

Friday
August 16, 1940

Dear Dr. Penfield;

Arthur and I left Manchester last Sunday noon for London. On Monday morning Arthur ran up to Oxford and returned the following day. I spent some time with Dr. Cone and on Wednesday evening we both had dinner with Dr. Cone and Dr. Russel. It was good to visit with them and get what news they had of Montreal and the people there that we are so often thinking and wondering about. Because we had been away from camp we had had little news. The work on our hospital site seems to be coming along but it has all been so distressingly slow. In the light of recent developments, it must be speeded up so that we may stand by our stations rather than our unequipped tents. On our return to camp yesterday afternoon, we found that word had been received from headquarters to proceed to the new site immediately. Some of the advance party left this morning and the remainder of the camp and personel will go tomorrow. We all are happy over this move.

Our trip to Manchester as well as our stay there was a pleasant one. We took the day train so that we could see that part of the country. In all, the journey was made in a little over four hours. We were very fortunate in the weather for the whole time. We were constantly being reminded by

those living in Manchester that it was "exceptional" - sort of a reversed Californian platitude.

Arthur Childe spent most of his time with the X-ray department with visits to the operating room to follow up the cases. Dr. Gray is in charge of the X-ray department now since the death of Dr. Twining. Dr. Twining is greatly missed there and the loss is felt in all departments. Their X-ray work seems good but they do not make use of stereo-films in encephalogram and ventriculogram studies. This, to us, seemed to be a distinct disadvantage but it seems to be the case in all of the clinics.

Unfortunately for me, Mr. Jefferson was ill and did not come on the wards or do any operating. I was told by Mr. Platt that he had had a flare up of his old intestinal trouble - diverticulitis, and had had the "flu" just as he seemed to be recovering from the other. We had tea with them on the Sunday afternoon after arriving and he was quite weak and looked ill. However we returned about four evenings later for dinner and there was a vast improvement. He was as I had imagined him to be and our evening was spent in talk, examining new books of his and some of the old case records of the last war. I am enclosing a picture we took in the garden. My "braces" are very prominent but it was very hot and he insisted that we shed our tunics.

I saw Mr. Rowbotham operate and made the rounds of the neurosurgical cases each day with Mr. Schorestein, Mr. Jeffersons chief assistant. Mr. Schorestein is a Czechoslovakian who has been educated in England and whose mother is English. He is a very able man. I was not so impressed with Mr. Rowbotham but was there for far too short a time to draw conclusions. There is some talk of his taking the place at Newcastle.

Mr. Platt, the Professor of orthopedics, was very kind to me and took me on his rounds both at the Infirmary and at the large Military Hospital. At the latter I saw almost every description of war wound in the men who had been evacuated from Narvik and Dunkirk. There were French, Poles, Germans and British. The thing that impressed me was the large preponderance of wounds of the extremities. This however is probably not surprizing when the time element is considered and the vulnerability of the body is considered with regards the proportion in total surface area. Also severe abdominal wounds are more apt to improve or terminate fatally in less time. The orthopedic surgeons are beginning to be keen on the use of sulfapyradine in wounds and particularly in compound fractures. It can only be an impression yet but soon there should be enough records for a comparative study.

I spent one morning at the Holt Radium Institute. All of their cases are those of malignancy of one form or another.

Radium treatments and X-ray therapy are used alone, together and in various combinations with surgery. They probably have the most complete and detailed records of this type of work anywhere. Brain tumors are included in their cases and I found no real new departure except that their attempts at directing the rays to the tumor site were more exacting. They do not feel encouraged with their results, feeling that the damage to normal brain and to the changed brain just outside the tumor invasion is considerable.

In about a months time I plan to spend more time there when Mr. Jefferson is at work - this, provided we are not ourselves in the midst of work. I am anxious to go over all of his cases of head injuries with penetration (of the last war). The follow up on these cases is easily available through the pensions department and much valuable information could be gotten, I think. Mr. Jefferson feels that fifty per cent of these developed epilepsy during the course of a twenty year period. I would like to see if there is some or several common factors in those that develop it soon and in the ones that are free for ten or twenty years before the onset of attacks. The relationship of the site of original injury to Jacksonian and generalized seizures was also striking.

I heard from Dr. Cone that Miss Lewis has returned to Canada. I am sorry that I did not get to see her before she left. How strangely these things do work out! While in London I got in touch with my wife's brother who arrived in England about two weeks ago. He is a major with the staff of the second division. It was good to talk with him and get some more direct news of happenings there. I failed to see Harold Elliott and Palmar Howard. I knew Howard when I was at Johns Hopkins and was very surprized to learn that he was with that unit. Our nurses should soon be arriving. I know they must have grown impatient waiting for the call.

I hope that you had a pleasant trip to the coast. You ~~were~~ probably kept busy at each stop but the change alone is sometimes as much relief as complete rest. I would like to know so much the actual feelings of the different parts of the States towards the struggle here. We get bits of it by various means but realize that it is all colored by personal feelings and censorship. I wonder if the majority of the Americans are struck with the wrongness of the violent moves without really grasping the real significance of the outcome. Actually our homes, our families, our freedom, in fact our whole way of life can be invaded and crushed by an enemy thousands of miles away just as surely as if they made physical contact. The vast majority of people in the States have come to accept and expect the luxuries

of our modern way of living without having ever seriously considered the responsibility that must be accepted in proportion to its benefits lest the creator become the pawn of his creation. This implies specifically the maintenance of moral and spiritual balance, ^{the need of} which so often tends to be lost sight of in the exuberance of our other accomplishments. This is of course all embodied in the concept of true education, and by that, after victory in this war, I cannot help but feel that we will enter into an even greater period - one that justifies every effort and every sacrifice made at this time.

I have no patience with those who impede action so necessary to winning the war by clouding the issue with talks of "what is to be the policy after the war" and "how the world can be made a better world afterwards" etc. etc.. Such thoughts should come to us and actions towards this end - or at least plans in that direction - should be instituted, but not at the expense of action solely in the interest of immediate victory. There is already enough good in our world to fight for and we must win first before we can work on the hypothesis of improving it.

I did not really mean to launch into this lengthy record of my personal beliefs and feelings. The mere statement of them to you seems to help me and some day I hope to have the benefit of your discussions with me when we again meet.

With best wishes
Sincerely,

Bess Stewart