

'Thompson, CJS - Duplicate Reports'

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WR 2/20/1-12

WR
WR

Snow Hill Buildings, WR2/20/1
7th January, 1909.

Dear Sir,

(20). Re H.M.S. syllabus.

Mr Linstead informs me that our stock of the H.M.S. syllabus is nearly exhausted, and he also states that he will require an edition for distribution at the I.M.C. to be held at Budapest in August, which he suggests should be printed in French. I have carefully gone through a copy of the present syllabus with the object of revising it, and see really very little that requires alteration, except one or two of the blocks which might be changed. I would suggest that on the new copy, instead of I-Em-Retep, we should reproduce Aesculapius from the block we used for the frontispiece of the Medical Diary this year, and in place of the background of black, we should have one of a fine shade of blue. Instead of the block of Aesculapius that we have facing Section I., I should introduce a bust of Hippocrates, and in the introductory letter delete the last paragraph and insert a note similarly worded to that we have in the Medical Diary. These alterations would entail little expense, and if you agree, could be put in hand at once. I am enclosing a copy of the old syllabus showing the suggested alterations.

(21). Celtic Medicine.

With reference to Celtic Medicine, Mr Linstead tells me that he has a note of a conversation with you on 31st May, 1906, which states "should a meeting of the B.M.A. or any other prominent medical body be held in Ireland, please note Mr Wellcome has a specially good

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

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map of Ireland which he would like to consider reproducing of the present size or perhaps smaller, for distribution to all Irish medical men." Do you remember to which map this refers? I have an idea that it is one of those in the little atlas of ancient maps of Wales from which you selected the map for Cymric Medicine.

Faithfully yours,

C. J. S. Thompson,
per

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

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Reed
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WR2/20/2

Snow Hill Buildings,
18th January, 1909.

Dear Sir,

Cases forwarded from Madrid & Lisbon
(3) 12th Dec.

We have not yet received any further news respecting the four cases which you advised from Madrid on the 22nd Nov., 1908, or those advised from Lisbon on the 10th Dec., 1908. We have instructed Cook to let us know directly they arrive so that we may have men to meet them on the quay for the Customs examination.

(22) Purchases.

At a sale at Furber's on the 7th inst. we purchased a parcel of nine Persian books and manuscripts, an interesting lot, for 26/-, and at Hodgson's on the same date, we bought the following lots:-

Lot 608. Morini, J.S. Astrologia Gallica, Diagrams, old Spanish calf, 1661; Mundus Symbolicus, cuts of emblems, old pigskin with clasps, Coloniae, 1729. 18/-

Lot 609. Theatrum Diabolorum, title in red and black, old stamped pigskin, Frankfurt, S. Feyrabend 1586; Valentini. Natur und Materialien Kammer, cuts, 1704; Wolfii Lectionum Memorabilium Centenarius, woodcuts (no title) vellum, Lavingae, 1608. 28/-

Lot 619. Penmanship - Shelley G., second Part of Natural Writing, portrait engraved throughout, 4to, 1714; (Ryan). Practical Arithmetick, engraved throughout, 4to, 1696, and one other. 22/-

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

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Lot 620. Penmanship - Beurenfiend M.,
der Zierlichen Schrieb-Kunst, engraved through-
out, 2 vols., (1 vol. no title) half bound,
Nurnberg 1716/36; Kehr. Monarchiae Mogolo-Indici
Numisma, plates, 4to half bound, Lipsiae, 1725,
(22/-)

At Foster's we bought a finely executed
old oil painting on panel by Van der Meer,
depicting a woman who has fainted being attend-
ed to by a physician with several attendants,
for nine and a half guineas. I also came across
in a shop in Bloomsbury a well-painted three-
quarter length portrait of a Dr Lloyd, an eye
specialist, who flourished in the early part
of the last century, together with a curious
Kaffir witch-doctor's medicine bag, of skin,
an old blue and white feeding bottle, unusual
pattern, and a book of caricatures representing
physicians and medical students. The lot for
£3. 15s.

(23). Maori designs for Medical Diary,
1910.

Mr Lane informs me that they are now at work
on the Maori designs for the Medical Diary for
next year, and I am superintending Mr Cox
making a coloured drawing at the British
Museum for the picture of Manuka, the talisman
of life and health, which you decided to have
for the frontispiece. The other figure of
the Polynesian fish deity, 'Tanagora' is,
I understand, to be a half-tone block, to be
reproduced on the back of the frontispiece.

(24). Ergot. Dr Gubb.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter and
report on diss ergot just received from Dr
Gubb. We have formally acknowledged receipt

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WNR 2/20/2 [cont.] (3).

of the letter to him, and stating that it will be brought before you on your return.

(24). Mr Voynich.

On Wednesday morning I received an urgent note from Mr Voynich stating that he had just returned from France, where he had discovered some medical M.S.S. of the greatest importance and asking me to call on him as soon as possible. I lost no time and went straight to his place, and found he had indeed got hold of a batch of M.S.S. of exceptional interest. The most important of all

No. 1. Lanfranc's Work on Surgery, written in English on vellum, A.D. 1470.

It consists of 110 folios, 9 x 6". This is indeed a find, as I know from experience that medical M.S.S. in English of the 15th century are extremely rare, and I do not remember ever having handled a copy of Lanfranc at that period in English before. It is more interesting to us than the M.S. of Guy de Chauliac that Quaritch bought, with the exception that it has no drawings of instruments, which the latter had. He asked £50 for it.

No. 2. Regimen Sanitatis (Diet and Health of the School of Salerno), M.S. written on vellum, 15th century, folio size, consisting of nine folios. (£15).

No. 3. Macer's Herbarium, bound together with Sydrach on the Virtues of Precious Stones M.S. of the 15th century, written on vellum. (Sydrach was an Arabian alchemist of the 7th century, and his works are very rare). (£20).

No. 4. Herbarium with a special description of tea, 17th century, on paper, (21. 15s.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

- (5) M.S. on Materia Medica written on paper, 17th century, £2. 10s.
- (6) M.S. Medical Recipes, 17th century, on paper, £2. 15s.
- (7) M.S. Medical Recipes in German, 17th century, on paper, £1. 10s.
- (8) M.S. Venesection, in French, 17th century, on paper, £2. 10s.

He had also got three books, namely, one on Ergot in French, which I have not seen before, dated 1856, (8s.), another a work on Pharmaceutical Apparatus by Langelotti, 17th century, (8s.) and one on Poisons, 17th century, (15s.)

The total amount he asked for the lot was £97, and he said that he must have an early decision as he knew he would have no difficulty in disposing of the M.S.S. especially, to Professor Osler and Professor Ferguson. The former has given him an open commission for all M.S.S. he can get on medicina, surgery and anatomy, but, as he said he had kept to his word and given me the first chance, being his oldest customer. I told him that I could not rise to anything like that amount, but at the same time was determined not to let them go. Eventually, after a good deal of discussion, I got him to accept £78 for the lot, which I think is reasonable. I should think that the Lanfranco alone would at present fetch £60 or £70 at the prices of M.S.S. of this period, and being in English greatly enhances its value.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.).

WR2/20/2 [Cont.] (5)

(26). Re lists of cases, etc.

Yours dated the 15th inst. from Lisbon enclosing lists of cases, crates, and contents shipped via direct steamer from Seville to London, duly received this-morning, and I have given the matter immediate attention.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) C. J. S. THOMPSON.

Henry S. Welocome, Esq.,

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WR2/20/3
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,
26th January, 1909.

