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WR 2/18/1-24

WR
WR²

(29)
Recd
9/1/07

WR 2/18/1

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

January 4th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I had all the Egyptian antiquities bought at Sotheby's cleared last week, and they are now safely placed in Smith's Warehouse - I am glad to say without any breakages during the removal.

I engaged a suitable room for Mr. Sotheby, about a quarter of a mile away, for ten shillings and sixpence per week, inclusive of gas and fire. I got him to start work there last Monday morning, and am keeping a strict watch upon him. I have a box of things taken over to the room every day. The things are counted in the morning and are again checked in the evening before being taken back to the warehouse. Sotheby is very pleased with the objects he has examined so far. He has now done the whole of the painted cartonnage, some of which he says is very fine. I have also a note from him in which he states:- "I have also done all the painted linen and the mummy wrappings. Some of the latter are better than the British Museum and South Kensington, and certainly the Gnostic linen is far the best I have seen. I am copying all the papyrus fragments, and it is a real pleasure to be at this work."

After he has transcribed the various papyrus I will get him to make a rough classification of each, and see if he can find any discovered or rediscovered.

There is one large jar among the pottery decorated with very curious medical symbols.

He is going to give this further study

WR 2/18/1 (Cont)

as he thinks it was no doubt used for the
purpose of incantation - possibly by the
orient-physicians or wizards. From among
the cottoy lots he has also picked together
an interesting Roman filter. I have agreed
to pay him thirty-five shillings per week
while he is engaged on this work, on the
understanding that if he absents himself, or
does not stick at it, this will cease at once.

I have forwarded to you under separate
cover a catalogue of Sotheby's sale, showing
the limits as placed on the various lots,
and the amount given for each of those that
were purchased.

I think I mentioned to you that the
widow of the old doctor in Leicester and
son through Sydenham a large chest full of
surgical instruments of various kinds. I
late afternoon to the end of the last cen-
tury. She asked twelve pounds for the lot.
I examined them carefully last week, and
found that they were of the best quality and
very interesting. A small proportion are, how-
ever, quite modern, but she would only
sell them altogether I offered eight pounds
for the entire lot, and she has accepted it.
I think the chest will be of great value
the modern instruments, which I think are
fully worth about twenty to forty pounds, and
Sydenham was found a dealer in South London
who is open to buy, and who will inspect
them next week.

Sydenham has asked for a lot of very
good things during the week, including two
old carved chests, a table, a bedstead, an
old iron safe for holding the head for the

purpose of dissection, a quaint old painted
roller and a number of instruments.

WR2/18/1 [CONF]

Owing to the holidays there have been no sales during the last week, but we are keeping a sharp look-out on all the auction rooms, and examining the columns of the "Telegraph" daily.

I received the two advertisements you sent me this morning, and will get catalogues as soon as they are out, and forward them to you if there is time.

I have bought a number of interesting books this week, including a little lot of medical works from Spencer, among which is a rare English printed herbal. The lot cost four pounds five shillings. I also got two very interesting works from Veyrich, one on alchemy, with four large curious folding engravings, and a copy of the earliest book written on aerated waters, by Magellan, the inventor of the Selsodene.

The purchases last week roughly amount to thirteen pounds (that is including the large collection of surgical instruments).

I enclose an interesting cutting from the "Evening News" re manuscripts discovered in Chinese Turkestan and recently taken to Berlin. I will try to keep track of these.

I have forwarded to you under separate cover by yesterday's morning mail a copy of Steven's catalogue for his sale of curios on Tuesday and Wednesday next (the 8th and 9th inst.) I noticed on going through the catalogue last night that there are a number of items of considerable interest and importance to us. I have already marked the following lots:-

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,
- 11, 13, 17, 19, 43, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57,
- 58, 59, 60, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 84.

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100, 102, 111, 117, 119, 119, 120, 122, 128,
131, 133, 134, 136, 143, 144, 146, 150, 154,
158, 199, 208, 212, 228, 230A, 246A, 280.

You will notice that the Mexican head
with the grey hair is coming up again. I
will go up to fifty pounds on this as you
instructed unless I hear from you to the con-
trary. I will take the earliest opportunity
on Monday of going to view these things and
putting full limits on those that are of
great importance. Should you get the cat-
alogues I sent you in time, perhaps you will
be able to send me any further instruction.
There are doubtless other lots besides the
I have marked here that may be worth having
but I will make a careful inspection on Mo-
day, and do all I can.

Yours faithfully,

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,
Hotel Victoria,
Biarritz.

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WR 2/18/2

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

January 18th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

Your note and marked catalogue of Stevens's sale, together with the cable, came duly to hand on the morning of the 8th inst.

