not know at all that I would be willing to accept it in case it were offered to me. He says that there will be a decision within a months time, there in Boston, and I do not suppose that you will want an answer from me definitely much before that time.

The chief drawback to the thing seems to me to be the fact that it carries with it some of the cares of general surgery which I should gladly avoid. On the other hand, the association with Cobb and also with Mallory would be very pleasant. I do not know whether they mean business or not as yet but I wanted you to know all that I know about it.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Edward Archibald  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.