Dear Sir,

(26). Re case of silver & plate, etc.
from Lisbon.

We received a letter of advice from Cook on the 16th inst. stating that this case had just arrived, and would be unloaded the following day. I made an appointment for Llewellyn to be there in the morning to be present when it was opened for the Customs examination. On seeing the silver and plate, Llewellyn states, the Custom House officer asked him for the signed declaration from the owner, and it was not until after a good deal of demur that they allowed him to take the case away. I enclose herewith one of these declaration forms, which should be signed and forwarded with any further consignment of silver, or I am afraid we may have trouble with the Inland Revenue people. I have this-morning, with Llewellyn, carefully checked the contents of this case, and weighed the silver, and I find the following discrepancies:-

Weight according to your list.	Weight according to our scales.
Silver coffee and tea service 3590 gms	3680 gms
Louis XV. coffee pot 1200 gms	1262 gms
Rayed ornaments and crowns 295 gms	195 gms
12 salvers together with 3 snaffer trays 4755 gms	4747 gms (11 instead of 12 salvers to hand.)

In the lot containing cigarette case, napkin
ring, gravy spoon and sugar tongs etc., there

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq., (contd)

WR 2/20/3 [CONT.]

are two spoons instead of one. The next lot according to your list consists of 41 knife and fork handles. There are only 24 come to hand, and the knives have blades, so that it is difficult to get at the exact weight as the latter are fixed. All the other items are correct except the terra-cotta figure, which has been slightly damaged, the hat of the man being broken. I also found other articles in the case not mentioned in your list:-

- 1 Ivory carving of Christ,
- 1 Carved wooden head,
- 5 Old Moorish silver beads.

I shall be glad to know as early as possible with regard to the salver which appears to be missing, and also respecting the knife handles, so that if these are really lost, a claim may be made at once.

(27) Re cases shipped direct from Seville.

We received a note from Pitt & Scott on the 20th inst. to the effect that the steamer bringing these cases was now at the quay, and would unload on the 21st. I arranged for Bourne and Llewellyn to be present at the Customs examination with Pitt & Scott's man, at 9-30 on Thursday morning. After they had passed the Customs it was necessary for the cases liable to damage to be opened for Pitt & Scott's man to see if there was any claim for insurance. They opened nine cases in all, and the only articles damaged were in cases

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/20/3 [Cont.]

Nos. 2, 3, and 5. In case No. 3, a table top has been broken, but Bourne thinks that part of the breakage appears to be old. In Cases 5 and 2, a leg was found to be broken off each table. All the other legs were displaced, but there were no signs of bad usage apparent on the cases, and Bourne thinks that this may have been done before packing as the legs were secured inside the case with wire.

(28) Sales.

At Stevens on the 18th inst. there were a few items of interest to us. I put limits on 8 lots, and of these we secured 6 as follows:-

Lot 27. Ancient wood ju-ju figure used at human sacrifices, from W. Cen. Africa. (22.7.6.)

Lot 79. Old Nigerian medicine man's staff with two carved snakes. (30/-) (73" long.)

Lot 80. Ditto 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. (12/-)

Lot 81. Old Nigerian pipe bowl of black pottery, form of a figure. (17/-)

Lot 82. Cingalese snake charmer's staff, used at devil dances. (17/-)

Lot 83. Alaskan staff with one snake, beautifully carved. (20/-)

At Hodgson's on the 19th inst. we bought one book

Lot 605. Herbal - Braunschweig B. New Vollkommen Distillierbuch. woodcuts. Frankfurt, 1597. (22.4.)

This book on chemical apparatus by Braunschweig is the one we have many times tried to secure. It is full of woodcuts of apparatus

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR₂/20/3 [CONT.]

and is a rare and interesting work.

Re (3) 12th Dec. and 18th Jan. Cases
from Madrid.

We have just received a letter from Thos. Cook & Son stating that these cases have now arrived, and will be unloaded this-morning. I have sent Llewellyn straight to the docks, to be present at the Customs examination, and have cautioned him that everything, especially the chemical glass apparatus, must be treated with the greatest care.

(29) Re yours dated 24th inst.

I have noted that you have despatched another case from Salamanca via Seville, and also that Allington has left for London and bears valuable packets, a quantity of luggage, and your large despatch box. He has not yet reported himself here, but directly he arrives I will see your instructions carried out.

Re (5) 23rd and 26th Nov. 1908. Artists' drawings for reproduction of 'Nature and Science.'

These have now arrived back from Lisbon, and are uninjured. Kindly let me know if it will be worth having them photographed and forwarding prints to you, or shall I leave the matter over until your return?

(28) Re Maori designs for Medical Diary.

Your note and criticisms to hand. I will see that your suggestions are put in hand at once, and have just seen Mr Lane about carrying them out.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) C.J.S. THOMPSON.

D.A.G.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

per

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Recd
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Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,
2nd February, 1909.

WR2/20/4

Dear Sir,

I have followed up and cleared several of the matters which you left in my hands before you went away.

(30) Major-General Robley.

I called on Major-General Robley and found that he was away, and I followed the matter up later with a letter. He replied stating that he is open to purchase all kinds of Maori curios but has none for disposal. I asked him also to let me have a list of any charms of any description that he might have, but he appears to have nothing beyond the usual tikis. I told him that I hoped at some future date he would let me see his collection, but he has made no reply.

(31) Ebstein, the sculptor of the anatomical figures outside the new buildings of the B.M.A.

I got into touch with Mr Ebstein some time ago, and found that he had destroyed his clay models, and there is nothing either in clay or plaster left in his possession, but there were one or two small plaster casts which he said he had made a considerable time ago, and which he had given to his friends. He said he would see if he could get any of these back, so that copies could be made, and he has promised to write and let me know.

(32) Lake Ibrahim, Central Africa.

With reference to this matter I have had two interviews with the cartographer at the Royal Geographical Society, who gave me references to

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/20/4 [CONT.]

various works in the library, which I have looked up. The first I found was an account of a partial survey made by Captain R. T. Kirkpatrick, D.S.O., in 1899. He calls the lake Choga, or Ibrahim, and describes it as an important sheet of water of some fifty or sixty miles in length, and varying from ten to twelve in width, with numerous small bays and islands. He further states that it is hard to say where it ends, as it is formed by a river which runs through a swamp or marsh and which overflows its banks at certain periods, and so makes the lake at times much larger. This is also referred to in similar words in a book by Major Austin, written in 1893, called 'With Macdonald in Uganda'. When I called at the Royal Geographical Society last, the cartographer told me that he had some more recent important information, and that the first real survey of lake Choga, or Kioga, was made by Lieut. Fishbourne, R.E., ~~last year~~, and an account of it will appear in the Geographical Magazine, together with a map, either next month or in March. This survey, I should think, should settle the question that arises in the letters you gave me.

(33). Adlington.

Adlington arrived here about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning last, the 30th ult., and handed me the silver trays with which you had entrusted him. I have had these weighed and carefully packed, and stored in the strong room.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq., (contd).

WR2/20/4[Cont.]

(34) Purchases.

At Christie's on Saturday I purchased a small oil painting on panel called "An Alchemist in his Study", by Adriaen van Ostade. This picture is authenticated as a genuine Ostade, and is a little gem. It belonged to the late A. Maclean, the well-known dealer in the Haymarket. The panel measures 12" x 9", and has been engraved more than once. I believe that we have a copy of the engraving, when I am able to look it out. I put a limit of thirty-five guineas on it, but bought it for twenty-four.

