

143

Feb. 21st 192244 HERIOT ROW,
EDINBURGH.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

Thank you for your letter of
Jan. 21st ult., with enclosure of correspondence
with the Medical Board, Montreal General Hospital.

The question of my coming to Montreal
being settled, it is not worth while my entering
into detail into my interpretation of what was
offered to me ~~in~~ in London by yourself & by the
Dean of Faculty of Medicine. Only let me say
that I thought the offer was that of senior teacher
in pediatrics in McGill University, combined
with a ward in Montreal General Hospital;
& that my subsequent conversations with you
in Montreal confirmed that impression.

44 HERIOT ROW
EDINBURGH

As to the salary of 2000 dollars for two years,
that was mentioned by me in conversation with
you at our last interview. But in a later
letter to the Dean of Faculty of Medicine (Sept. 17th)
I deliberately left the amount of salary indefinite,
stipulating "that for at least two years the
financial risk --- should be covered to
an adequate extent."

I feel therefore that these negotiations,
involving me in considerable trouble & expense,
have been very abruptly closed on your side;
also that your decision, taken in the last
week of October, might have been communicated
to me much earlier than it was:

Nevertheless, I do not regret my visit, which
was fruitless in one respect.

I greatly enjoyed my visit to the medical
school, & have come back with a great admiration
for Mc Gill University & its hospitals: and I
consider it an honour to have ^{been} offered a position
on its teaching staff. I shall never forget the
hospitality I received from members of the
staff of Montreal General Hospital. And lastly
I wish very cordially to thank you for the
courtesy & kindness you showed me at our
various meetings.

I remain,

Yours faithfully

Charles McNeil

143

Pediatrics July

copy

January
Twenty-first
1922.

Dr. Charles McNeil,
44 Heriot Row,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

Dear Dr. McNeil:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of January 3rd.

I think that I can answer it best
by forwarding to you a copy of a letter which I
received from Dr. Eberts, Secretary of the Medical
Board of the Montreal General Hospital, and copies
of my replies thereto. The second paragraph of
your letter of January 3rd to me reads as follows:
"It would appear from his letter that the Faculty
of Medicine of McGill University is willing to
offer me the post of Pediatrician to Montreal
General Hospital, but without professorial status in
the University". You say you cannot understand
this. Neither can I, and I wrote on the 17th to
Dr. Campbell giving him that extract and saying
that before I answered your letter I would like to
know if you had not misinterpreted his. In reply
Dr. Campbell states as follows:

"The sentence you quote from his
letter 'It would appear from his letter that the
Faculty of Medicine of McGill University are willing
to offer me the post of Pediatrician to Montreal
General Hospital but without professorial status in
the University' is a misunderstanding of my communi-
cation to him to this extent, that he may have
thought from my letter that the Faculty of Medicine
had definitely offered the hospital the alternative
of appointing him with less than professorial rank.
If so, he misunderstood my letter entirely as regards
that point".

Dr. Charles McWeil - 2 -

I think it well to give you my interpretation of your relations with the hospital and with the Medical School of McGill. Dr. Blackader's resignation caused a vacancy on the staff of the Montreal General Hospital - he holding the position of Pediatrician. It also caused a vacancy on the staff of the McGill Medical School, as he was Professor of Pediatrics. A Committee of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital approached me last spring and asked me what professorial rank the University would give to a man who might be selected to fill the vacancy on the Hospital staff. I told them that I could not make a definite answer to their question, and I stated that the rank given to whoever was appointed would be consonant with his teaching experience, his standing in the medical profession, his scholarly productiveness and his ability as a Pediatrician.

I heard nothing more until Dr. Birkett told me in London about you and I suggested to ask you to come and see us. At our interview in London it was clearly stated to you that you would have to depend on your private practice for the greater part of your income, and I suggested that such being the case, it would be highly advisable in your own interests that you come to Montreal and look over the ground. You having told me that you knew Dr. John Tait, I suggested that you write to him asking what his advice would be. I had no doubt but what the Hospital would arrange beds for you, but I have no recollection of at any time stating definitely to you what your professorial rank would be. I can only give you the assurance that your rank would be in harmony with the conditions outlined above.

Dr. Charles McNeil - 3 -

You came to Montreal, impressed those with whom you came in contact, but there was one stumbling block, and that was your demand for a salary of \$2,000 a year. Let me say, frankly, that I do not think such a demand at all unreasonable on your part; yet the amount was so much in excess of what we are paying to any of our part-time Professors - many of whom are very eminent in their profession and have been heads of their departments for many, many years - that I could not recommend it to the Medical Faculty or to the Board of Governors. It would have caused a great deal of dissatisfaction and interfered greatly with your prospects of making a success of your department. Your name, therefore, was never submitted to the Medical Faculty nor to the Board of Governors.

This does not imply any reflection on your professional or teaching qualifications, or on your suitability for the vacant position. There are many members of the Medical profession in Montreal and teachers at McGill who are sorry that arrangements with you were not consummated.

I regret that nothing has yet come of your visit to Montreal, but in the circumstances surrounding the appointment, I cannot see how you could have made up your mind concerning the position unless you came here and looked into the situation for yourself.

My letter to Dr. Eberts discloses my own opinion concerning you and I conclude by wishing you every success.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

DR. G. GORDON CAMPBELL

123 CRESCENT STREET

MONTREAL, January 19, 1922.

*copy
retrahes*

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

In reply to your letter of the seventeenth inst. I am sorry to say I have no copy of the letter I wrote to Dr McNeil of Edinburgh, as my letter was written in answer to one I had received from him on his return to Edinburgh, and not in my official capacity as Chairman of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital.

