

Dr. Pridgen ✓
Dr. Odum
Dr. Conner ✓

Sunday eve. 5
Nov 9th 5

CAPT. C. W. STEWART

Dear Dr. Penfield -

I have had many reasons for writing much sooner but since I arrived in Birmingham my time for writing letters has not been so constant. I arrived here October 5th. The position, as you probably know, is a unique one. I am directly under the Ministry of Health - headed here by Prof. Parsons. Prof. Jefferson of course is

in touch with all of
the neurosurgical centers
and has to do with
appointments. I am in full
charge of the neurosurgical
unit here at the Queen
Elizabeth Hospital and
also of the Emergency
neurosurgical unit at
Bromsgrove - an E. M. S.
hospital about ten miles
out of Birmingham. In
addition to these two headquarters,
I see all neurosurgical
consultations in the E. M. S.
hospitals in the district
for the Ministry of Health,
and any other consultations

work for staff members ²
of this hospital and of the
Birmingham General Hospital.
I have one assistant with
an excellent surgical
training and about 8 months
neurosurgical training. There
is one other interne on
the service here and one
at Bromsgrove. In addition
I have my own anesthetist
and operating room staff.

I spent the first ten days
getting my bearings (but
actively working too). After I
had formulated a schedule
and a working plan to
cover both hospitals to

the greatest efficiency for
back, I ran up to
Manchester and had a
visit with Mr. Jefferson
and outlined it all to
him. He approved entirely.

This Hospital is quite new
and thoroughly modern. ^(600 beds)

I have been exceptionally
busy with operating and
seeing cases in and
around Birmingham.

To give you an idea of
the amount of work in
this Hospital alone, I
might give ^{the} figures of the
major operations so far
excluding Burr holes etc.
I have done since Oct 5th

14 Craniotomies and
7 Laminectomies. I have
been very fortunate in the
type of cases, which has
helped - coming into a
strange place with
strange people and
having to adapt; in a
measure, my accustomed
routine and technique.

Two of the Craniotomies have
been for meningioma -
one large one arising
from the tuberculum sellae
and another huge para-
sagittal one. Both were
removed completely and
the patients are doing fine.

The Hospital here (and
medical school) are
both anxious that a
neurosurgical service here
be a permanent and
growing service. This
gives me an excellent
chance to contribute my
part in organization
and in contacts which
will foster good will
and confidence in
such a service. All of
the senior staff men
have been exceptionally
cordial and helpful.
Unfortunately, my predecessor
was not popular, and
made enemies and

Created a thoroughly
unpleasant atmosphere
- throughout the whole
hospital - including all
departments. Especially was
- this true in the X-ray
department - I have had
to quietly try to break
down this feeling and
believe I am doing it,

I have wanted to
run down to Basingstoke
for a day but have
not had that much
free time. I hope to go
this coming week-end,
before the night bombing
begins. Mr Jefferson is
coming here tomorrow

Afternoon to spend
several hours with me.
As yet - I have had no
word as to how long
I will stay here. I
should like to remain
for several months longer
at least to get the full
benefit and to get things
at least started in shape.

You can see that I
am thoroughly enjoying
it and feel that it
is giving me the responsibility
and challenge that I
so felt the need of. The
actual operating experience
is testing my training
and I only hope that

I may be happy
and successful in
carrying out the
responsibilities given me.

I believe that I realize
my limitations and
because of that, study
each case, situation and
decision all the more
carefully. I must say
to you as I did to
Dr. Lane recently, that
this experience has made
me more grateful than
ever for the kind of
training and example
that you and he have

Give me, I will
write more of my
work and experiences
here later.

Lucie wrote to me
of your letter to her
and she was most
grateful and appreciative.
It meant much to her
to have this direct
word and from you.

I thank you as well.
I do hope that your
trip back was pleasant.
We saw too little of you
but I know how many
things were to be done

in a relatively short 6
time.

Arthur Childs is back
by now and I hear that
Fred Hanson may drop
in for ten days or two weeks
visit shortly. How I
envy them the privilege
of that visit!

Please remember me to
Mrs Beufield. I failed to
give you the pictures
I had to send to her
but will send them along
as soon as I can.

I want to thank you
for your part in making
this term of work in

Birmingham possible.
There is so much I would
like to tell you that
I must write again
very soon.

Most sincerely
Yr friend

P.S. The paper on tidal
drainage should appear
soon in the cat. I would
appreciate very much your
comments and criticism.

Who is to be the next
President? It makes me
feel rather badly to have
lost out on that appointment. I
wanted it and looked forward to
it to round off my training, but
the war calls for many changes in
our plans and lives, changes beyond our control.