I spent several hours in Stevens's room on Monday afternoon examining the things, and went again on Tuesday morning. Many of the lots I found were of the greatest interest from our point of view, the things offered on the first day being exceptionally good. The medicine-man's juggling-box is very extraordinary; so also is the large wooden figure of the native deity that presides over child-birth. The latter is one of the finest things ^{of the kind} I have seen. The carved elephant tusk was the same one that has been up so many times. I believe it belongs to Miss Cutter, as it was knocked down to her for eighty guineas - the same thing, I think, as happened before.

I had not been in the room long before old Stevens pounced down upon me, and asked me if I was going to make any bid for the head. He said that the owners had considerably lowered their reserve, but if I would make an offer before the sale they would like to consider it. I told him that the highest I would give would be twenty pounds and the best thing he could do would be to put it up for competition.

At the sale in the afternoon I gave Stowe a limit of fifty pounds on it. There was a crowded room when it was offered, and Stevens delivered quite a little address, and in ^{his most} impressive manner ^{he} related how a

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Continued)

WR2/18/2 [cont.]?

genuine offer of one hundred and twenty pounds had been made for that very head at the last sale. It had been his greatest regret ever since that owing to the high reserve of one hundred and fifty guineas which had been placed upon it by the owners he had been unable to accept that offer. He trusted that it would be repeated. etc.

The bid^{ing} started at twenty guineas, and he trotted it up to forty. An old man who I am told is a doctor in the West End bid forty-five guineas, which I believe was the first genuine bid. Then the bidding stopped, and just at the last moment, Stowe, who had held back very well, made one bid only, bringing it up to fifty guineas, and after a long wait Stevens knocked it down to him. Stowe told me that on leaving the room after the sale he was accosted by two well-dressed men, who told him that if he would send it to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington they would agree to give him two hundred pounds.

We had excellent luck with the other lots during the sale. I had Stowe and Reade buying, and I was there myself to watch any special objects if they went over the limits, but I only had to do this in a few cases.

You will see by the marked catalogue (showing limits and prices paid) that we got every object of special interest to us. These have now been all cleared, and are at Smith's Warehouse. With respect to the heads I have had each one most carefully packed in cotton wool and placed in a small wooden box with camphor. These four boxes I have again had placed in a large strong case, marked "With special care", and have stored them at Schoolbred's with your other things. I have insured the four heads for two hundred

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(Continued)

WR 1/18/2 [Cont.]

and fifty pounds. I shall be glad to know if this meets with your approval?

The objects bought at Stevens's sale amounted to about two hundred and twenty pounds.

The sale of Canon Harford's books, curios, pictures, etc. comes off at Knight, Frank & Rutley's on January 18th, 24th and 25th. The catalogue of the first day's sale will be out on Monday, and I will forward one to you at once.

Boscawen has made an interesting find among the Egyptian things bought at Sotheby's. It is a pottery vase decorated with pre-historic paintings in red. He says he has only seen one other vase like it, and that is in the Musée d'Antiquités in Brussels where it is specially preserved in a glass case by itself. He believes the drawings certainly date back to a period prior to B.C. 4,000. I enclose you a rough sketch of the drawings he has made from the vase. You will notice that it is exceptionally interesting, ~~and~~ I am keeping this vase out, and having it packed with special care.

I called in at Voynich's the other afternoon and found he had just returned from the north of France where he tells me he has gathered two cases full of interesting books and some manuscripts on alchemy. He promises me the first look at them, and as soon as the cases arrive he is going to send me a wire. I will secure them, if any good, at the lowest price I can.

Madsen has also got together for me an interesting parcel of early medical books. I looked in there on Wednesday, and several of them are well worth having, but his prices are rather stiff. He asks fifteen pounds

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(Continued)

seven shillings for twelve books, ^{WR 2/18/2 [cont.]} and will not allow more than ten per cent discount. I am offering him ten pounds. I think that after some haggling I may possibly get them.

I had lunch yesterday with Mr. Athol Joyce. He seems a very nice fellow and would, I am sure, be very useful to us in connection with H. M. E. work. He has asked me to write an official letter to him as Secretary of the Anthropological Institute, and he will get the Council to lend us anything they may have, and will also influence their members to do likewise. I am sending such a letter to him this week.

He introduced me to a Dr. Seligmann (I don't know if you know him either personally or by repute), a traveller and explorer who has recently returned from Borneo. He says that among the things he has brought back he has a number of interesting objects connected with primitive surgery among the Malays and other races. As soon as he gets his things unpacked he promises to write to me and make an appointment to go to his house and see them. He is settling in London for some time.

