

542/5/17

RICHARD C. GILL

P. O. Box 281,
Palo Alto, California.

July 11, 1945.

Dr. Harold R. Griffith,
3445 Northcliffe Avenue,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Dr. Griffith:

I have recently become deeply entangled with a bit of statistical investigation which, at the moment, is presenting some baffling aspects. Consequently, I wondered if I could appeal to you for some data aid on the following problem.....provided, of course, that you might possibly have the information so easily at hand that a reply to the queries would involve no particular effort for you. Otherwise, please entirely disregard the queries if they should demand more than merely a routine reply. I appreciate the tremendous pressures brought to bear on your time and energies these "parlous" days, and I'm very sincere in asking that you don't bother with the queries if you don't happen to have the data immediately at hand.

I might explain that — as an adjunct to a research project in which I am currently engaged — it has become necessary for me to amass bases for the eventual correlation of national statistics on the incidence of death, and also functional impairments, directly traceable to anesthetic agents.

I have previously endeavored to acquire this information through various Federal agencies, insurance statisticians, the A.M.A., and other usual media. I learned, however, that despite the large amount of individual publications on anesthetic risks, mortality, and complications, surprisingly enough, there has as yet been no general correlation of these important statistics which form an interesting field for data research. I wonder, therefore, if you have any statistics available (or your hospital) covering the incidence of:

1. Post-operative pneumonias resulting directly from the administration of any anesthetic agent.

Dr. Griffith,
7/11/45.

- 2 -

2. The percentage of fatalities occurring specifically in these pneumonias.

3. The incidence of post-operative fatalities of any cause owing to the administration of an anesthetic agent.

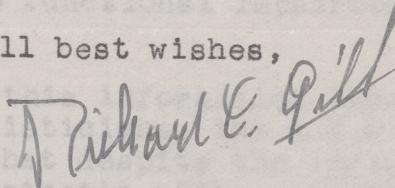
4. The incidence of permanent, functional pathology of whatever kind (renal, cardiac, pulmonary, etc.) directly owing to the administration of an anesthetic agent.

5. The total U. S. (and/or Canadian) annual anesthetic administrations in hospitals.

Once more, let me assure you of my entire unwillingness to have you bother in the least with the queries if they amount to anything more than data you might have automatically available.

Incidentally, did you happen to see the last Squibb Memoranda? Their implication that even primitive curares are made from Chondodendron tomentosum reminded me of our recent correspondence apropos of the subject. It seems odd that they would make such a ludicrous error, especially after they had retracted their original statement about Chondodendron tomentosum in one of their recent booklets about curare.

All best wishes,



Richard C. Gill

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