As far as I can remember he correctly interpreted my letter to him. The impression I received, and again I am writing from memory as I have not the hospital records in my office, was that in your reply to the communication from our Medical Board putting Dr McNeil's name in nomination for consideration by the Committee of Seven, you stated that you considered him in every way a desirable man for the hospital appointment, but that because of his demand for an extra salary of a stated amount, you could not consider favourably his application for the position. Thus, to my understanding, you still left open the possibility of our nominating him for Pediatrician to the hospital but not with any definite University status, and in writing to Dr McNeil I told him that the Medical Board would not ask him to accept anything less than he had been offered in London.

The sentence you quote from his letter - "It would appear from his letter that the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University are willing to offer me the post of Pediatrician to the Montreal General Hospital but without professorial status in the University" is a misunderstanding of my communication to him to this extent, that he may have thought from my letter that the Faculty of Medicine had definitely offered the hospital the alternative of appointing him with less than professorial rank. If so he misunderstood my letter entirely as regards that point.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. Gordon Campbell

Copy Redman

January
Seventeenth
1922.

Dr. G. Gordon Campbell,
123 Crescent Street,
Montreal.

Dear Dr. Campbell:-

I am to-day in receipt of a letter from Dr. Charles McNeil of Edinburgh, in which he writes partly as follows:-

' I received a few days ago a letter from Dr. G. Gordon Campbell of Montreal General Hospital which has caused me serious concern. It would appear from his letter that the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University are willing to offer me the post of Pediatrician to Montreal General Hospital, but without professorial status in the University.'

Before I send my answer to Dr. McNeil I would like very much if you would inform me if Dr. McNeil has correctly interpreted your letter. I am quite sure there is a misunderstanding somewhere.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

copy

Reddick's file

EXTRACT of letter from Dr. Charles McNeil to Dr. G. Gordon Campbell :

December 29th, 1921.
44 Heriot Row,
Edinburgh.

Dear Dr. Campbell:-

Many thanks for your letter of December 10th received two days ago. It gave me a shock and has left me mystified and angry and sore.

I have heard not a word, either from the Principal or Dr. Birkett, since my departure on September 16th. I can only guess at what has happened; that the offer of the University position made to me in writing by Dr. Birkett, and confirmed by several interviews with the Principal, was not valid, and has been cancelled by the Faculty of Medicine. Yet, on the strength of that offer, I have taken a long and expensive journey and have told all my friends here of the possibility of my going to Montreal and of the position offered to me. I am waiting till next mail before writing to Sir Arthur Currie, in the hope that by that time I may have received a letter from him.

I certainly looked upon Dr. Birkett and the Principal as plenipotentiaries. Had I any suspicion that the Faculty of Medicine might not confirm their offer, I would not have gone to London, much less crossed the Atlantic to Montreal."

(Sgd.) CHARLES McNEIL.

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*COPY
Redeemed
7/6*

October
Thirty-first
1921.

Dr. E. M. Eberts,
Secretary, Medical Board,
Montreal General Hospital,
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

With further reference to our
correspondence of the 6th and 7th of October,
I beg to advise you that the Committee of
Seven met last Thursday afternoon in my office.

I brought before them your letter
and they are of the opinion that Dr. Charles
McNeil of Edinburgh, by virtue of his teaching
experience, his standing in the Medical profession,
his scholarly productiveness and his ability as
a Pediatrician, was a fit and proper person to
be appointed to the staff of the Montreal General
Hospital and to the teaching staff of McGill
University.

I think I should inform you of my
conversation with Dr. McNeil at the last meeting
we had just before he left Montreal. He expressed
to me the good impressions he had received of
Montreal and of the Medical situation here. He
stated that he would like to come and join the
staff of McGill University and the Montreal General
Hospital, but that there were certain financial
assurances which he would require before he would
feel justified in taking such a step. He asked me

Dr. E. M. Eberts - 2 -

if the University would guarantee him for two years a salary of \$2,000. per annum, leaving any future salary to be adjusted. I am not prepared to recommend to the Board of Governors that Dr. McNeil be so treated. It would mean that he would be receiving a salary far in excess of that paid to any other teacher in Medicine who was also practising his profession. Were Dr. McNeil to receive the salary which he demands, I believe, that many other teachers in Medicine, who are just as eminent and skilled in their profession as he is, would consider that they were being unfairly treated by the University.

I was much impressed with Dr. McNeil's personality. I believe he would prove an earnest, sincere and capable member of the staff and one with whom all others could work in perfect harmony, and I regret that the financial considerations involved are such that we are not likely to be able to induce him to leave Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

143

copy

*File
Residence
Prof in McGill*

August
Thirtieth
1922.

Colonel Herbert Molson,
Montreal General Hospital,
Montreal.

My dear Herbert:-

I have not forgotten the matter of the
Pediatician for the Montreal General Hospital and for
McGill University, but I have not been able to deal with
it, owing to this being holiday time and the impossi-
bility of getting a Faculty meeting.

You may say that I might have acted
without a Faculty meeting, but for the sake of peace and
harmony and in the light of past experiences, I want
to have the Faculty's endorsement to whatever I recommend
to the Board of Governors. My going away with the Board
of Trade further delays matters, but I assure you I shall
take it up immediately on my return. My personal hope
is that whoever becomes the head of Pediatrics at McGill
will also be on the staff of the Montreal General Hospital.

Yours faithfully,

copy *his* *Rechnings*
Programme *in 1920*

Dear Sir:-

As the Medical Board intend to bring before the Board of Management in the near future the question of reimbursing Dr. McWeil for the expenses incurred on his visit to Montreal in connection with his proposed appointment as Pediatrician to the Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at McGill University, it was considered advisable by the Board to put you in possession of the negotiations which preceded his visit.

(Sgd.) G. GORDON CAMPBELL.

In February 1920, the position of Pediatrician to the Montreal General Hospital became vacant. At the next meeting of the Medical Board of the Hospital, a Committee consisting of the attending physicians of the Hospital and the Chairman of the Board, was appointed to make enquiries and endeavour to learn what man, who had had the necessary training in Pediatrics, might be available for the vacancy.