He told me he had brought back a number of samples of arrow- and ordeal-poisons from the Eastern Archipelago and also from Africa. He offers to let me have these if we will have them investigated. They include a quantity of "muavi", the ordeal-poison which you may remember you told me to speak to you about some months ago. I accepted his offer on your behalf, and told him I was sure you would be pleased to have an investigation made of any of these substances that he could let us have.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

WR2/18/3

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Recd
24/2/07

Snod Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

January 18th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellecome,

I duly received your note dated January 14th, also the catalogue you have returned, and the copy of the book on the early employment of ergot, which I have forwarded to Dr. Hale and Dr. Barber for their perusal.

I have noted your remarks re the book catalogue and am sending you two sets, and also the comments you have made on letter, and will see that your instructions are carried out.

There was a sale of miscellaneous books at Hobson's three days last week, at which I picked up a few interesting books at a reasonable price. The "Fremont's Magazine" - eleven volumes - to which you called my attention, I examined, but could not see anything of special interest in it. I put a limit of four pounds ten shillings upon it, but it sold for six pounds fifteen shillings. Many of the items we bought at this sale are very interesting, and include "The Surgeon's Mate" by Woodall, 1883, a fine old book on surgery with woodcuts of old surgical instruments, which cost sixty-three shillings; a manuscript book - calligraphy - with fine scroll-work initial letters - seventeenth century - thirty-one shillings; and two books on astrology, seventeenth century: one "Astrolo-Physical Compendium" by Hill, 1687, and an old calen-

H. S. Wellecome, Esq.

(Continued)

WR2/18/3 [cont.]

dar by W. Lilly ~~for~~ 1880. Between the leather cover and the binding of the last book I had a very interesting find of eleven autograph prescriptions, dated from 1880 to 1899; also three letters on medical matters signed by one Anthony Furlong, who is evidently the author of the prescriptions, and a medical man. With these was an old drug bill - very interesting - of the same period. These last two books cost thirty shillings.

I went to Voyaich's on Wednesday, and made a careful examination of the books he has just bought in France. The bulk of them were of no great importance and we already have copies of them in the library, but I selected what I thought the cream of the lot. These are:-

A beautiful book on anatomy which I have never seen before, by Stephani, printed in Paris in 1645. It is a folio, and contains forty full-page wood-cuts by Jory. It is in a royal binding, and is altogether a very remarkable work. He asked eight guineas for it.

A book on poisons by Grovin, published in 1686, contains a large number of wood-cuts of the various substances described. This is the only illustrated book on poisons I have ever come across, and I have never met with a copy for sale before. Among the poisonous animals mentioned are rats, and some insects that look like mosquitoes. It will be interesting to translate the accompanying descriptions to see if any allusion is made to plague or malaria. This book is also beautifully

WR2/18/3 [CONT.]

bound ; (it fits in a case) and the price he asks is five guineas.

I also selected two manuscripts of the seventeenth century on alchemy, both containing drawings of furnaces, apparatus, etc. For these he asks three guineas and three pounds respectively. There was also another very interesting early work on surgery by Berengarius, published in 1536, containing many interesting wood-cuts of surgical instruments, the price three guineas. Besides these works I picked out eight other early printed books on alchemy, medicine, theriac and surgery.

~~For these~~ ^{He} asked thirty-two pounds six shillings, ^{for the lot} but I finally got him down to twenty-seven pounds. I found that it was necessary to close with him at once, as he was writing to Professors Ferguson, Osler and others, offering the work on anatomy and the other early medicals, so to prevent risk of losing any I decided to take them, as although the prices of some were rather stiff, I thought that on the whole they were not dear. I shall be glad to know if you approve of this.

I forwarded to you on Thursday a catalogue of the sale of Canon Harford's collection of coins, books and antiquities which is to be held on the 24th. If you have not time to return to your catalogue marked, I will, after viewing, buy whatever I think likely to be useful. The sale of his furniture comes off to-day, and I looked at the things yesterday, but judging from what they have it looks as if the family were only selling off what is little better

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Continued).

WRm/12/3 [cont.]

than lumber. I put limits on an old tea-
chest, an interesting little cabinet, an
Italian majolica drug vase - a very fine one
- which were the only things there that I
think will interest you in any way.

There has been a three days' sale at
Toothby's this week, and I have bought the
following lots which have come in cheap:-
"De Insectis" by Solartius, with plates,
1685, for eleven shillings; "Prognostication"
by Paracelsus, containing thirty-two copper-
plate plates, 1686, for sixty-five shillings.
This is very interesting, also a herbal by
Valerius Cordus, full of wood-cuts, 1681,
for seventy shillings.

