

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DENTAL SCHOOL

DEAN'S OFFICE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BUILDING

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

Dec. 12, 1912.

Dr. Frederick S. McKay,

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Doctor:-

Upon returning to my work after a long absence, my secretary has brought me your letters of August 30th and October 7th. This is practically the first correspondence that I have undertaken since my return home. I was kicked out and told to "git and stay got" and that I should neither read nor write, and really no mail was sent to me and I wrote nothing. It is only recently that I have undertaken to do anything with my eyes, because of a pretty severe neuritis affecting the retina. This is in explanation of why your letters have remained unanswered. For the present I can't do much.

I still have a copy of what I wrote for you people. I do not know whether you wish to publish it with any of your Society transactions or not. That question seems to have been left somewhat in abeyance. Perhaps the time has passed when that would be desirable.

The statements I made before the Chicago Dental Society and which were published, was simply a report of an off-hand talk, without either manuscript or notes, which was corrected somewhat and allowed to go. That is as I remember it, and the statements were not quite as carefully made as I feel that they should be. After thinking the matter over, I have thought that I had best, in anything I publish regarding the matter, confine myself to the histopathological changes rather than to go into the possible causation to any considerable extent. It would be best to wait for that until

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your investigations have been completed. In fact the matter of causation perhaps ought to be left to you to make out a report upon it yourself, using my histo-pathological data in any manner that you may wish. So much for that phase of the matter.

Now in regard to going down to the National meeting, of course what I have said explains that; I didn't go, and didn't know of your letter until it was brought to me this morning. I knew there was a letter, but that was all. My secretary brought up the letter which you sent me from Dr. Arthur of Franklin, Va. (By the way, do you wish me to return that letter to you?) I wish I could have visited that region, and possibly gotten specimens there for cutting, for the histo-pathological work should be kept well forward in all of this business, as no explanation will be of very much value without it, so far as the real condition of the tissue is concerned. A tissue that is stained by being partially dissolved will be very easily distinguished from a tissue that has been developed in a faulty way, and this distinction should always be made, and clearly made. I hope to learn what the condition at Franklin, Va. is very soon.

In the meantime I have had a letter from Dr. H. H. Wilson of Phoenix, Arizona. He describes a stain that seems from his letter to be endemic, and entirely different from that in Colorado. It is a red stain which he thinks affects the whole tooth, both enamel and dentin; but as he had had no specimen and had made no cuttings, of course this might be simply an opinion. He says that among the Mexicans and Indians, about 50% of them have this stain,

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and it is especially prominent upon the incisor teeth. Of the whites in the neighborhood, there ^{are} ~~are~~ a much lower percentage. He is very positive in his statements that the teeth come through the gums with this red stain developed. If that is actually the case, it might explain the comparatively few cases seen among the whites, as the residence of the whites in that region in very considerable numbers, is comparatively recent. The children of those who are now living there may be in danger of developing the stain that will be prominent. I have just written him regarding it, and hope to get something more definite soon. It might be well for you to get into communication with him.

I do not know that I can do much for some little time to come. I have worked up all the material I have on hand and have found nothing new for some time. Material from a different region for the histo-pathological study, is very desirable, for it is only by this that we can very certainly connect or disconnect the character of the injury in different places.

I am glad to have your statements of the progress of the work, and I hope you will run down that matter of the influence of water so completely that when the decision is reached, there will be no further question about the matter.

I am glad that you are in communication with these men in Europe. I regard Dr. Rose as a very excellent observer, though it has been his habit to oppose a number of my own views, holding to an older view in several important points. Nevertheless his general observations are very important, and reach out into very

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wide fields.

Dr. Rose has made more studies of the condition of school children's teeth perhaps than any other man now living, or having lived, and many of his observations upon the affect of calcium salts are of great importance, especially those relating to the development of strong men or weak men on the different stratas of rock found in Europe, those on lime-stone regions presenting a much greater percentage of able-bodied men fit for military service, than those on what my mother used to call "free stone", or rocks not containing lime. These observations were made by Dr. Rose by obtaining the privilege of examining the records of the examining physicians for the War Department, who personally examined these men, - a comparative compilation that had never been thought of by the men who made the examinations. Therefore Dr. Rose is entitled to full credit for this discovery. Many other things I could write you about Dr. Rose, for I have had his writings all along back through the years, and there is a good deal of it.

It is very curious to me that we should have such a condition as we find in Colorado, if in the widespread examinations made by Dr. Rose, including coal-bearing regions, iron workers, and all the other conditions through Europe where he has been making examinations, he should not find anything whatever resembling this in Colorado. So in your correspondence with Dr. Rose you might find it well to question him regarding this matter, to see whether or not some things of this kind are remembered as having been seen by him, but which he did not record in what he has written. He

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has not made, so far as his reports go, any considerable study of the histo-pathological conditions of teeth. His study has been of the influence of waters, the influence of food grown on different kinds of soil, the influence of the soil itself, and all of this class of work. In fact, similar work to that you are yourself doing, except that he made analyses himself of the soils, of the fruits, of the grain, and everything that men live on, and of the ground they walk on and raise their fruits on, and also of the saliva and other secretions of persons living upon these soils, fruits, etc.

Now I have written you a pretty long, rambling letter. I will be glad to hear from you as often as you think you have something to say, or a little oftener.

Very truly,

G.V.B.

G.V.B.