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Montreal, 25th April, 1945.

Mr. Richard C. Gill,  
P.O. Box 281,  
Palo Alto, Cal.

Dear Mr. Gill:

I am very sorry to know that I have unwittingly caused you any embarrassment or made statements which might jeopardize your future work with curare. I see that I should have stuck more closely to my clinical experimentation and not made rash statements regarding the botanical and pharmacological aspects of the drug.

My statement regarding the plant *Chondodendron tomentosum* was copied from the paper of Dr. Stuart Cullen, which was published in *Anesthesiology*, Vol. 5:166, 1944. I, of course, could know nothing more about the botanical sources of the drug than I have been told by the Squibb Company and by your own writings. However, last June at the A.M.A. meeting in Chicago, in the presence of Dr. Bennett of Nebraska and Dr. Cullen of Iowa, I asked Dr. Church of Squibb's about the use of *Chondodendron tomentosum*. He stated that this was the botanical source of the Intocostrin then being produced and told us that the name "Intocostrin" had been invented from the first letters of "intravenous tomentosum *Chondodendron*." He said that this particular plant had proved to be the most efficient for the production of clinically adequate curare since it seemed to have a selective action, affecting first the muscles of the throat and neck, and the muscles of the diaphragm last.

When I was in New York last week I went to see Dr. Newcomer. Without mentioning your name, I asked him casually whether Intocostrin was

still being made from Chondodendron tomentosum and he said that that was so.

In view of these statements, I do not see how I can ask the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association Journal to print a correction of the statements already published, unless I can have your permission to put the whole matter before Squibb's and get all the facts clearly on the table. May I also consult with Dr. Cullen and Dr. Bennett regarding this matter? Until I hear from you again I shall, of course, consider your communications as confidential, and will request that you so consider my letters to you.

May I repeat that I am extremely sorry to be the cause of any embarrassment to you. My whole aim has always been to see that you received proper credit for the work you have done in making curare available to the medical profession.

Sincerely yours,

Harold R. Griffith, M.D.