With this object in view, letters were sent to friends of the Hospital staff in Baltimore, and Boston and other medical centres, asking their advice as to possible candidates for the position, and an advertisement announcing the vacancy and asking for applications from those desirous of filling the position was inserted in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, and the Journal of the American Medical Association. The replies received to this advertisement were considered by the Board, but it was felt that none of them measured up in professional standing and experience to the standard required by the hospital. At the same time it was pointed out to the Committee by personal friends in the medical centres above mentioned that the Hospital could not hope to get a Pediatrician of any standing to accept such a position unless it carried with it an appointment on the teaching staff of the University.

At a subsequent meeting of the Medical Board of the Hospital the nominating committee was authorized to add to its number the Principal of the University and a deputation was appointed, consisting of Drs. Finley, Lafleur and the Chairman, to interview the Principal and ask for his collaboration. At an interview accorded to them this deputation recounted the steps already taken in the matter and the difficulty of obtaining a suitable man unless they were authorized to state what

position on the teaching staff the Pediatrician to the General Hospital would be given. The Principal authorized the deputation to state that an Assistant Professorship in Pediatrics would be given the man selected by the Board for the Hospital, provided he (the Principal) was given an opportunity of meeting the candidate and approved of him. When asked what steps he would advise in the way of obtaining the best possible man, the Principal asked the General Hospital Committee to go ahead and select a man and then give him an opportunity of judging him personally. Shortly after this, Dr. Blackader, Professor of Pediatrics, sent in his resignation, leaving the Chair vacant.

While the Principal was absent in Great Britain the Committee learned through Dr. Meakins of Edinburgh of a possible candidate in the person of Dr. Charles McNeil of Edinburgh, and on looking into his qualifications the Medical Board unanimously decided that, so far as they could judge, he was eminently fitted for the position, both from the Hospital and the University standpoint, and he was selected for nomination.

A cable was then sent to the Dean of the Medical Faculty, who happened to be in Great Britain, stating that

in order that the latter might have the opportunity he had demanded of approving or disapproving the choice of the Board.

The meeting was arranged and the position was offered to Dr. McNeil, but he was advised by the Dean before accepting it to come to Montreal and look over the ground. This he did and while here made it conditional on his appointment that he be given charge of the teaching of Pediatrics in all the Hospitals connected with the University, and that he receive \$1,000. extra in salary for two years until he was able to establish himself in ~~the~~ practice in Montreal, as he had not sufficient private means to enable him to live on the salary of \$1,000. received from the Chair of Pediatrics.

The Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital then nominated Dr. McNeil for the position of Pediatrician to the Hospital, and on the nomination going before the Committee of Seven, for confirmation, the Principal refused to accept him for the University position because of the demand for an extra \$1,000. a year for two years.

CABLE TO DR. BIRKETT, July 13th, 1921.

"Charles McNeil, 44 Heriot Row, Edinburgh
"considering post Pediatrician General
"Hospital. Our Board favour his appoint-
"ment but would beg that you arrange for
"interview with yourself and Principal
"Currie in hope that latter will, with
"your approval, offer McNeil Chair Pediatrics
"McGill. Have cabled McNeil that such
"interview pending."

(Sgd.) EBERTS

LETTER:

August 1, 1921.
44 Heriot Row,
Edinburgh.

Dear Professor Birkett:-

I write with reference to my conversation last Thursday with General Sir Arthur Currie and yourself, as to my coming to Montreal as Professor of Pediatrics in McGill University with charge of same Department in Montreal General Hospital.

It is too big a decision for me to make without further careful examination, and the best thing I can do is to take your advice and pay a short visit to Montreal. I would then be able to cable my answer on my return home and after consultation with my friends.

I shall be glad to hear if you approve of this course. If so, I shall try and get a passage early in September as I require to be back for the commencement of the Autumn session early in October.

I wish to thank Sir Arthur Currie and you for the very kind way you received me in London.

I am, yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) CHARLES McNEIL.

Monday

October
Seventh
1921.

Dr. E. M. Eberts,
Secretary, Medical Board,
Montreal General Hospital,
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th of October containing the terms of a resolution which was carried at the last meeting of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital.

I shall take the necessary steps and shall inform you in sufficient time for you to be able to report at your next meeting, on November 1st.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
HOSPITAL
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

After Reunion

THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

20 DORCHESTER STREET, EAST

copy
Redeemer
Montreal 6th October 1921

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal, McGill University,
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir Arthur,

At the meeting of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital held on the 4th inst., the following resolution was carried and I am instructed to forward same to you for presentation to and consideration by the University Committee of Seven:-

Resolved -

"That the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital desires to bring the name of Dr. Charles McNeil of Edinburgh before the "Committee of Seven" with the view of his appointment as Pediatrician to the Montreal General Hospital".

The next regular monthly meeting of the Medical Board will be held on November 1st. and I should like to submit the recommendation of your Committee to the Board on that date.

Yours sincerely,

SECRETARY, MEDICAL BOARD.

Extract from "THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY"

1921, Edition.

McNeil, Charles 44 Heriot Row, Edinburgh, (Tel. Central 1938)

M.A. Edinburgh, 1901;

M.D. " 1908;

M.B., Ch.B. (1st Class honours) 1905;

F.R.C.P., Ed. 1913; M.R.C.P. Ed. 1910.

(Univ. Ed.)

Extra Physician, Roy. Edin. Hosp. Sick Children

Mem. Assoc. Physicians Gr. Britain & Ireland

" Edin. Med. Chirurgical Society

Late Asst. Physician, Roy. Infirmary, Edin.

" Resident " Roy. Hosp. Sick Children, Edin.

" House " East London Hosp. Children, Shadwell

" Major R.A.M.C.

