

16th October, 1959

Mr. Robert C. Bates,  
Secretary,  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.,  
30 Rockefeller Plaza,  
New York 20, N.Y.,  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Bates,

This letter is written to you, as Secretary of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, in the hope that the Trustees may consider the endowment of research in the Montreal Neurological Institute. To support such an application, we can only point to what the Institute has done in 25 years, point to its potential strength, and to the vast job that must be tackled before we can come to further understanding of the brain and the mind of man.

The original endowment of research in the Neurological Institute came from the Rockefeller Foundation (\$1,000,000) at the time of its opening in October, 1934. We recognize that this is not an argument for further giving from anyone. During the first 19 years the income of that first endowment, which amounted to as much as the capital, was spent exclusively on research and teaching. We are well on the way to spend the income a second time, and so it will be spent, over and over again, in future years. At the end of the first 19 years, November 1953, the Neurological Institute had been enlarged and its research was endowed for the second time by the gift of \$1,000,000 from Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McConnell of Montreal.

Alan Gregg, of the Rockefeller Foundation, spoke at what we called our second founding.

"If I were asked," he said, "to name a single grant that the Medical Sciences Division of the Foundation has

made since 1931 that I consider the ideal in purpose, in performance, in local response and in national and international influence, and in character of our relationships maintained from the very beginning, I would say without a moment's hesitation the grant to the Neurological Institute of McGill University."\*

The birth and the growth of the Institute from the original 50 beds to 136, and from one research laboratory to six was simple enough. We thought we saw the opportunity to serve mankind through greater knowledge of the human nervous system. The idea appealed to McGill University, to the citizens of Montreal and to the Provincial and City Governments. The Institute is half laboratory, half hospital. Some patients have been cured who would have had no hope otherwise. Some could only be comforted.

It is clear now how challenging the opportunity is. Men talk of outer space, but within the human brain is a microcosm no less vast than that of the universe, and far more important to man. God's purposes are written there as well as in the stars. The movement of electrical potentials through the billions of neurone units in the brain creates awareness and gives man the means of voluntary action. It is upon this organization that man's behaviour must somehow depend.

The problems that we face cannot be solved by lonely genius. Specialization within the framework of a well planned team alone can meet the challenge. We must study man himself using every scientific approach and yet, since it is man we study, we must not lose the physician's kindness. Compassion can grow stronger in the heart when shared by many, and zest for investigation too when one scientist knows that there are others, down the hall, working with him into the silence of the night.

In conclusion, the endowment of scientific research in the Montreal Neurological Institute should be doubled

\*Prospect and Retrospect in Neurology. Boston, Little, Brown and Co., 1955 (p.21).

Mr. Robert C. Bates

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now at the close of its first quarter century if it is to do the job it has started. We enclose a supplementary note and the last annual report. The published proceedings of the Second Foundation are being sent to you under separate cover.

You may think this letter of appeal an unusual one since it is more philosophical than it is practical. But we have assumed that the members of the Rockefeller family believe, as we do, that the search for ultimate truth, especially truth about man himself, gives man his best hope for salvation. The details of plans are to be found in the supplement.

Sincerely yours,

### Supplementary Note

The Montreal Neurological Institute belongs to McGill University and is controlled by the University through the Director and Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery and his senior associates in the Institute: 1) Professor of Experimental Neurology, Herbert Jasper, 2) Professor of Neurology, Francis McNaughton, 3) Professor of Neurosurgery, William Feindel, 4) Assistant Director of Hospitalization and Neurologist, Preston Robb, 5) Associate Professor of Experimental Neurology (Neurochemistry), K.A.C. Elliott.

The Institute is adjacent to, and closely integrated with, all the general departments of the Royal Victoria Hospital which is one of the two major teaching hospitals of McGill University. There are 136 beds for neurology and neurosurgery of all types in the Institute, supported by hospital income and "permanent" annual grants from Province and City. The scientific and the hospital budgets and income are kept separate by the University accounting department.

Support of research and teaching comes from income derived from permanent endowment, (approximately \$2,500,000) and a roughly equal amount from grants to special research projects. This amounts to a little over \$200,000 annually for scientific work.

Added income is needed to support the new laboratory departments in the face of rising costs, and to complete the geographical full time scheme for physician and surgeon scientists.

A. There are three undeveloped laboratory units:

- 1) Laboratory of Neuroanatomy which should have a full-time Chief.
- 2) Laboratory of Neuropathology. Neuropathology has in the past been divided into surgical and neurological laboratories, run by clinicians and by junior full-time men. This should have a full-time Chief and more adequate organization.
- 3) Laboratory of Degenerative Brain Diseases. This has been supported exclusively by project grants to multiple sclerosis and the Chief has been a clinician with no permanent full-time salary.

B. Other laboratories (Neurophysiology, Neurochemistry, Electroencephalography) need more adequate permanent establishment.

C. The "geographical full time" plan being introduced in the Institute provides clinicians with research interests and ability with a realistic basic salary and imposes a ceiling on income from patients' fees. Excess professional

fees above the ceiling are paid over to the Institute's research funds, held by McGill University, and used for support of research.