About a fortnight ago Mr Lang, the dealer in Rome, forwarded me a most interesting M.S. on alchemy, of the early part of the 17th century. It is written on paper, 4to, 160 fols., bound in vellum, and containing thirty-six beautifully coloured drawings of chemical apparatus, including furnaces, retorts and alembics. Also thirty-three drawings in black and white of apparatus, furnaces, etc. The M.S. is entitled 'Opera dell'Ecc.mo filosofo Christof da Parisi Intitulata Lucidario'. He asked £15 for it, and I wrote offering him £9. I have heard from him this-morning stating that he will accept £10, and I am sending him a cheque to-day for that amount, as the M.S. is a very rare and curious one and the drawings are very fine and beautifully coloured. I told him in my letter that I have sent him a pound over my value as an inducement to send me all early M.S. and printed books on early science that he may meet with, before putting them

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd).

WR2/20/4[CONT.]

in his catalogue, or offering them to any other purchaser, and this, according to his letter, he has agreed to do.

(35) Re (26) Jan. 26th. Blue declaration forms for silver.

It is not now necessary to have this form signed as we have arranged the matter with the Customs house people. I will get a supply of the forms so that you may have them with you in future.

(36) Re meaning of word 'Vollkommen'. The English of the word 'vollkommen' is 'complete', and the translation of the title of the German work by Braunschweig is 'The New and Complete Distillery Book'.

(37) Re Mr Woolf in Egypt and the ancient marble mortar.

I have written to Mr Woolf as you suggest, giving him particulars as to where to look for the mortar in question, and instructing him to make an offer for it up to £7, and to let me know the result.

Faithfully yours,
(signed) C. J. S. THOMPSON

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Snow Hill Buitl WR 2/20/5
21st April, 1908.

Dear Mr Wellcome,

(1) Re visit to Paris.

I arrived in Paris yesterday week, and called on Madame Felizet by appointment on Wednesday morning. The objects of medical interest which they had brought up from their country house were far more numerous and interesting than I expected and they were well worth going for. The following is the list:-

11 old brass barber's basins of various sizes;

2 old barber's basins of Rouen faience;

1 old surgical saw;

1 small brass pestle and mortar;

1 old lithotomy instrument in case;

1 box containing a large number of small surgical instruments such as

lancets, bistouries, etc.

1 suture needle in case;

1 silver plaquette, very interesting,

Pasteur;

1 old pewter feeding bottle;

1 old ophthalmic instrument;

1 old lens;

1 ancient trepanning instrument;

1 surgical instrument of wood;

6 small silver instruments;

3 pewter bowls;

1 old surgical case, empty;

2 old pairs of scales in a box;

1 large case of old dissecting knives;

1 old notice concerning the practice of surgery in France, eighteenth century;

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

5 blue and white Delft drug jars,
one damaged;

14 old books on medicine printed in
the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries;

5 old pottery tobacco jars, Flemish,
two very large size;

1 carved wooden figure of a man with
pipe (old tobaccoist's sign);

1 stained glass window representing
an old surgeon's bleeding basin, surgical saw
and old instrument, which was specially
executed for Dr Felizet by Oudenot, one of
the most celebrated painters of stained
glass in Paris. (This piece of stained
glass was let in the upper part of a window
at the back of Dr Felizet's house, but as
Madame is thinking of giving up the residence
they are willing to part with it, and it is
very interesting.

After examining the objects I asked
Madame Felizet what value she placed upon
them, and she stated she would leave the
matter entirely in my hands. I saw that she
was quite willing to take any reasonable sum,
and she accepted my offer of 243 francs for
the lot, which was about as little as I
could offer. At a dealer's price these
things are really worth about three times
that amount. I had the things removed the
following day, and saw them very carefully
packed. No doubt they are now on their way
to London, as they were to leave on Monday.

I then made a round of all the book-
sellers on my list, and I think have

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq., (contd)

practically cleared Paris of all the old M.S.S. on medicine and the early sciences. I had excellent luck, and after some bargaining, got them at very reasonable prices. I soon got on Voynich's tracks, and found that he had cleared Belin, Lemallier and two or three of the very largest booksellers of their medical M.S.S., but the smaller men he had apparently not touched. From Dorbonne I secured five old M.S.S. on medicine and alchemy. One of these, a large volume of 900 pages, written on paper in 1701, is of a very curious character. It treats of natural history, medicine, designs, astrology, dialing, emblems, and a great many other subjects. It contains a large number of very extraordinary drawings in colour and pen and ink, some of the effects of the designs are very quaint, and will be of great use to us. Old Dorbonne said that he had had this M.S. for a number of years and that he had never seen its equal. His lowest price to me was 800 frs., and I put it on one side and told him that it was out of the question. After I had gone through his stock, I found a sixteenth century M.S. of old French recipes, pharmacy and medicine, a sixteenth century M.S. on alchemy, an M.S. of Paracelsus of the early seventeenth century, and an M.S. on medical recipes and prescriptions, 2 vols. seventeenth century. I got the lot for 400 frs. Several of the old dealers upon whom I have now called for some time past, had put aside for me a number of old

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

books on medicine, etc., and I was able to get some very good things. From Soulan-ger I bought nine old works on medicine and surgery, printed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, one old surgical depressor, and an old brass microscope, Empire period, for 100 frs. the lot. From Symes I got a fine old M.S. on alchemy of the early fourteenth century, for which he wanted 200 frs. This to-gether with an early printed book on plague and smallpox, a copy of the first edition of Barretts Magus (Practice of Astrology and Witchcraft) containing on the title page a coloured miniature of the author in water colours, a book for which I have long been searching, and a fine Dutch Herbal with coloured plates; the lot for 231 frs.

Matthias had a large number of medical works put aside, and it took me more than half a day to go through them. The majority of them we had, but I got some some very curious books from him, and made a bargain for twenty-seven, including M.S.S. on medicine, for 263 frs. the lot.

None of the curio shops I had time to visit yielded much. This is a bad time to buy from dealers, as Paris is full of American and other visitors, and the dealers are expecting a busy season and will not listen to anything in the way of offers. From Schœbeian in the rue Lepelletier, I got a very interesting old

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

bronze of I-Am-Hotep, seated on a throne. It is crudely cast but bears some interesting hieroglyphics on the pediment and sides of the throne. He warranted it absolutely genuine, and it appears to be so. I got it for fifty francs. He did not know the name of the deity and called it "The Scribe", but it is undoubtedly I-Am-Hotep. He also had four little ^{bronze} vases on a stand, about one and a half inches high, which looked like unguentapots. They were very much oxidized, and I never saw anything quite like them before. He wanted 100 frs. for them. I offered him sixty and went up to seventy-five, but he would not come down from the 100 frs. so I left them for the present. From another dealer I got a very interesting military surgeon's case, containing some beautiful old steel instruments and trepans. It was of leather, brass bound and bearing an inscription and an official certificate from the medical department in the time of the first Napoleon. For this I had to give 80 frs. I called on a dealer in the rue de Rennes, who goes in largely for ethnographical objects, but found he had nothing of much interest. His prices were about three times those of Stevens.

(2) Re Davidson Mortars.

While I was away Miss Perraton forwarded me a letter from Davidson of Cromer addressed to you, in which he says that he is very anxious to know your decision about his mortars, as soon as possible as he is very tight for

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

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money. I instructed Miss Perraton to reply stating that you are out of town at present, and that the letter would be brought before you on your return. At the same time she informed him that the member of our staff who has the matter in hand would probably call upon him on Thursday or Friday next. I have arranged to go to Cromer to-morrow, and will examine the mortars and report to you directly on my return.

