

I had a most illuminating talk with Sir Walter Fletcher, in his office, and subsequently asked him and Dale to meet me here, in the hotel. I invited Chipman to be present, and between us we thrashed the whole matter out. As a result, I sent you the following cable to-day. (I withdrew my cable from Edinburgh before it went off, as I wanted to see Fletcher first.) The cable is as follows:-

"Saw Crewe and Weisner. Both most friendly and sympathetic about patent in America. Also saw Fletcher, who much prefers McGill adhere to original idea of accepting royalty without patent and after giving Lily monopoly and time to start in America to give formula then to Council with free hand. Writing. No hurry about action. (Signed) Martin."

I will now enlarge on the details of this cable. Both Fletcher and Dale deplored the issuance of patents by Universities as a bad principle for academic institutions, and as a very bad example for the future. They accepted the patent of insulin only because at that time there were no laws in Great Britain enabling them to standardise the products legally. Since then a law has been enacted here, in Great Britain, which makes it unnecessary for any University to protect themselves by patents in matters of this kind.

If McGill can dispense with the patents in Canada and the United States, and arrange with Lily in the United States and McKenna in Canada by contract to make and sell the product in those countries, only giving us a royalty on the proceeds, it would receive the approval of the Medical Research Council. Certainly it will be a relief to them to know that McGill will stand on a higher plane than if they were to arrange for the sale of the product through any patent. They are therefore agreeable to allowing Lily and McKenna to get a fair start of, say, three months, or whatever time is necessary in fairness to them, and we have suggested to them that Collip might send his formula to the Medical Research Council for their safe keeping and to be used for further research and sale by them at such time as Collip is willing to release it to Great Britain.

I understand that Collip has written to Sir Walter Fletcher, asking if Burroughs & Wellcome would be a suitable firm to entrust the formula to. This, of course, goes without