

Phipps Psychiatric Clinic Correspondence. (To Dr. Welch
(Typewritten). from Mr. Phipps)

June 12, 1908.

Dear Doctor Welch:

I understand that there is urgent need in this country in connection with university medical schools and their hospitals for institutions similar to those known as psychiatric clinics, to provide for the better care of patients suffering from mental disease, especially in its earlier and often curable stage, under conditions similar to those of a general hospital.

Since patients may enter such an institution without the formality of commitment, and without the stigma which is popularly thought to pertain to admission to an asylum for the insane, experience has demonstrated that many may be rescued from permanent insanity by early treatment in an institution of this character.

A psychiatric clinic, as thus understood, should also afford much needed opportunities for the instruction of medical students and physicians in this important field of medicine, and should be equipped with laboratories for the scientific investigation of the nature, cure and prevention of mental diseases.

It gives me pleasure to offer to the Johns Hopkins Hospital the funds necessary for the erection and equipment of a psychiatric hospital on its grounds, to be administered as part of that hospital, in accordance with the plans and estimates which you have submitted; the institution to provide for about sixty patients, and to contain the necessary laboratories and other facilities, and furthermore to offer to the Johns Hopkins University additional funds for the establishment of a professorship of psychiatry, and the assistantships thereto, the professor to be also the director of the psychiatric hospital.

I have arranged to provide for the maintenance of the hospital and of the professorship for a period of ten years from the time of the opening of the hospital.

It is my desire that in the admission of patients to the hospital preference should be given to applicants from Baltimore, and from those cities with which my life and work have been so closely associated, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York.

It is my hope and expectation that the psychiatric clinic thus founded may serve as an example of what such institutions should be, and prove to be a stimulus to the establishment of similar hospitals and professorships elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Henry Phipps.