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S. BURT WOLBACH, M. D.  
PATHOLOGIST

Dr. Simon Flexner,  
Rockefeller Institute, New York City.

August 23, 1922

Dear Simon:

Please let me know, below, to save trouble, who were the original five called together at the Arlington Hotel in Washington in May 1901 to consider the question of the establishment of an Institution to Promote Research in Medicine. I presume that it must have been at the time of the meeting of the 'American Physicians', for all of the seven on the final Board - Welch, Prudden, Herter, Smith, Holt, Biggs and yourself - were members of the Association. It is possible of course that all seven had been picked out and that two of you may have been absent. It strikes me as peculiar that Mr. Gates and John D. did not ask Osler, in view of the Gates letters to W.O. regarding the relation of the Text-book to the Institute. Perhaps they did. I didn't mean to imply that he would have been a desirable addition, I merely mean that he would have been a natural choice; but please answer my specific question as you can. You were at the <sup>own</sup> meeting, and with Barker and Novy gave an account of your San Francisco plague observations.

Always yours, *Harvey Cushing*

Dear Harvey,

I am answering your question in pencil to save time & just before I leave Chicago for N. Y. Th. Smith & I were added to the Bd. of Sc. Dir. of the R. I. last - hence the original five were: Welch, Prudden, Holt, Herter & Biggs. I do not suppose Mr. Gates or Mr. Rockefeller had anything directly to do with the choice of the Board. The N. Y. members - Holt, Herter, Prudden & Biggs - were being consulted & added Welch naturally & then the five added next Smith & finally myself. That is as far as I can penetrate into the matter. With love, answer *Simon Flexner*

X yes, but I was not yet invited to join the Board hence I was not present.