(3) Sales.

Stevens had a sale yesterday, and I went in to see the things in the morning and found there was nothing of any interest with the exception of a small collection of Dyak medicine-men's fetishes, each one said to represent a different disease. The following is the list, with the limits I put on, and the prices for which we got them.

£1.17.6 40/- 107. Three carved fetishes figures made of pith.

20/-	27/-	108.	Carved wooden figure
20/-	30/-	109.	" " "
20/-	27/-	110.	" " "
20/-	27/-	111.	" " "
20/-	27/-	112.	" " "
20/-	24/-	113.	" " "
25/-	26/-	114.	" " shape of snake.

20/-	21/-	115.	Carved wooden animal shape.
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25/-	28/-	116	Two carved wooden
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Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

WR 2/20/5 [cont.] 7.

curious shapes.

20/- 22/- 117. One carved wooden
curious shapes.

I put rather high limits on these things as I thought we should not miss them. The figures are very crudely carved and the position of the hands over the stomach, chest, or at the sides, seems to indicate that they really represent some malady in those parts of the body.

There is a picture at Foster's of an Alchemist, upon which I have put a limit to-day, and at Robinson & Fisher's there is a finely executed picture of a lady of the Elizabethan period upon which I have put a limit of £30, and also a portrait of Dr Radcliffe. There was nothing at Christie's or any of the other sale rooms this week. Yesterday I sent Bourne to bid at the Pembroke Square sale of which you sent me a catalogue. The weapons which you marked were very ordinary and of no special interest, and I put low limits on them, and we did not get them. We bought, however, the Indian signs of the zodiac which are very interesting, and a small picture of the Madonna for £2.6s. He is bidding on several lots of the books to-day.

(4) "Antient Medicine in Erin".

The question has arisen with respect to this book whether the title shall be printed in ancient Irish or in English characters. In the "Antient Cymric Medicine we had the

Henry D. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

title put on the cover in English in old Cymric characters, but we find that this would not be practicable in the old Irish characters, as they are so unlike the English that they could not be read by anyone not having a knowledge of the language. I suggest that the best thing to do would be to have the title in English on the cover, and on the title-page to have it first in English and then in old Irish characters. Kindly let me know if you approve of this.

(5) Re case from Seville.

Pitt & Scott have written to us with respect to this case that has been received from Seville damaged. They have now heard from their shippers in Seville, they say:- "they inform us that they received no instruction whatever to ensure the case and contents against damage, and they ensured only against total loss". In the circumstances they cannot entertain any claim. As I hear from Bourne's report that the damage is not great, we had better accept delivery of the case. If you agree to this, will you kindly let me know as early as possible, and he shall collect it, as it has remained in Pitt & Scott's possession until they heard from Seville.

(6) Re Mr R. T. Cooper.

I called on Mr Cooper in order to see some of his work, but was sorry to find that he had left Paris owing to ill-health, for a voyage, and was not expected to return for a month or two. I have his assignment of the copy-right of the drawing he did for us.

WR 2/20/5 [Cont.] 2.

(7) Re Voynich.

On my return home I found an urgent letter and telegram from Voynich stating that he had three or four M.S.S. of great interest that he wished to show me. I called at his house yesterday afternoon to look at them, and found he had four. One, a small copy of Abicenna on medicine, fifteenth century, for which he wanted £75; an M.S. of the fourteenth century on medicine by Constantine Africanus, £125; an M.S. by Pietrus Abanus, £85; and a small treatise on alchemy, seventeenth century. None of these were of any importance and none contained drawings. We already have an M.S. of Abicenna of an earlier period, and also two of Pietrus Abanus. His prices were outrageous, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to let him down a bit. He seemed very much surprised when I told him I could not see my way to making him an offer as the prices asked were quite beyond all reason. He said that he was leaving for Florence to-day and that he should have no difficulty in selling them for the prices asked there. I let the matter stand at that. As there was little of interest to us in these M.S.S. it will do no harm to leave them on his hands for a bit. He especially wanted a reply about the "Vatican Types" printed on white silk, as he wished to take it with him. I told him that my friend to whom I had lent it to inspect, would give him £15 for it, but he stated that his lowest price is £25. I do not think the book, although unique, is worth it, and I shall be glad to know if you will keep it at the price, as I am sure he will not take a

WR 2/20/5 [cont.] 10.

penny less. I had to promise him to return the book without delay, or send him a cheque for £25.

Re Mr Torday's agreement.

I enclose herewith a typewritten copy of the matter we printed in pamphlet form for Mr Torday, and have incorporated with it a number of additional queries which I have thought of after reading Captain Anderson's paper in the last Balfour Report.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) C. J. S. THOMPSON.

Henry S. Wellcome.

Snow Hill Buildings,
London,

26th April, 1909.

NR2/20/6

*Ans.
Paris
April 29th 1909*

Dear Mr Wellcome,

(9) Re Mr Davidson's mortars.

I went over to Cromer and saw Mr Davidson on Wednesday, and made a careful inspection of his collection of mortars. On the whole, they are an interesting lot, more especially as with the exception of about five or six, all of them are English. He has only four of large size, they are of no special interest, and are worth about four or five pounds each. The remainder are of small and medium sizes, and, on careful examination, I do not think there are more than two 'fakes' in the entire lot, and those are Flemish. The most interesting mortar in the collection is a fourteenth century bronze piece, with straight sides and ringed handles. This is undoubtedly monastic English, in beautiful preservation, and I should value it at from eight to ten pounds. It is similar to those I have seen depicted in M.S.S. of the fourteenth century.

I found Davidson rather a flamboyant style of individual, who had a great deal to say concerning the time and money he had expended in gathering the mortars together. After being exhibited at St. Louis, he seems to think he has only got to ask a price and he is quite certain to get it. I saw he was touchy, and not the kind of man to bargain with on the spot, so refrained from making

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

any comments as to value, beyond mentioning the fact that I was afraid I could not recommend you to purchase at the price he asked. On classifying the whole collection, I should estimate the outside value to be £120, that is, estimating what I think these mortars would fetch if sold in the market at the present time. I told him that I would lay the matter before you when I saw you at the end of the week, and you would communicate with him on the matter. On your return, I can run through the photographs and give you a description of each mortar, if you wish.

On my way back, I took a run through Norwich and Cambridge, and bought six cases of curious old surgical instruments, together with two old pairs of spectacles, the whole lot cost £1. 16s. One is an old flean with an ivory handle studded with silver, and is especially interesting.

(10) Sales.

We purchased at the Pembroke Square sale the Indian drawings of the signs of the zodiac and a picture of Christ and the Madonna, for £2. 6s., also twenty-one volumes of books for £2. 2s.

At Hodgson's sale we bought an interesting book by Thomas Linacre, bearing on the title page an autograph of William Wright, apothecary and Jesuit of York, dated 1563; also three other early printed books, the lot for thirty-six shillings.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR-2/20/6 [CONT.]³.

At Puttick & Simpson's we bought an heraldic manuscript of the seventeenth century, with coloured coats of arms, containing at the end a portrait of a celebrated quack doctor called George Jones, and a list of his cures, dated 1675. 23. 7. 6. Also a diploma of a Doctor in Philosophy, beautifully written in gold and brown on vellum, with an elaborate title, dated 1683, together with a sixteenth century document bearing signatures of Spanish grandees, for eleven shillings.

I have purchased from Spink a curious group of figures in bronze, about eighteen inches high, representing a village dentist extracting a tooth from a struggling man, very well modelled, for which I gave five guineas.