Author of:-

"Study of Tubercular Reactions in Skin and Eye (150 cases)" B.M.J. 1909.

"Resistance of Human Red Corpuscles in Health and Disease to

"Tuberculosis Infection in Infancy and Childhood, as revealed by Cutaneous Tubercular Test" Edin. Med. J.

"Association of Acutely Fatal Illness in Infants and Children with Abnormal Constitution (Status Lymphaticus) 1911

"Scrofula in Hypersensitiveness to Tuberc. Infection"

"Anaphylaxis and Status Lymphaticus" Ibidem.

"Emulsion of Liquid Paraffin & Castor Oil in Chronic Dyspepsia in Children" Ibidem, 1915 Jointly.

Reports on outbreak of Disease in Industrial School

Extract from "The Medical Directory" 1921 edition.

McNEIL, Chas. 44 Heriot Row, Edinburgh, (Tel Central 1938).

M.A. Edin. 1901 ;

M.D. " 1908 ;

M.B., Ch.B (1st Class Honours) 1905 ;

F.R.C.P., Ed. 1913 , M.R.C.P. Ed. 1900.

(Univ. Ed.)

Extra Physician, Roy. Edin. Hosp. Sick Children ;

Mem. Assoc. Physicians Scot. Brit. & Ireland

" Edin. Med. Chirurg. Soc.

late Asst. Physician, Roy. Infirmary, Edin.

" Resident Physician, Roy. Hosp. Sick Child. Edinburgh.

" House Physician East Lond. Hosp. Children, Shadwell

" Maj. R.A.M.C.

Author of :-

"Study of Tubercular Reactions in Skin & Eye (150 Cases)" B. M. J. 1909.

"Resistance of Human Red Corpuscles in Health & Disease to Haemolysis by Saponin" Jl. Path. and Bact. 1910

"Tuberc. Infection in Infancy & Childhood, as revealed by Cutaneous Tuberculin Test" Edin. Med. Journ. 1912

"Aspect of acutely fatal illness in infants and children with abnormal Constitution (Status Lymphaticus)" Med. 1916

"Scroph. or Hyperaesthesis to Tuberc. Infection" Ibidem

"Anaphylaxis and Status Lymphaticus" Ibidem

"Emission of Legend Paraffin & Castor Oil in Chronic Dyspepsia in Children" Ibidem 1915 (jointly)

"Reports on Outbreak of Tuberc. Disease in an Industrial School" Blue Book and Edin. Med. Journal 1913

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.

October
Fifth
1921.

Dear Sir:-

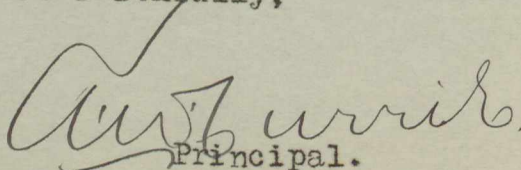
From a most reliable source I learn that very many of the teachers in our Medical School are under a wrong impression.

I am told that a belief prevails that I, without consultation with the Medical Faculty, offered Dr. McNeill of Edinburgh the Professorship of Pediatrics now vacant. Let me say that neither by spoken word nor written line did I make such an offer. When I saw Dr. McNeill in London I went no further than to suggest to him that he first write to Dr. John Tait, the Professor of Physiology, as to the wisdom of coming to Montreal and looking over the ground himself, something which I considered wise. Dr. McNeill did come to Montreal and the question of his exact rank on the staff was not discussed between us.

I told the Committee of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital, who waited upon me last Spring in connection with the vacancy existing in the Chair of Pediatrics, that whoever was selected would be given a rank consonant with his reputation, his experience, his scholarship and his ability to teach. I have gone no further at any time and I dislike any action of mine being misrepresented.

I am very sorry that I feel it necessary to write this letter, but in the past wrong impressions and misunderstandings in our Medical Department have wrought too much harm not to justify me in doing what I can to dispel at the earliest possible moment the false impression above mentioned.

Yours faithfully,


Principal.

7 Oct 1926

216 Peel St.

Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I had not heard the report you mention in your letter of October 5th. If I had heard it, I would not have believed it. No one but a fool would believe it: action of the kind mentioned is entirely contrary to your whole course in the University and in the Army too. I think your letter a very proper rebuke, and that it will go a long way towards protecting

You against a like folly
in the future. All I have
heard is to the exact
contrary, namely, that all
appointments are made
with propriety, frankness,
and wisdom. I am only
sorry you have been disturbed
as ever

Onore mio amico

143

27 Bishop St
Oct. 7/21

My dear Principal,

Let me thank
you, Sir, for your very kind
letter of Oct. 5th which I have just
received. I was away unfor-
tunately on my holiday when Dr.
McNeill was here but I am
glad to hear my assistants did
all they could to show him our
equipment in the Royal Victoria

Hospital and I have heard very
little else about him. If I may
make a personal statement let
me say how much I love the warm
personal contact and interest
of my Chief. With renewed thanks
I am ever faithfully

A. M. Fry

Lieut. Gen. Sir Arthur Currie.

DR. F. A. LOCKHART

38 BISHOP STREET

TEL UP. 1009

Sir Arthur Currie.K.C.M.G.Etc:
Principal of McGill University.
Montreal.

Montreal, 7/10/21. 192

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 5th:,referring to the rumour of your promising a position to Dr McNeil,arrived this morning,and I hasten to assure you that I do not think that one single colleague of mine on the Medical Board of the General Hospital ever for moment imagined that you would be so indiscreet.It was mentioned at our last Board meeting and it was the unanimous opinion that there had been some misunderstanding about it.You would have been pleased to have heard the discussion at that meeting,as it was greatly in favour of yourself.

Yours sincerely

F. A. Lockhart,

Protestant Hospital for the Insane

DR. T. J. W. BURGESS,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

P. O. BOX 2280

SPECIAL BAG

Montreal, Que., October 8th, 1921.

