



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

December 22nd, 1932.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal - McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Re Museum of the History of Medicine.

In reply to your note appended to Dr. Simpson's letter conveying a Resolution of the Faculty on the subject of a Director of the Museum of the History of Medicine, I may say that in 1925, when there was a reapportioning of the material in the Medical Museum, a considerable amount of the pathological material went to the Pathological Institute and Hospitals, and it was decided by the Faculty to divide the material that remained in the Central Museum into four sections:

1. The historical collection.
2. The collection of material which had formed the basis of research.
3. The War museum collection.
4. The pathological material to be used in clinical teaching.

Dr. Abbott's status then was clearly defined as Curator of the Central Museum.

As time went on it became more obvious that the only collection among these four, which had any possibility of development, was that of the History of Medicine. (The War Museum remained in statu quo, the clinical pathological teaching material was not being increased because most of the pathological instruction was being given at the Hospital, and the research material was but a sub-division of the historical).

In order to extend the usefulness of the historical collection, you will recall a circular (enclosure) was sent out in March, 1932, to graduates and friends of the University, asking for further contributions in order that much material that might otherwise have been thrown away could be concentrated and collected in our own Museum. As a result, a great deal of valuable material has been gathered together.