

RAILWAY RESEARCH SERVICE,

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Personal

Ref. 161/10/71

6th April, 1934.

Dear Wilder,

Answering your letter of March 26th, I had no idea that Father had been asked to open the Montreal Neurological Institute, and as a matter of fact it would be quite impossible for him to cross the Atlantic in his present state of health. He has by no means recovered the full use of his left arm, and although he is going back to Oxford to-morrow, between ourselves and not for publication as yet, I think you may like to know that it will be definitely his last term at Oxford. The house is for sale and Father will retire during the summer to Ipswich. The last six months have been a constant worry for Margarete and myself, but his condition is considerably improved and he is himself more cheerful.

Very considerable opposition to his retirement has been aroused in many circles, but I personally wish he had retired before his illness because I think it is so much better to retire at one's best rather than after passing that point.

I was very relieved to learn that he had not accepted your invitation, though doubtless he would have loved to open the new building.

As to the other matter you raise, Father, as you know, is very reticent about his life in general, but I hope to be able to send you enough material to make the story that Dr. Elvidge is preparing of considerable interest. Probably Father will never forgive me for doing so, but one has to take these risks, and I shall endeavour to steer a middle course. As to the scientific side, I am, of course, not in a position to judge, but as you desire the personal side I will endeavour next week to send you something and give you what assistance I can.

In the meanwhile, best wishes to yourself and Helen, in which I know Margarete will wish to join,

Ever yours sincerely,

Dr. Wilder Penfield,
Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery,
McGill University, Montreal, Que.

C. E. R. Sherrington