Sir A. W. Currie,
Principal's Office,
McGill University,
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to learn, as I do by your favor of the 5th instant, that any friction has arisen between yourself and the staff of the medical department at McGill. I had not heard before that any such action had been attributed to you as that you speak of, and sincerely regret that such should be the case. Since my paralytic seizure of over two years ago I have been able to get about but little and have not been able to lecture at the university as formerly, my place being supplied by my senior assistant, Dr. Porteous. For that reason I have not had the pleasure of meeting you, as otherwise I should have done. In addition to my illness I am in the sere and yellow leaf, over the allotted three score and ten, being in my 73rd year.

Faithfully yours,

T. J. W. Burgess.

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Jan. 3rd 1922.

44 HERIOT ROW,

EDINBURGH.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

I received a few days ago a letter from Dr G. Gordon Campbell of Montreal General Hospital a letter which has caused me serious concern.

It would appear from his letter that the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University are willing to offer me the post of paediatrician to Montreal General Hospital, but without professorial status in the University.

I cannot understand this, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will inform me how the matter stands.

After my first interview with you in London

44 HERIOT ROW
EDINBURGH

44 Heriot Row
Edinburgh

I understood that I had been offered by you & by Dr Birbeck, Dean of Faculty of medicine, the post of professor of pediatrics in McGill University, in succession to Professor Blackader, along with a ward in Montreal General Hospital. Subsequent interviews with you in Montreal confirmed that understanding; indeed without it I should never have taken the long expensive journey across the Atlantic.

I have also published the terms of that offer, as I understood it, to my friends here, & the fact that I was giving it careful consideration.

If my interpretation of Dr Campbell's letter is correct, I have been placed in a very unfortunate position:

I am sure you will understand my
anxiety, & my desire for definite information.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Charles McNeil.
M.D. F.R.C.P. Edin.

March
Thirtieth
1922.

Colonel Herbert Molson,
Chairman, Board of Management,
Montreal General Hospital,
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

I am returning herewith a memorandum which you left with me and which purports to set out the negotiations with Dr. McWeil of Edinburgh which preceded his visit to Montreal last September.

This memorandum is incomplete and places the University in an unfair light. I attach herewith a letter dated October 5th, 1921 and signed by myself as Principal of the University. That letter was addressed to each teacher in the Medical School of McGill. I draw your attention to it, but particularly to that sentence which reads as follows: "Let me say that neither by spoken word nor written line did I make such an offer".

I also enclose a copy of a letter written by myself as Principal of the University to Dr. Eberts, Secretary of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital, which bears on this matter. I also enclose copy of a letter which Dr. Birkett addressed to Dr. McWeil and which, apparently, Dr. McWeil has interpreted as an offer of a position. I cannot read into Dr. Birkett's letter such an interpretation.

On page 2 of the memorandum which I am returning to you in the third line we read these words: "The meeting was arranged and the position was offered to Dr. McWeil". I take direct and positive issue with that statement, claiming that it

Colonel Herbert Molson - 2 -

is not in accordance with the facts, and that I would take such a stand was known to the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital from my letter of October 5th, 1921 and from my letter of October 31st, 1921, both of which were in their possession before this memorandum was prepared.

I would be glad to shew you all other correspondence with reference to this matter, but I think I have given you enough to justify my statement that the memorandum set before your Board is unfair and misleading and I would like you to set these facts before your Board.

Personally, I do not wish to enter into any further controversy over what we might call the McNeill matter.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

252 Mountain Street,

MONTREAL, March 30th, 1922.

Principal Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.

McGill University.

Dear Mr. Principal,

I enclose herewith a copy of the latter
which I sent to Dr. McNeil.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. Birrell.

C o p y

MIDLAND ADELPHI HOTEL.

LIVERPOOL.

Dear Dr.McNeil,

Just as I was leaving Edinburgh to continue north on my visit to the other Scottish Universities, in connection with the Congress of the Universities of the British Empire, I received a cable forwarded to me from Oxford through Lady Osler, from Dr. Eberts, Secretary of the Medical Board of the Montreal General Hospital, asking me as Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, and conjointly with Sir Arthur Currie, the Principal, to call upon you with reference to a position as Pediatrist in Chief to the Montreal General Hospital and Professor of the same Department in McGill University.

I immediately made enquiries and learned that you were out of town. Upon my return to Edinburgh I heard that you were still out of town. I therefore conferred with Sir Arthur, who was also leaving Edinburgh, and we thought that if it were possible for you to meet us in London on the 27th or 28th July we might have a chat over the matter, which would be more satisfactory than much correspondence.

I am going up to town on Tuesday morning the 20th inst. and will be there for two weeks, staying at the Stafford Hotel, St.James's Place, St.James's Street. Would you be kind enough to let me hear from you at that address.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) H.S.BIRKETT.

78
March
Twenty-ninth
1932.

Dr. George Gibson,
23 Cluny Terrace,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

My dear Gibby:-

I am about to entrust to you a confidential mission for which you will receive no monetary reward.

There is in Edinburgh a Dr. Charles McWeil, who has a ward in the Children's Hospital and who is on the University staff as a teacher. Meakins recommended him to the Montreal General Hospital as one fit to take the headship of the Department of Pediatrics, which would carry with it the headship of that Department on the University staff.

I saw McWeil in London last year and also when he crossed to Canada on the Empress of Britain, by which I returned last summer. He came to look over the field here and impressed many of our fellows very favourably and others not quite so well. He offered to be a candidate for the position, but attached thereto certain financial considerations which, at that time, made it impossible for us to go any further with him.