I have also bought from Walker, of Wolverhampton, a remarkable collection of engravings, seventy-three in all. This is the man from whom we bought the last fine collection of medical portraits, and these are the remainder of his stock. They include some very rare items, namely, the frontispieces of several early works on medicine, some fine mezzotints, a miniature of Gerard, by G. P. Harding, in water-colours, executed about 1800, a miniature of Dr Colley by Harding, 1801, and a miniature of Eastwick by Harding, 1801, also four fine portraits of Harvey, one described as unknown.

All the rest are portraits of famous medical men, fine examples, laid down on paper.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/20/6 [cont.] 4.

Walker asked £9. 17. 6. for the lot. I offered him £7, but he would not accept it, and we have now agreed on £7. 7. on my taking the lot.

(11) Re Paris dealer, and wooden carving. If you are in the neighbourhood of the rue Saint Pere, there is a dealer called Boutet, at No. 15, who has a wood carving in relief of St. Martin and a cripple, in gold and colour. It looks a genuine piece, and he asked me four hundred francs for it, and would not listen to any offer of less. The cripple looks interesting, as he appears to be minus a leg and an arm, possibly from gangrene. I do not think it worth four hundred francs, but if you are passing, it might be worth while to look at it. It was facing the door, just inside the shop.

H. S. Thompson

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.

*I could not find
this relief carving
I did not think
I would look
for it - you
can find it up
near the line*

Snow Hill Buildings,

London,

WIR 2/20/6 [CONT.]
26th April, 1909.

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Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd?)

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Henry S. Welles, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/20/6 [Cont.] 3.

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Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

WR 2/29/6 [CONT.] 4.

Walker asked £9. 17. 6. for the lot. I offered him £7, but he would not accept it, and we have now agreed on £7. 7. on my taking the lot.

(11) Re Paris dealer, and wooden carving. If you are in the neighbourhood of the rue Saint Pere, there is a dealer called Boutet, at No. 18, who has a wood carving in relief of St. Martin and a cripple, in gold and colour. It looks a genuine piece, and he asked me four hundred francs for it, and would not listen to any offer of less. The cripple looks interesting, as he appears to be minus a leg and an arm, possibly from gangrene. I do not think it worth four hundred francs, but if you are passing, it might be worth while to look at it. It was facing the door, just inside the shop.

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.

WR2/20/7
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

7th October 1909.

Dear Mr Wellcome,

Handwritten: Pasadena Nov 78/909
Handwritten: 4
T.1. We returned to London on Wednesday, September 29th, completing the journey with two days in Paris, during which I visited many of the curio and old booksellers shops and bought an exceedingly fine lot of manuscripts and books of interest.

Handwritten: 8
We commenced work in Vienna at the Imperial Library under considerable difficulties, as since our visit last year another Director had been appointed who was not disposed to be friendly or give us any special facilities. He limited us to examining three manuscripts per day, - I pointed out to him the circumstances and the short period which was at our disposal to conduct the research and asked him if he could not give us the same facilities that we had last year, but he would not give way and it was only by liberally tipping the attendants that we were able to get through our work there on the Oriental MSS. Although we searched the manuscripts thoroughly we found no drawings or miniatures of importance, so I proceeded to visit the Monasteries that we left unexplored last year. I am sorry to say we again there drew blank and found nothing worth photographing at Klosterneuberg, Melk or Kremsmunster. The MSS. in these places were all practically on theology, history and kindred subjects.

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.-

WR2/20/7 [CONT.]

-2-

97
I spent one day in Salzburg to visit the curio and book shops, and bought an interesting pocket medicine case fitted with 32 bottles, and a small pewter container belonging to a medicine case, for 8 Kr. From an old bookman I purchased fourteen early printed works on medicine and surgery, two very rare by Paracelsus, the lot for £3-8-9.

98
X
In Munich I first visited the Royal Library and found there some extremely interesting early manuscripts containing drawings, all of which we photographed. In one manuscript dated 1158 I found twenty-two drawings representing various methods of using the actual cautery, the figures of the physicians and patients are very quaint but well drawn and the whole will form a most interesting series when reproduced. The same work contained five anatomical drawings partly in colour, which are also full of interest.

X
In another manuscript of the 16th century I found a very curious and unusual astrological man and in two other manuscripts of the 14th century a drawing in colour indicating a phlebotomical man, and also a very unusual figure showing the influence of the planets on the various organs of the human body. I have not met a similar one before.

In a manuscript of the 14th century on Astronomy I found a remarkably fine zodiac and thirteen planetary signs, all of which we photographed, and in another manuscript of the 9th century we got

WR 2/20/7 (CONT.)

~~xxxxxx~~ a curious representation of treatment by bathing.

X) There was nothing to be found of interest in the curio shops in Munich beyond an engraving called 'The Anatomy of the Heart' which I bought for 6 Mks.

good
In Strasburg I made a most interesting find of a little pocket medicine case 4" x 2 1/2" in the form of an old book with metal clasps and elaborately stamped in gold. It contains five quaint little bottles, capped with skin, (the contents being intact, (and a ~~xxxxxxx~~ bill which appears to have been printed in the late 17th or early 18th century, giving an account of the contents of the case and methods for using same. The bottles contain -

- (1) An antidote for poisons, to be taken in drops.
- (2) The Oil of Iron.
- (3) An Oil for the Stomach.
- (4) An Essence for acute malignant fevers.
- (5) Elixir Vitae, for raising the spirits and prolonging life.

The woman who had this, asked 35 Mks. for it, but after some trouble I got it, together with an old scarifier of the 17th century, for 20 Mks.

Wf In the two days we spent in Paris I had only time to visit the shops where I was known and where they put things on one side for me, but managed to get a most interesting lot of manuscripts and books, and also two old surgical instruments, viz a large pair of forceps with chiselled

WR-20/7 [CONT.]

-4-

steel handles and a curious dental lancet with a silver handle, the two for 25 francs.

I bought five manuscripts, four on alchemy, one containing many curious drawings and another a large manuscript written in Arabic in the 17th century on medicine, the lot for £4-15-7.

The books I purchased numbered eighty-two, all early printed, and all interesting, and the lot amounted to £21-6-0.

The last man I called upon was Symes, from whom I have previously bought many books very cheaply. I selected about 70 from his store in a cellar, all on medicine, alchemy and astrology which he is sending me on approval, as I had not time to look through them, and I will then make him an offer for the lot. This Symes is a very curious man, who possesses a very wide knowledge of early printed books and manuscripts. He told me that for thirteen years he had been assisting Mons. Choud in writing his great work on the history of printing in France which he is doing for the Government. He said in order to write this work Choud had amassed an immense library, the work was now drawing to a conclusion and the library would be disposed of privately. He said that there were several hundreds ^{of} early printed books on medicine & other sciences which he hoped to get hold of or if he did not buy himself that I should have the first refusal. I have arranged with him that directly the books are for disposal

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.-

Followed up
classy get
these & examples
typography

WR 2/20/7 [Cont.]

he is to let me know and I will go over to Paris and make a valuation of them. He states that Choud bought them very cheaply simply on account of the typography and not the subject, and now he has finished the work of his life he simply wishes to dispose of them at nominal prices. I think this will be an opportunity worth seizing.

