

July 10th, 1944

Dr. F. Cyril James,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University.

Dear Dr. James:

In answer to your letter of July 5th, an accurate estimate of the added costs of maintenance, and also an accurate estimate of the cost of construction, cannot yet be given, but we are working as hard as possible on the problem.

Fetherstonhaugh has given you tentative figures on the basis of a total bed capacity of 102. That is according to my original outline, under which heading the beds may be listed as on the enclosed sheet, marked July 6th, namely 62 ward beds, 22 semi-private, 18 private. The first plans have been drawn up on that basis and I have gone over them with the staff. It becomes evident at once that this does not solve the problem. At the present time we are averaging as follows: 70 public beds, 12 semi-private, and 9 private, or a total of 91. This, of course, is by means of what might be called "corridor occupancy". It will be necessary to expand the number of beds to between 130 and 150, which would just about accommodate the number of patients which we have now clamouring at our doors.

From the point of view of costs, I have asked Dr. Kershman to make an analysis of the estimates of annual expenditure and revenue. This he has done rather hurriedly. I am sending it along, but we would both ask you to accept it as a tentative analysis. It will be altered as the size of the building alters. He points out that at the present time the finances are being handled on the basis of hospitalization activity supporting itself and building maintenance being paid for as a deficit. Therefore the amount of additional revenue for the annual expense will just about equal the cost of building maintenance, figuring the building maintenance much as it is done for the main building. We will be glad to discuss this whole problem with Dr. Stephens but as yet have not done so.

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I have received no information from Ottawa whatever at any time, excepting by word of mouth. Nevertheless, we received a telegram yesterday informing us that four patients would be sent to the "Montreal Neurosurgical and Orthopaedic Unit". These patients were proceeding directly from overseas.

Yours sincerely,

WGP/AD
Encl.