I would like you to find out just how well he is regarded by the best teachers in Edinburgh and also to find out, and this particularly, whether the University of Edinburgh would give him the Senior teaching position in Pediatrics in their Medical School. I believe that such a position is something that McWeil claims he can look forward to with confidence. Tell me also what you can find out about his qualities as a man. It is an important position to fill and we must be certain that we have the right man before making a final decision. In discussing it please do not indicate that you are doing so for

Dr. George Gibson - 2 -

this definite purpose, and I would appreciate it if you would write me with the greatest freedom and, of course, confidentially.

I do not know as I have very much news to give you. We are all looking forward to a big Vimy dinner in Toronto on April 8th. I was up there last week end and was told that they had already sold 750 tickets and were counting on there being 1200 officers present. Haines of the 7th Bn. is coming in to see me this afternoon. Willis was down the other day, highly pleased with himself and his prospects. I lunched with Burstall yesterday and he is being let out of the Militia service on the 1st of April - somewhat unceremoniously to his very great annoyance.

With all good wishes and hoping I am not putting you to too much trouble, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

~~Confidential~~
STATION HOTEL
WICK

14 April 1922

My dear General,

Your letter has persuaded me to the above address, when I am visiting cases in the extreme north east of Scotland. I go from here to Eskdalemuir and onto the Shetland Group.

Of course I am delighted to undertake your mission and as many more such as you care to ask me to do, and will do my best to find out all I can about MacNeil.

It will be 3½ weeks before I am back in Edinburgh, until then I can do nothing. If I were to write about it, my own words at once commence sniffing the wind.

How soon General what I would suggest is this. I am, as you know it, more "of" than "in" Edinburgh. I am really out of it about 8 months in the year, and although I know a good deal of the comparative values of the men it will be much more difficult for me to make inquiries than one who is right in the midst of things. How my inquiries would have to be extremely tactful. All the does in Edinburgh know about any Canadian leanings and sympathies, they also know that MacNeil

was in Montreal, so that I think if I start
swelling around they will start putting ~~it~~ ^{it} together—
If you will give me permission I think I can
do the matter indirectly better through my brother-
in-law, who is not only a real white man,
but is as silent as a clam, if asked to be.

I could then get him to get the opinions of others
and add his own ideas and at the same time
let you have my opinion of their ideas—The
advantage of this is that my b. in-law is
meeting Dr. Heals' colleagues and seniors daily
and can easily, I imagine get their ideas—

Let me know what you think of this.
Naturally I will swear Johnston to Dracey—

Regarding Dr. Heil I'll tell you ~~how~~ now
what I think of him, so that when the later
information comes it may interest you to compare
it. But in justice to Dr. Heil this is merely
my opinion.

He is upright, honorable, and sober. Very
sober. A hard worker, and always has been.
Does seem to have had any excitement in his
youth. He is a very nice fellow. Kind, tactful
attentive and courteous and in every way a
gentle man. I would say his is a trifle dull,
and rather lacking in a sense of humor.
And never let you down, and under stress he
he possibly never left you up any far.

At present there is not a lectureship or
Chair in Pediatrics— There are the three
medical and one surgical appointments at the
Sick Children's Hospital. Dr. Heil has I believe

~~Confidential~~

STATION HOTEL

WICK

one of the medical appointments. In due course he will certainly get the senior appointment, but that will be merely a case of promotion in the due course of time. And of course Dr. Neil can look forward to it with confidence.

We have in Edinburgh, Dr. John Thomson one of the greatest authorities in Pediatrics in the world. Perhaps having known him has made our value particular regarding the others. ~~But~~ Of course Thomson is now an old man, but I cannot see that Dr. Neil will ever begin to compare with him.

Now, you will probably think I'm a bit sweeping in my comments, but I am only giving you my present opinion. In a few weeks I hope to give you another and better opinion.

Let me know what you think about asking Johnston's advice.

Remember I don't want to sell you any thing but a first-class article.

I am just racing for the post so will only add that I saw Murphy in Aberdeen in just form, and our dinner to old Brown was an enormous success.

Kind regards to Lady Currie, and
the family.

Yours very truly
John

~~John~~

Letter to

23 Clive Terrace

Edinburgh

78

See me about this
biographical
material. Smith

May 6th, 1922.

Dr. George Gibson,
23 Cluny Terrace,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

My dear Gibby:-

Thank you very much for your letter
of April 14th.

Your appreciation of McWell entirely
coincides with the impressions I formed myself, but
I would be glad if you would lay the matter before
your brother-in-law in the manner you suggest. His
opinion would be appreciated by McGill and would be
regarded as confidential.

Please remember me most kindly to
Dr. Johnson and your sister.

I haven't time to give you very much
news. The University holds its Convocation next
Friday and we are exceedingly busy here. Willis
O'Connor has been in the city for the last few days.
His brother, who is only a few years older than
himself, is dying, having relapsed to unconsciousness
yesterday afternoon. Of course, you knew that Canon
Scott had been operated on for appendicitis about a
month ago. Thirteen days after the operation he
occupied his pulpit - a courageous but nevertheless
rather foolish procedure. Evidently the Canon considers
that his congregation need all the spiritual advice
he can give them and that another week or two's grace
would have been harmful.

Dr. George Gibson

General Pershing is coming up next Friday to get an honorary degree from McGill, and in the evening about 50 or 75 officers are giving him a dinner at the Hunt Club, which promises to be a very joyful evening.

With all good wishes, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

ARGYLL HOTEL,
OBAN.

D. C. MACINTYRE,
Proprietor.

All letters to 23 Nelson Terrace
Edinburgh
18.4.22.

Confidential

Dear General Burns,

I was in Edinburgh for a day or two and picked up some more information regarding W. M. Neil.

I am told that when in the R. Army, he was promoted to the rank of Major, he suffered from profound swelling of the head. Others have suffered from the same affection, but in this case he took upon himself to amuse those of lesser rank, and has been described to me as insufferable.

