

Sir Arthur's letter May 12 1924

February 14th, 1924.

J. C. Meakins, Esq., M.D.  
The University of Edinburgh,  
EDINBURGH, Scotland.

My dear Meakins,

Sir Arthur Currie, in consultation with Mr. Beatty the Chancellor, has decided on the policy of a full-time Medical Clinic for McGill University at the Royal Victoria Hospital if funds for the same can be obtained; and they have been in conference with Dr. Pearce of the Rockefeller Foundation concerning this matter, hoping that they may be able to get the necessary support from the Foundation to carry out this plan.

We are anxious to aim at something better than has hitherto existed in McGill. The amalgamation of the two hospitals, if it occurs in the near future, will probably be of an administrative nature, and it is hoped, and indeed, Mr. Beatty has stated that should a joint administration of the two hospitals be organized, the appointments to clinical teaching positions would naturally be handed over to the control of McGill University. This, of course, is a great step in advance.

In order to proceed along proper lines, McGill wants, first of all, to establish the principle of the Medical Clinic, i.e., along what lines it should be organized and the cost thereof. I am appending a statement of our proposed plans, and would like very much to get your opinion as regards staff, salaries, equipment and general budget. I am also attaching a statement of our existing salaries, both in the University and in the hospital, and included therein, you will find the cost to hospital of the supplies, etc., in the little Metabolism Ward which we have already. In addition to that, there is a statement, as we have conceived it, of the amount necessary for salaries in a newly-organized Medical Clinic.

The Royal Victoria Hospital proposes to make alterations in what was formerly Ward K., and the rooms behind it, to establish one large clinical laboratory. This will give a floor space of 225' x 51', to be allotted to the laboratory service and to cases requiring special study, as well as for all rooms that are implied in the terms of a "modern clinic" and "metabolism laboratory".

This, of course, would involve a considerable initial