

August 15th, 1940

Lt. Col. C. K. Russel,
Number 1 Neurological Hospital, RCAMC, CASF,
c/o Base Post Office,
Canada.

Dear Colin:

It was very good news to hear from you that you and Linton had found a proper place at Basingstoke. If that was the answer to prayer then I think you had better keep it up. The use of a station waggon is a great idea and might make the neurosurgeons of some use after all. I am dreadfully sorry to hear about Henderson. Have you any definite news of Martin Nichols? I have had no word at all from Arne Torkildsen since the invasion of Norway. I wrote to Olivecrona about him the other day to see if we could get any news. I am sure that either he or Gunhilde would have written if he or she could.

The men of the unit seem to see something of you but apparently they never see Bill. It seems to me that the all important thing, however, is to be able to sort out wounded and take them to the proper place rather than take the proper place to the wounded.

I was very much interested that you feel that in Canada a somewhat similar organization might be built up, similar, I mean, to that in England. I suppose it means some kind of an administrative organization that would have representatives in each of the large hospitals and would be in control of the military aspects of each of those hospitals. As you say, if the D.G.M.S. is the proper man to do it, it could certainly be done under the RCAMC rather than under the Department of Health. If, however, it would decrease the effectiveness of the D.G.M.S. in regard to the army, it would be a mistake, of course. The possibility of invasion or direct trouble here in Canada seems so far away that it is very difficult to become exercised over it. I did not realize that there was no medical man in the Ministry of Health.

Letter to Lt.Col. C.K. Russel, continued:

If I had gone over in place of Bill, I am not quite sure what I would have done. Perhaps I would have done exactly what he has, or else would have written a book on the desert. You did not know that I really wanted to do that, did you? We are busy enough here and I am still hoping to finish the book and to hand in the manuscript by the 15th of September. Jasper has a chapter in it on Electroencephalography and Molly a chapter on the Psychology of Epileptics. Erick and I have decided to call it "Epilepsy and Cerebral Localization". What do you think of that title?

We were sorry not to have had any of the Holmes come out to us as we would have liked and Winnifred Greenfield has not come as yet.

I did not know that John Beattie had been out in France. I am so glad he got back all right. I am terribly sorry about the failure of the raise in pay for the men in the unit; I had not heard about it until your letter. There is nothing that I can do about it from here, of course, is there? You will be amused to know that I took my examinations, and they were written ones, not oral, for promotion from Lieutenant to Captain. The examination on the "Common to All Arms" was difficult to say the least, particularly as I had been away from the lectures for almost three weeks out of the four or five that they had been going. I don't suppose I passed, but at all events it was good for me to sit in a row with a lot of other men and be lectured on the dishonesty of cheating and copying from one's neighbour! Sorry about Eve. I did not know about his illness.

Again many thanks for your letter and good luck to you all.

My love to you and the boys,

As ever yours,

WGP/AD