When there was some row about nurses. Who was to blame I don't know but our friends got so busy that, I believe certain nurses were sent home. I don't know the rights or wrongs of the matter, but I am told that he was tactless, and unnecessarily interfering. Certainly the nurses thought they had been unfairly treated and one of them

brothers is reported to have printed
a pamphlet which was circulated in
Glasgow. This I have not seen but I am
sure that it was not exactly complimentary.
Whether our friend's name actually appeared
I do not know.

Your letter came just as I was
leaving. I had no time to see my brother in
law. I shall speak to him when I
return in 10 days time. If he can know
any light on the question I'll let you know.

Personally I can add nothing. We
like to see Edinburgh men getting good jobs
in different places, but it's not going to do
Edinburgh much good, if the very best we
have, don't get these jobs, and it will do us
no good to send out any but the very best.

I had a very cold wet windy
time in Shetland. I was much amused to
find a D. Wilson, a poor ^{from Toronto} bank, with a
little English wife, practicing medicine,
almost at the very top end of Shetland. Nothing
there but fishing and fumbling, and the doctor
says the fishing is punk.

D. C. MACINTYRE,
Proprietor.

ARGYLL HOTEL,
OBAN.

Boys

He was now in the Corps, being with
the R.A.M.C. all the time. I was so pleased
seeing him, I spent most of a day with him.

I heard a tale about Charles Vipond
the other day, a sequel to an interview I had
with him in May 1917.

One day on King Ridge he drew me
mysteriously to one side, and told me he'd been
on a book's tour to the Grand Street.

"What do you think of the Fleet?" I asked him.

"Boys," he said "The British Navy's going to hell."
"How so?" I asked.

"Booze! my boy. They're drunk all the time."

Recently I met a middle aged doctor, who was
on A.M.S. Agincourt (the Gin Palace) for 4
years. I remembered ^{what} Charles Vipond told me.
But, but, was the ship, he'd been a guest on—
I asked the doctor, if he remembered a
C.A.M.C. Colonel called Vipond.

"Certainly" said the doctor "Can I ever forget him?"

"he was tight all the time".

I did not know Canon Scott had had his appendix ago, I saw appendix removed. I must write and condole with him.

I am just off to the Islands of Hull
Vall and I see for 10 days.

Please give my best regards to Lady
Carris and her family,

Best of good wishes to yourself,

Yours very sincerely

George J. J.

23 Cherry Terrace
Edinburgh,
29th May 1900

Confidential.

Dear General Currie,

I asked my brother in law, what he thought about Mr Neil. He asked what I had said, and I told him, upright, worthy, reliable but not inspiring - He said tell General Currie with my best wishes "I thoroughly homologate your statement." I also told him I had said "his views let you down, but I doubt whether he will lift you up," in this he also agrees. I am glad to know that his opinion practically coincides with my own. Personally from your standpoint it's a very valuable one as Johnston is one of the lecturers in the school of medicine and is much more in touch with the pulse of things than I am.

My brother in law and sister ask me to thank you very much for your kind messages which they heartily reciprocate.

I had a letter from Canon Scott, a few days ago - he is coming to ~~Edinburgh~~ England and I hope will roll up here later. Excuse a hasty scribble,
Best of Good wishes,
Yours very sincerely,
James Johnston



THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

20 DORCHESTER STREET, EAST

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
HOSPITAL
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

Montreal Aug. 14th. 1922.

Col. Molson,
President,
Montreal General Hospital,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Col. Molson:-

In response to your request for information regarding the department of Pediatrics in the Montreal General Hospital, I beg leave to inform you that the Department offers the following in the way of beds and facilities for clinical work :-

Wards:- Two wards, one of which is fitted in part with cubicles, and a glassed in verandah, accommodating in all twenty-four beds.

Out-Patient Department:- at present consisting of three clinics weekly, which it is proposed to extend to five or six weekly clinics, the present idea being to devote the extra days to special clinics such as nutritional, cardiac, etc.

The total attendance at the Out-Patient Clinic in 1921 was 4691, of which, 1063 were new cases.



THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

20 DORCHESTER STREET, EAST

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
HOSPITAL
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

Montreal Aug. 14th. 1922.

-2-

The Clientele extends from babies in arms to children twelve years of age.

The Pediatrician is also called upon to supervise the feeding, and attend all medical ailments of children admitted to the hospital in departments other than his own.

The service of this department is continuous and carries with it a seat on the Medical Board.

Assistants in the department are nominated by the chief of the service and approved by the Medical Board.

All clinical material both in-door and out-door forms part of the teaching material of the University.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY MEDICAL BOARD.

Faculty of Medicine, McGill University,
Dean's Office,

Montreal, January 30th, 1923

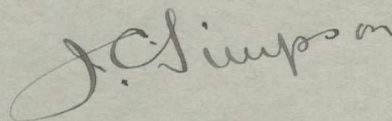
Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University

My dear Sir Arthur:

I am sending you herewith, as requested, an extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the Council of this Faculty held on November 25th, 1922, covering the Report of the Department of Medicine on the desirability of filling the Chair of Pediatrics.

I regret that, through a misunderstanding, this was not sent to you immediately following the meeting. My ignorance, at that time, of our office procedure is my only excuse for failing learn that it had not been forwarded.

Yours faithfully,



Acting Secretary of Council

CHAIR of PEDIATRICS

Extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the COUNCIL of the MEDICAL FACULTY held on NOVEMBER 25th, 1922.

"CHAIR of PEDIATRICS: Prof. Finley read the following report from the Department of Medicine on the desirability of filling the Chair of Pediatrics:-

"Your Committee regards Pediatrics as an important department of Medicine, as disease in childhood constitutes a large portion of the work of all general practitioners.