T. 2. With reference to your letter which I received just before my return respecting Dr Sambon, I have conferred with Mr Pearson and Mr Smith on the matter and turned up all the documents and Sambon correspondence of previous years, which I have always kept in a separate folio in our files, but I find the duplicate of the letter that we drafted and which you sent to him before I went to Spain is missing from the correspondence, and I cannot trace the copy of this letter anywhere in the files. Some days ago I wrote to Miss Ferraton to know if she remembered it and could throw any light on its whereabouts, and she replies stating that shortly before she left us (while I was away) she remembers seeing the letter. Mr Pearson thinks that perhaps you may have asked for it to be brought before you and so it may be among the papers which you took with you. I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know if you have it, or if you remember asking for it shortly before you left London.

Think refd
to Sam or
in my
Sambon file
I have not got it

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.-

WR 2/20/7 [CONT.]

T. 6. I have been very busy this week seeing applicants in reply to the advertisements I have inserted both for the male and female assistants. Many are likely and I hope to be able to fix on one early next week.

T. 4. There were only two sales this week at Foster's. Robinson & Fisher's do not open their rooms until next week. At the former the large oil painting of Wm. Harvey (?) in the red robe (which you will remember Llewellyn obtained for your inspection) again came up. I gave Llewellyn a limit of twenty-five guineas upon it, but it was withdrawn. Llewellyn states there was no competition with him and the auctioneer simply ran it up to that amount, and withdrew when he dropped bidding. I will follow this up and if it is not offered again I will try to get it privately.

T. 5. We obtained over 150 photographs from MSS during our journey which has been as successful as those of former years. The pictures photographed in colour have come out excellently and will be of the greatest assistance to the artists. I propose to put them at work on the pictures as soon as possible on the same terms as last year.

Faithfully yours,

prepare for large increase
Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

*Paintings both Oil & Water Colours
 K. & B. B. B. B.*

J. S. Thompson

*Pasadena
Nov. 7 1909*

14
REC'D
23 NOV 1909

Duplicate.

WR 2/20/8

Snow Hill Buildings, E. C.

15th October, 1909.

Dear Sir,

T. 3. Your letter of the 1st inst., and the revised proof copy of the Press Souvenir duly to hand, and the contents I have noted. As soon as I have completed the revision of the Naval Defence Souvenir, on which I am at present busy, I will at once proceed with the Press copy and go into it thoroughly and forward you the revised scheme you wish.

With reference to the Naval Defence Souvenir, I have replaced all the bad pictures with much better ones, and have also found several new pictures of especial interest, which will fill in connecting links. I hope to complete this in a day or two.

T. 7. I have received a letter from a Dr Vincentius of Wasseiges, Liege, in which he offers to present us with the following things:-

1. An antelope horn containing a number of small things without a name, brought from Kasai, Africa in the vicinity of Kapulumba, and used by Kangabuka (wizard doctor) for the exercise of his art.
2. Three masks which the wizard doctor wears, that is to say places on his head in order to execute the dances at the annual circumcision of the children. These masks come from Kwilu or rather from the region between Kwilu and Eastern Wamba.
3. A stock of about 40 kinds of arrows with points of iron of various forms or in wood. These arrows are poisonous, believed to be from animal substance in decomposition and juice of plants.
4. A visiting card of a Belgian doctor in the

very interesting

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.

Duplicate.

WR 2/20/8 [CONT.]

-2-

year 1840. This card represents a Flemish interior; the patient in his arm-chair holds his feet towards the pillar, whilst the doctor holds his pulse.

5. Three amulets in ivory which the natives of the Congo hang round their necks in order to keep illness from them.

6. A paper covered with Arabic signs referring to the 18th verse of the Coran, which says "Lord, protect us from illness and from the injurious animals which you have created".

In exchange Dr Vincentius asks if we will send him a hypodermic case and some remedies to use with it. We are sending him a no. 10 hypodermic case as soon as the objects arrive.

T.B. Picture of a medical dinner at Dr. Ernest Hart's.

Inside a pawnbroker's shop in Great Queen Street last week I saw an oil painting by Solomon J. Solomon, R.A., which represents a dinner party in the house of the late Dr. Ernest Hart. He is sitting at the head of the table, around which are seated the following medical men:- Critchett, Treves, Laking, the two Broadbents, Creighton Browne, James Paget, Lord Lister and Dr. Quain. I remember seeing this picture in the Academy many years ago. The size is 3 ft by 2 ft. It is not painted in Solomon's best manner.

The pawnbroker says it originally cost £200, and he is asking £100 for it. I told him that that price was quite out of the question and left it. I called in again the other day and he now tells me that the very lowest he could possibly accept is £75. I

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

contd.

all valuable
send him
also a good
useful pocket
case & encourage
him to send more
such things.

Don't fail
to get this
quickly.
Don't let it
slip even at price
if necessary

WR 2/20/8 [Cont.]

Duplicate.

suggested £40 to him as a reasonable offer, but he would not hear of it, so at the present I am leaving him alone. The picture is exceptionally interesting, owing to the portraits of famous men, many of whom are now dead, and it is difficult to say what it would bring in the market. As a painting, I should say £35 to £40 would be its outside value, but taking the interest to us, it is worth more. I should like to know what you would care to go to on this, as I do not think there is any danger of its being snapped up.

T.9. I have received from Lang of Rome a very finely written manuscript of the 17th century on Alchemy, containing a large number of drawings of apparatus. It contains 222 pages, but is in poor condition. The size is 5 in by 3 and a half. Lang asks £10 for it, and has refused £8 which I offered. I have now sent him a cheque for £7.7. which I think he will accept.

T.901 Assistance. I have interviewed a number of men this week, who replied to an advertisement I inserted in the Athenaeum. Many of them have good qualifications, but they practically all lack experience of archaeological work. The most likely applicant I have seen is a Mr George Duncan, M.A., B.Sc., of Edinburgh University, and Medallist in Chemistry. He is 29 years of age, and has a good knowledge of French and German. After taking his degree, he became a tutor in a large school in Trowbridge, but he did not like the tutorship and has since been Secretary to a Dr Nowack, an Astronomical expert.

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

It is very
valuable
to us

Duplicate.

WR 2/20/8 [Cont.]

-4-

He is asking £156 a year. I am going to have a further interview with him next week, as he seems a man who could adapt himself and be trained in our special subjects. He is still engaged in a post and would have to relinquish it before coming to us, if we engaged him, so it would be a difficult matter to take him on trial. I am still looking out, however, through other Agencies, and will see Mr. Duncan again and then report to you the result.

T.11. Purchases for H.M.E.

We have purchased some very interesting objects during the week. In a dealer's shop, off Tottenham Court Road, I noticed an anatomical figure of a man, very finely carved in box-wood, showing muscles and ligaments, and standing 15 in. high. I should say it was probably a piece of early 17th century work. It has been much handled, and has an appearance of considerable age. It belonged to an Ex-Army Colonel, and he wanted 24 for it. I got it for 15.

In an outside Auctioneer's sale room in a small street in Hackney, we bought an oil representing a druidical rite - the offering of a newly-born child to a Druid, who is standing under an oak-tree. This picture is 2 ft by 3 ft, and is in an old carved wood frame. It is a very fine piece of work, and is worth, we think from £10 to £12. We bought it for 30/-

This morning I have started Smith to make a complete list of all those small auctioneers' sale rooms in the N. and E. and suburbs of London. Many of these places do not issue catalogues, but have weekly sales, and I think if thoroughly watched and searched once a week, they should prove a new source for finds. I shall make Smith do them systematically, especially as just

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

Duplicate. -5-

WR 2/20/8 [CONT.]

now he is getting very little from the dealers.

At Foster's last week, the only picture of interest was an oil painting of the Brazen serpent after Rembrandt, which we purchased for £3. This week, we bought a very excellent oil painting of William Penn by Stuart for £3.

