

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

May 25th,
1928.

Dr. Wilder Penfield,
Eichen-Alle 3,
Obernigk, (bei Breslau)
Germany.

My dear Penfield:

I was delighted to get your letter of April 30th and also a day or so later the one of May 8th.

If you think that you need more than \$1000 for equipment that you can buy advantageously over there, please let me know and I shall get the University to forward you credit for whatever you think right.

I took up with Dr. Martin the question of allowing you, for the Month of March, the amount of money guaranteed you for your personal living expenses, on the ground that you were traveling through this country on the business of our University. I confess he did not see the point. He indicated that the Rockefeller grant ought to be considered as applying to that month, and perhaps especially so as he, or rather the University, had made you a free gift of \$1000 towards your expenses in Europe. You can think it over and let me know when you get back.

The \$5000 for equipment in the Hospital is quite certain, so that you ought to start thoroughly well outfitted. If there is any particular thing outside routine equipment that you consider particularly advantageous, as for instance a special microscope from Zeiss, let me know and I think I can beg the price of it quite outside the present subscription circle.

I don't feel worried about the finances at all. Nothing has gone wrong about the financial backing.

I am delighted to know that you will have men working with you from November first on. The questions, however, of technician and secretary you will have to settle after you arrive. I don't think I could choose either for you; but the money to pay them will be forthcoming.

I have posted notices calling for candidates for your internship, but have had no applications as yet. I do not anticipate trouble in that respect.

I do not think that you will have to make your stipend from the start in order that Cone and the laboratory may be supported. I expect to look after you financially month by

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2.

month, even if it should be necessary to draw out of capital at the start, because I fully expect that you will be able, after the first six months, to free the University, in large part at least, from that obligation. You must certainly start the laboratory right.

I think the research worker from McGill must wait until you arrive.

What you tell me about Foerster is most interesting. Do you think he really localizes the lesion more accurately than Horsley did? Find out all you can about the paths of ~~the~~ sympathetic (visceral and extremity) pain. Do the deep sensory ^{fibres} run in the same path with the ~~anterior~~ sympathetic fibres?

If you should see Gottstein in Breslau, give him my kind regards. I would love to see the old place.

You have done well to settle in a suburb. I think you are really lucky to have your family over there with you and next door to a pine forest and a swimming pool.

I am very glad you are editing that book. It will give you a fine prestige. ~~There is nothing~~

As to lectures at the University, I shall want you to give the Fourth Year about six didactic lectures. This will be your share of the total series of thirty on general surgery, and you will have to cover the nervous system in whatever way you think best. It means simply giving the students the absolutely necessary things and no more, such as the theory of acute compression; in particular middle meningeal haemorrhage, concussion, tumours, hydrocephalus, spinal cord and peripheral nerves. For the undergraduate I want nothing more than a few of the main points, but you will be at liberty to offer an optional course of as many lectures as you like on any subject you like -- a sort of extra-mural course. The teachers are all complaining that they have not enough time in which to teach their subject and I do trust you will not take that line. Chaps imagine they have to convey to the students everything they know, after twenty years work. It is folly, and an attempt to cover the ground is folly, too, but an optional course for the chosen seekers after truth is all right. I want the average student taught the minimum for clinical safety. He should not miss a middle meningeal or a tumour or a peripheral palsy, but he doesn't need to know much about cytology.

There is nothing special to tell about here. We have just got through the session and finished the examinations. A

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3.

terrible grind!

Now I must close. Write me again. Give my best to Mrs. Penfield, and please greet unbekannter Weise, den Herrn Professor Foerster. And the best of wishes to yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Archibald