"There are, however, but few morbid conditions in childhood which are not found in adult life, and a complete course on the subject would, therefore, lead to much duplication with the subject of General Medicine. We believe the subject can be efficiently taught by giving students opportunities of handling and examining children in the wards and outdood departments of the hospitals, and in special clinics devoted to young children. In addition a short course of clinical lectures and demonstrations are desirable, dealing with subjects peculiar to childhood, as infant feeding, rickets, pre-natal conditions and child-welfare.

"There seems to be no reason to place the subject of Pediatrics on a higher plane than other medical specialties, such as Neurology, Psychiatry, or Phthisiology. Should a man of sufficient eminence develop or be attracted by the opportunities offered of teaching or research work, it would be to the advantage of the University to secure his services. The title of Clinical Professor of Pediatrics would be a suitable designation for the post and in harmony with the titles of teachers in other departments of medicine and surgery.

"Such an appointee should be capable of stimulating and directing research work in the department, and if otherwise suitable might be placed in charge of the department, working in close collaboration with the Department of Medicine.

"Meanwhile it is believed that the interests of the students are being fully safeguarded by the arrangements at present in force, the teaching being carried on satisfactorily by members of the Medical staff, devoting special attention to this branch of medicine.

(Signed)

"F. G. Finley.

Moved by Prof. Finley, seconded by Prof. Martin, that this Report be adopted. Carried."

JCS
29/23

McGill
M

CHANDLER, A.B.

B.A., McGill, 1904
M.D., C.M., McGill, 1906

Undergraduate Course: Average pass man.

Post graduate Work: Eight months with Holt

Appointments:
Asst. Demonstrator Pediatrics, McGill, 1921
Asst. Physician Children's Memorial, 1918
Asst. Physician, Foundling, 1919
Asst. Physician, M.G.H. 1921

Publications: No publications up to present.

m-8H.

ENRIGHT, W.E.

M.A. Bishop's College.
M.D., C.M., McGill, 1907

Undergraduate Course: Good student, honours in some subjects.

Post graduate Work: Three weeks in hospitals of London
and in Sweden in 1920

Appointments: Asst. Demonstrator Pediatrics, McGill, 1914
Demonstrator pediatrics, McGill, 1918
Clinical Assistant pediatrics, M.G.H. 1909
Assistant in Foundling Hospital, 1919
In charge of Out-door Department
Pediatrics, M.G.H., during past
three years.

Publications:

W. E. H.

WRIGHT, H. P.

B.A. Lennoxville, 1909
M.D., C.M., McGill, 1914

Undergraduate Course: Average pass man.

Post graduate Work: 2 months in Boston Clinic, also
Visited clinics in Baltimore and New York

Appointments: Clinical Assistant in Pediatrics, M.G.H.
- - - - - 1919-1921
Asst. Physician Children's Memorial, 1919
Asst. Physician Foundling Hospital, 1919
Asst. Demonstrator Pediatrics, McGill, 1920

Publications: Several papers in preparation.

Foundling

LINDSAY, L. M.

M.D., C.M., McGill, 1919

Undergraduate Course:

Average pass man.

Post graduate Work:

general medicine, M.G.H.	1910
London Hosp. for Sick Children,	1912
Munich, 4 months	
Freiberg, 3 months	
Vienna, 2 months,	1913
London, Great Ormond St. Hospital,	1914

Appointments:

Medical Superintendent, Children's	
Memorial Hospital,	1914
Assistant in Pediatrics, M.G.H.	1914
Assistant Physician, Foundling,	1916
Asst. demonstrator Pediatrics, McGill,	1920

Publications:

Six papers on Children's Diseases
during past six years.

W-9H

GOLDBLOOM, A.

B.A., McGill, 1913
M.D., C.M., McGill, 1916

Undergraduate Standing: Honour man in all years,
Fourth year Prizeman.

Post Graduate Study: 2½ years in Holt's Clinic
6 Months, Bowditch & Morse, in Boston

Appointments: Asst. Physician Foundling Hospital, 1919
Clinical Assistant, M.G.H., 1920
Asst. Physician, Childrens Memorial, 1920
Asst. Demonstrator Pediatrics, McGill, 1920

Publications: Six papers published,
One in course of preparation.

R. V. H.

FRY, F.M.

B.A. McGill, 1890
M.D., C.M., McGill, 1894

Undergraduate Course:

Good Average Student. *Some honor.*

Post graduate Work:

Vienna, Berlin, etc., Children's Clinic
and Internal Medicine, 1896-1897
Vienna, Berlin, etc., Children's Clinic
only, - - - - - 1905-1906
Visited various children's clinics
on Continent.

Appointments:

College:

Asst. Demonstrator Clinical Medicine, 1902
Demonstrator of Pediatrics, 1907
Lecturer in Pediatrics, 1909

Hospital:

Asst. Physician Foundling Hospital, 1898
Physician to Foundling Hospital, 1902
Consulting Physician, Foundling, 1910
Clinical Assistant, R.V.H., 1902
Associate in Medicine, R.V.H., 1908
Asst. Physician in charge of
Pediatrics, R.V.H., - - 1911

Publications:

About 12 papers on children's diseases.

R.V.H.

CUSHING, H. B.

B.A. McGill, 1892
M.D., C.M., McGill, 1898

Undergraduate Course:

Good average student. - *some honor*

Post Graduate Work:

Vienna, Internal medicine and children's
clinics, - - - - 1907
Munich, do. do. do. do. 1908
Visited various children's Clinics in
America.

Appointments:

College:

Asst. Demonstrator Clinical Medicine, 1904
Demonstrator Clinical Medicine, 1905
Lecturer in Clinical Medicine, 1914

Hospital:

Clinical Assistant, R.V.H., - 1902
Associate in Medicine, R.V.H. 1908
Assistant Physician, R.V.H. 1911
Physician to Children's Memorial, 1908
Physician to Alexandra Hospital, 1908
Physician to Foundling Hospital, 1913

Publications:

12 or 15 papers on children's diseases
and infectious diseases.