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Note: the date of this letter is given as July (and probably was July) in the copy inserted above ~~under~~ at that date

COPY

OF A CIRCULAR LETTER TO FRIENDS IN MONTREAL.

L.W.F.

CUSA 17/129.125 1/2

13 Norham Gardens
Oxford, England.
August 29, 1919.

(2)

To the Dean of the Medical Faculty,
McGill College.

Dear General Birkett,

The situation is this - McGill simply cannot afford to fall behind other first-class schools in the development of modern clinics in Medicine and Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. New conditions have arisen, to meet which it is essential to have sympathetic and active co-operation of of University and Hospitals.

Medically, Montreal occupies a unique position - a School with a record of splendid work, and two of the best equipped hospitals on the Continent; but a new departure is needed which will involve change of heart as to methods, etc., and a realization of the full responsibility of the hospitals in this matter. It is their job quite as much as that of the University; and the clinics should be under the control of both bodies jointly.

As to details:

(1) The establishment of two Clinical Boards, one of the M.G.H., the other of the R.V.H., to control all arrangements relating to the hospital side of the University work. The Principal, the President of each hospital, with two collegiate and two hospital representatives to form each Board, which would be separate and independent and would control the appointments of the Heads of the Clinics.

(2) The Clinics: (a) 80-100 beds in each hospital for each Medical and Surgical clinic. (b) An out-patient department associated with each. (c) Ample clinical laboratory facilities. (d) Specific budgets for each clinic.

(3) Personnel. (a) Professor in charge of each clinic, appointed by the

Clinical Board or by an ad hoc Committee named by them for this purpose. A whole-time man, or if thought wiser, largely so. Salary \$10,000. paid partly by the University and partly by the Hospital. (b) Assistants, whole and part time. named by the Professor and appointed by the Clinical Boards, with salaries ranging from \$3000. to \$1000.

(4) Teaching. The complete control of the teaching of Medicine and Surgery would be in the hands of the two Professors in each subject. Others would receive clinical professorship and help in the ward and other teaching.

(5) The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Clinics could be organized on similar lines in connection with the hospitals and the University Maternity.

(6) Throw the appointments open to the best men available,

Three things are necessary to carry out such a scheme:-

(a) Realization on the part of all concerned that we are at the parting of the ways and that a new deal is a necessity.

(b) A self-denying ordinance on the part of men at present in charge, and

(c) Money - for which an appeal should be made to the public.

Possibly the Rockefeller Board might help, but this is a citizen's affair which should appeal to all who are anxious to see Montreal keep in first rank as a medical centre.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Wm. OSLER.

President of R.V. Hospital answered Osler that finances did not permit of any action at present.