At Phillips, Son and Neill picked up a large ebonized glass show case, fitted with glass shelves, standing over 6 ft high by 2 ft each way, the four sides being of glass. This will be very useful for H.M.E. We bought it cheap for £4. 8,

There was very little of interest at Stevens' sale this week. The bronze Benin cock was offered again, and I put £5 on it, but it was withdrawn this time at £7.

We bought two carved nut charms against poison in string bags, and two carved pestles and mortars of carved wood for pounding the betel nut, from British New Guinea for 17/-

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

16
RECD.
25 NOV 1909

Duplicate.

W/R2/20/9

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

October 22nd, 09.

Dear Sir,

Good!
Good!
T.11 We have purchased the following from the Sale rooms this week:- At Phillip, Son and Neale two old microscopes with lenses, slides and fittings, in cases - 34/- one of these is a particularly good specimen, it being composed of shagreen and wood, and it is early 18th century. At Robinson and Fisher's, we bought a portrait of the Duke of Suffolk, one of those cabinet oil paintings, very finely executed, in elaborate costume - £15.15- and a large gallery picture of Moses raising the brazen serpent, a fine work and well painted - £5. A large crocodile, stuffed, suitable for alchemist's laboratory - £1.

T.12. Naval Defence Souvenir. I have now completed the revision of this book, and have carried out all your suggestions, and replaced the poor pictures with better ones. I have added the following pictures to fill in gaps which are important, and they are all good:-

Early French Invasion. The Earl of Warwick captures two French carracks, 1416.

Invasion of Ireland by the French in 1798.

Capture of l'Immortalite.

Portrait of Lord Anson, Admiral of the Fleet.

Portrait of Admiral, Sir William Cornwallis.

Portrait of Earl of Dundonald, Admiral of the United Kingdom.

Portrait of Prince Rupert, Admiral of the Fleet.

An Egyptian battleship, Punt Expedition, 1600 B.C.

A Greek trireme,

Battleship of the 4th century.

I have now commenced work on the Press Conference Souvenir, and as soon as I have completed it will

Contd.

Are there good pictures of a Phoenician and a Carthaginian ship on board?
Good!
Henry S. Bellcome Esq.

Duplicate.

-2-

WR2/20/9[Cont.]

send the suggested revise on to you.

T.13. Hardaker (damage to marble vases from Hull to Dartford). I have now settled this matter, which has been under dispute for some months. I have accepted the Insurance Company's offer to have the vases repaired by an expert, selected by them, at their expense, which they offered as an act of grace. As the matter stood, I had refused to settle Hardaker's bill, until the Insurance Co. had settled the claim with them, who were the Insurers, and they had handed it over to us. Hardaker at length put the matter into the hands of their solicitors, threatening me with immediate action, if I did not settle the bill. The Insurance Co meanwhile communicated with me, stating that they repudiated Hardaker's claim, as he had neglected to give notice of the damage until nearly three weeks after it was done, although we advised him at once, and told him to do so. They, however, sent an expert from the West end to examine the vases, and report on the cost of repairing the damage. He assured them he would be prepared to carry out the work and make the vases as good as they ever were for the amount of £2.10. I consulted Mr Smith on this matter, and he said that the only course to pursue was to pay Hardaker their bill, and then enter an action against them for the damage done to the vases in transit, and leave him to fight it out with the Insurance Co. But, as this would have been a costly matter, and as the Insurance Co came forward and offered to repair the vases, free of all cost, I thought it better to close with them. The vases have now been repaired, and we have inspected them. They have been so well done that no trace of any damage can be detected.

right

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

T.14. A representative from the London University called to see me on Tuesday, and wished to know if I would furnish him with a description of our Library, which by some means they have heard of. It appears that by order of the Senate, the Librarian of the London University is preparing a book, that will be published shortly on the Libraries of London, public and private. He showed me a proof of the book, which is already in the Press, in which I noticed such libraries were described as the "House of Lords", the "Bank of England", and libraries belonging to private individuals in the West end, that I had never heard of before. The representative stated that Mr Rye, the librarian of the University of London had heard that our library was very rich in early works of science, and he is most anxious to include a short account of it in the book. I gave him no information, and told him that I could not give any permission, without referring the matter to you, and I promised to communicate with him in a few weeks time. Shall I prepare a short paragraph, just giving the approximate number of the volumes and an outline of the principal subjects, on which the books in our library consist, or would you prefer that it should not be mentioned?

T.15. According to your request, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the notes I received from you, respecting the Medical Missionary book.

T.16. On Tuesday last, I had a note from Voynich, stating that he had just returned from the South of France and the North of Spain, where he had been searching for manuscripts, and had brought back a number with him he wished me to examine. I called in as early as possible to see them and found he had got a very interesting batch, 16 in all

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

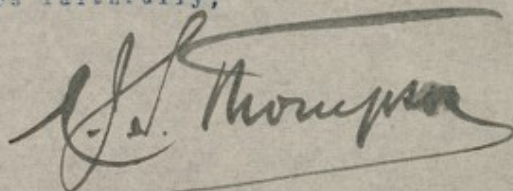
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W.S. sat & read
med Sur &
Chem & allied
Sci.
Speak of it
as a Scientific
and Technical
Library

WR 2/20/9 [Cont.]

The finest was a folio manuscript of magic, early 17th century, containing a number of coloured drawings of alchemical apparatus, magical diagrams, and cabala. Others consisted of works on Medicine, Pathology, Surgery, Pharmacy, Alchemy and early recipes, also a manuscript of one of Basil Valentin's works. All these are 17th-18th century, a number of them dated. He wanted £53 for the lot, but eventually I got him to accept £42. 10. and have secured them. They are not dear, considering the scarcity there now is of manuscripts of this period. He tells me he has ransacked all the small towns and villages north and south of the Pyrenees, and these have all come out of Convents or private collections. He says he intends to clear France of all manuscripts that are obtainable, and has again left this week for further operations.

Yours faithfully,



Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Keep
close
touch

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Duplicate.

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

November 6th, 1909.

WR2/20/10

Dear Sir,

*Passadane
Nov 16/1909*

*? good for
Browns
Oriental
lit as well
as Hms &c*

T. 21. Literary Assistant. I have received an application early this week from a Dr P. Mall, who is at the present at the London Hospital, studying to take his F.R.C.P. He is 33 years of age and has had rather a remarkable career. He is of Hindoo extraction, and was brought up by an English lady with the object of becoming a missionary, being educated for that purpose at Harley College. He preferred medicine, however, and went to Munich, where he took his M.D. degree at the University, after which he obtained a post as Resident Physician at Fischer's Sanatorium on Lake Constance. From thence, he went to India to take up the appointment of chief medical adviser to the Maharajah of Kapurthala, where he had charge of the Indian Hospitals and five Dispensaries, and superintended the plague operations and inoculations of serum. He then served as Army surgeon in the first Japanese army in the Russo-Japanese war, and afterwards returned to Kapurthala for a year and a half, but resigned his post in order to come to England to take his F.R.C.P.

He states he has a great faculty for languages and speaks and writes German, French, Italian, Sanscrit, Persian, Hindustani, Punjabi, Arabic and some Japanese. The salary he asks is from £250-300 a year. I have had one interview with him, and he struck me as being a very capable man, and one who has travelled a great deal. I spoke to him on the history of early sciences,

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Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Duplicate.

