

Lettre to J. MacGee.

C O P Y.

Sorry for an hour this day; did not cough for
an hour when I wrote.

13 Norham Gardens,
October 28th, 1919.

Dear Mac:-

A joint letter, same to Thayer and Fatcher, to save me time. I daresay you will have heard rumours of my illness - here is the story.

I got back from Jersey in fine form, having regained my pre-war weight - 154 lbs, and feeling unusually fit. Following the presentation (July 12th), I had a sharp attack of bronchitis, slight fever, cough, etc., but no physical signs, and it all cleared before August 1st.

On September 23rd I went to Glasgow to see one of these remarkable erythema cases (all sorts of skin lesions and three months on and off consolidation of both lower lobes). I went on to Edinboro to see Gulland, and returning, got held up at Newcastle by the strike. A friend got a motor, but it took me part of two days to get through. I was well wrapped up and the weather was fine, but I must have taken cold. I stayed in bed on the 29th and 30th with ordinary cold in the head, and seemed all right though a bit husky on 1st, 2nd and 3rd. On the 4th I began to cough and felt feverish. Then for ten days, until about the 15th, fever to 102.5 - 103°, not infrequent slight sweats and cough of three types - (1) short, dry pairs, almost incessant on several days; (2) a series leading up to the expectoration of a tenacious mucus, never blood-tinged; and (3) paroxysms of maximum intensity, regular "Tussis convulsiva," with the spasm but no whoop. Three or four of the last daily, and very exhausting. Nothing gave the slightest relief except codein and morphia. No fever since the 16th, but the cough persists and an occasional paroxysm. No. 3 pneumococcus and M. catarrhalis the organisms. Practically no physical signs - a little impairment of resonance at bases, but no rales or tubular breathing,

I am still in bed - no fever, but an occasional paroxysm - and the tightness and short coughs on any effort.

The attack resembles a little the one I had in Baltimore, but more severe, and the convulsive paroxysms knocked me out badly. I am mending now and should be up within a week. The uselessness of all measures but opium has been the outstanding therapeutic feature.

Sincerely yours,

W. O.