

(A)

Bridge

1931 Beginning

5/31/34

May 31, 1934. Review of Discussions of the Bridge and Fun-  
a) Notes re- Bridge. *ational Cooperation between*

*the Royal Victoria Hospital and the  
Montreal Neurological Institute - by  
Walter Penfield*

In regard to the building of the Neurological Institute it would seem to be of the utmost importance to connect this Institute closely with the Royal Victoria Hospital. For that reason, from the very beginning of the plans, it was expected that the Institute could be connected directly with the main corridor of the Hospital so that patients, food, staff and others could move quickly back and forth. This is especially necessary because the same staff will be looking after patients in the Hospital and in the Neurological Institute, the food for the patients in the Institute will be prepared in the Hospital and many activities will be common to both institutions.

To this end it was proposed that a bridge should be built from the Institute directly across to enter the passageway between the Ross Memorial Hospital and the Royal Victoria. Complete plans were drawn for this project and costs determined.

At a meeting in Sir Arthur Currie's office on Sept. 22/32 when Sir Arthur, Dr. Martin, Mr. Glassco, Mr. Chenoweth, Mr. MacDonald & I (PENFIELD) were present, Mr. Chenoweth proposed that the bridge should end at the end of the third floor of the Outpatient Department and that a corridor should then be constructed directly from it through the present Pediatrics Ward to the main corridor of the Hospital. This compromise was somewhat less desirable than the first proposal because of the long course through the Outpatient Clinic and the much greater distance from the Ross Memorial Pavilion. It was, however, agreed to abandon the proposed passage to the Ross corridor with the understanding that this direct passage could be made through the present Pediatrics Ward.

On October 6th 1932 Mr. Chenoweth then wrote to the Medical Board proposing the abolition of a Pediatrics Service in Ward N, proposing that other Hospital activities should be placed in this space and proposing that the corridor, above mentioned, be carried through from the bridge of the Neurological Institute directly to the main corridor of the Hospital.

On October 11th 1932 a memorandum was addressed to Mr. Chenoweth and approved by the Medical Board which ~~proposed~~ *opposed* the abolition of a Pediatrics Ward but without making any mention of the passing of the corridor through that floor. Money was appropriated by the University to construct the corridor through that floor from the bridge to the main corridor in the Hospital and the building of the Neurological Institute was begun in May 1933. Approximately six months later when Dr. Meakins inquired of Mr. Chenoweth when the corridor would be passed through the Pediatrics ward he was informed that no

such corridor would be constructed. Mr. Chenoweth had evidently decided that inasmuch as a Pediatric Service was not to be given up there should be no such corridor.

On May 28th 1934 Mr. Chenoweth's decision was brought to my attention quite inadvertently. The bridge is now built and attached to the Outpatient Department, but to reach the main hospital corridor from the bridge it is now necessary to go down in the Outpatient Elevator to the Main Assembly Hall of the Outpatients, pass through this to the Hospital Elevator and up to the main corridor. Both of these elevators are at present in operation only a portion of the time. Such a connection would correspond with the removal of the Neurological Institute at least one hundred yards or more farther away from the Hospital. With such an arrangement there could be no justification for building the bridge at that point or at that level.