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WR₂/20/10 [Cont.]

and he said although he had not studied them especially he was deeply interested in the subject. He said that to his knowledge there was a great mass of manuscripts in the libraries of the Rajahs and in the temples of India, which might yield important results, and his knowledge of Sanscrit would enable him to translate these. I spoke to him also of the oriental Mss in the English Universities, and he said he would be quite capable of making translations, and his knowledge of medicine would prove of great service to him in making any researches in Mss of an historical medical nature.

This man strikes me as being a particularly useful one to send to places abroad and to work in other libraries. There is a large amount to be done among the Persian medical Mss in the library of the India Office, and at a later period, with his knowledge of languages, he should be a very useful man in connection with the H.M.E. As a literary Assistant for our immediate work, however, I am afraid he would be of little use, as he has no literary experience, and has not done anything of the character we require.

Will you kindly let me know as early as possible what you think of the matter, and if I should give Dr Mall a trial at the India Office Library, and see what he can do?

T.22. At Robinson & Fisher's a remarkably fine portrait of Dr. William Harvey came up for sale, quite the finest I have seen. It is painted on old panel, 3'6" x 2'4" and is a three quarter length portrait in a rich brocaded

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd .

*Type
of man
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-3- WR2/20/10 [CONT.]

robe, trimmed with fur. At the side is written in script "William Harvey" age 60 and on the table below is the mss of his work on the Circulation of the Blood. It is a picture of the early 17th century, English School, but there is no indication of the painter. I went prepared to go to sixty guineas as an outside limit on it, but it was knocked down to us for twelve and a half.

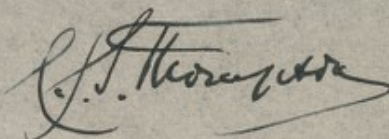
At Foster's the only picture of interest was an oil painting called "The wanton dying in poverty", by Wheatley, which we bought for 30/-

At a sale at Hodson's we bought a curious 17th century Ms book on recipes, 4to, containing a poem called "The elegy upon the death of Sir Thomas Overbury" who was poisoned in the 15th century. This was 40/-

At Glendinning's we bought a large plaster bust bronzed of the late Dr. Ernest Hart, standing on a marble pedestal, about 5 ft 6 in high - 16/-, also two fine small agate mortars a wooden pestle, and six old Lambeth drug pots for 10/-

At Bonham's we purchased an old 17th century mahogany brass-bound cordial chest, fitted with four large bottles, a pair of old brass candlesticks, a nankin bowl, teapot and a flint lock gun for 21/- This lot we bought for the old cordial chest^a, very interesting pieces with old brass mountings and old bottles.

Yours faithfully,



Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

WR2/20/11
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

November 27th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

I have duly received your replies to my letters of October 7th, 15th and 22nd, and have noted the same.

T.27. Dr Conner's Medical Library. You will no doubt remember Mr Curtis enclosing you a letter from Dr Conner of 215 West IXth Street, Cincinnati, U.S.A. who possesses a library of ancient medical works (3500 vols) and who wished to dispose of the same. You may recollect I wrote to Dr Conner twice, namely on the 28th November, 1908, and the 20th May, 1909, asking him in your name to forward us the catalogue for our inspection, but this has never come to hand, and we have heard nothing further from Dr Conner. I am reminding you of this, in case during your stay in America you should be in the neighbourhood of Cincinnati, and might wish to follow the matter up. I am enclosing you a copy of the letter from Dr Conner to Mr Curtis.

T.28. Since the retirement of Sir E. Maunde Thompson, Prof. R. Campbell Thompson has been given ^{medical} access to the very interesting collection of Babylonian tablets, and is now busily translating them. He expects to make important discoveries, and has promised me the first account of anything of interest. He will embody the whole of the translations in a book, which will be published by the British Museum.

T.29. Board, who has been away for some months has recently finished a picture of a pilgrimage of

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

Wash DC
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97
RECEIVED
12 FEB 1910

I shall not be near Cincinnati while R. C. Thompson is here. I shall be in Cincinnati during his absence. I am reminding you of his promise of his promise.

had followed up closely

WR2/20/11 [Cont.]

patients suffering from igitis sacer to the Abbey of St Antoine. It has come out very well, and I am having it photographed to form the frontispiece for the new edition of the Ergot book. I have also two lady artists hard at work in Newman Street in reproducing the pictures we gathered on our last continental journey. I have several other artists, I can find when necessary to meet with any extra work you may require doing.

T. 30. Purchases. I have secured the picture by Solomon of the "Medical dinner party at the house of Dr Ernest Hart" for £70, this week. This is rather a stiff price and more than I valued it at, but after bartering for it for the last two months, I heard early this week that Sir Anderson Critchett was after it, and had made an offer of £65. I at once went and secured it for £70, and brought it away.

I also purchased from Spink this week a very ancient bronze figure of I-Em-Hetep, larger than any we have, for £4. 15. It is mounted on a white alabaster throne, and has been pronounced genuine by Dr Budge. I bought also a curiously wrought Indian circumcision knife, ornamented with coral, the blade and haft of silver, for 25/-

At Glendinning's we purchased an old oil painting of the Dutch school, on panel, of a surgical operation (good) for £2.10., and from Foster's a beautiful little ivory model of a bone frigate, enclosed in a straw work case, with a glass front for £4. 4., about 7 in. long.

At Robinson & Fisher's there was nothing of interest this week, and there seems a great scarcity of good

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

WR2/20/11 [cont.]

42
pictures at the present time. The season has opened
very badly.

42
Stevens has a large sale coming off next week,
at which I hope to find some good things.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. Thompson

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Duplicate.

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

December 17th, 1909.

W/R 2/20/12

Dear Sir,

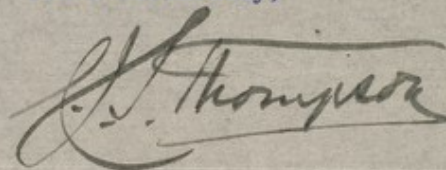
Re Dr. Sambon. Dr Sambon called to see me yesterday with reference to an appointment, which he states he has had definitely offered him by the Colonial Office for a period of twelve months, to investigate and work out the cause of Pellagra, the salary offered being £500 for the year. This would involve his being the first three months of the year in some district where Pellagra is prevalent, as for instance, in the North of Italy or in the West Indies. He showed me a letter from Prof. Ronald Ross, who I gather has had a good deal to do with this offer of appointment, and with whom Sambon has been recently staying in Liverpool. In the letter, Ross tells him that he must hurry up and make his decision at once or he will lose the post. Sambon says that he feels he cannot accept such an appointment, without first consulting you, as since his interview with you in September last, he considers himself bound to a certain extent, until hearing from you in reply to the letter, which he forwarded to America some two or three weeks ago. He therefore first consulted Dr Cantlie, who, he told me was writing you a personal letter, as well as communicating with Mr Pearson, giving his views on the subject. Sambon states that should you be willing for him to go and study Pellagra for the first three months of the year, in Italy or the West Indies, it should not interfere with any work he did with me, in connection with the H.M.E., and that he would be able to devote the bulk of his time afterwards

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to assisting in preparing for the Exhibition. He further stated that if he went to study Pellagra on the Continent for the first three months of the year, the proposal that he should carry on his researches in the Parasitological Laboratory at ^{Paris} Montpellier need not be carried out. You will no doubt have received his letter by this time, and I understand he will await your reply.

In a previous conversation I had with Dr Sambon, I understood from him that he has not given up his lectureship at the London Tropical School of Medicine, and does not contemplate doing so. I mention this fact, as I do not know whether you are aware of it or not.

Yours faithfully,



Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,