As the drawings called "Sonnet" in
the "Studio" to which you called attention
I have had enquiries made, and find the ori-
ginals are the property of the headmaster of
the school. He said that he would not care
to part with them for ten pounds each; but
he is willing to have them photographed, and
would sell the prints of the smallest for a
guinea. ^{but} the larger ones ^{would be} for more. If
you would like to have these please let me
know.

I enclose a cutting from "The Lancet" of
January 5th as an "Historico-Medical Calen-
dar", and am waiting to see if I
can get one. Do you not think that some-
thing of this kind would be a good idea for
us to bring out - probably next year? - in an
artistic style, for the B.M.S., with suitable
illustrations?

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Continued)

WR 2/18/3 [Cont.]

Several

Boscawen has had ~~very~~ interesting finds during the week in the Egyptian collection. They include several magical vases inscribed with magical signs, a pre-historic boat modelled in terra-cotta, and another pre-historic vase with finely drawn figures of animals. I am making Boscawen describe every object as fully as possible, and as having every hieroglyphic inscription deciphered and translated where possible. It is afraid it is going to take a longer time than I expected, but I think it will be advisable to have a good descriptive catalogue made now, while I have got Boscawen fast. He is keeping at the work very well so far, and he has now deciphered and described about six hundred and thirty objects. He has been at work now just a fortnight, and has done about half of the collection.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

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24/2/04

WR₂/18/4⁺

17th, a good little picture on panel called
"The Dentist" by Verelst (P), two pounds nine
shillings and sixpence. This is a picture
I have not seen before. Also a painting on
panel of an alchemist, for one pound ten
shillings. At Hodgson's we bought a copy of
Cookayne's "Saxon Leechdoms" in a parcel with
a number of volumes of the Camden Society's
publications for one pound seven shillings.
I have been looking out for a cheap copy of
Cookayne for a number of years, and it will
be very useful.

I made a careful inspection of the an-
tiquities, books etc. belonging to Canon Har-
ford which came up for sale on Thursday.
More than half of his collection consisted of
Greek and Roman coins, among which I could
not see anything of interest to us. A great
many of his Greek-Roman terra-cottas were
undoubtedly false, and I saw nothing worth
buying beyond a few of the books. Of these
we got Bidloo's "Anatomia Corporis", 1836, a
very fine work on anatomy, for ten shillings;
Bertrac's "Complete Treatise of the Muscles"
with plates, 1831, and three other works for
twenty-two and sixpence; Cestio's "Flora Len-
donensis", two volumes, folio, 1777, with
beautiful coloured plates, for four pounds
ten; Albert Durer's "Institutiones Geometricae",
1538, with old woodcuts for ten shil-
lings; and a fine copy of Vesalius's works with
exquisite woodcuts, 1545, folio, for fifteen
shillings.

WR2/18/4 [Cont.]

Of the pictures which were sold yesterday I put a limit of ten pounds on "The interior of a church with a Dominican monk discoursing on death", but it sold for sixty-two guineas. I also put a limit of eight pounds on a large picture called "The Astrologer", which was a very poor one and in extremely bad condition. It sold for nine guineas. There were no other pictures of interest to me in the sale.

Stevens's next sale of curios comes on on Tuesday, and the catalogue was out yesterday. I am afraid it will be too late to forward one to you. On glancing through it I did not see very many things of interest, but will go and view them on Monday, and buy all that I think are worth having.

I have purchased for Mr. Murphy four old medical works of the seventeenth century for one pound five shillings, and have received the final instalment of the photographs of portraits of medical subjects in various continental art-galleries from Baron Clement of Paris, which amount to three pounds fourteen shillings and fivepence.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Willems, Esq.

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Reed

27 MAY 1907

WR 2/18/5

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

February 4th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

On Feb. 1st I forwarded to you under separate cover a catalogue of Stevens's sale, ^{on Jan. 29.} from which you will see the lots on which I put limits and those which we purchased. There were only a few things of interest to us, and we bought a fair proportion of them, as you will see, fairly cheap. I was very doubtful about lot 34, a carved Chinese rock cup. It was a very modern piece, and looked as if it had been set up for sale. I put a limit of three pounds on it, but it was bought by Misses for four pounds. Lot number 37, the stone-work containing a religious scene, was one of the best I have seen, and was in cases for three pounds. The total purchase at Stevens's amounted to twenty-six pounds, three shillings and two pence.

There was an interesting sale of books on Freemasonry at Puttick & Simpson's on Wednesday last from the library of the late Mr. G. F. Fryer. I bought the following items:

"The Freemason's Magazine" (six vols. 1783-8) twenty-three shillings. This was a similar lot to those that I bid for at Fryer's about three weeks ago, but which sold for seven pounds ten shillings.

"Theocratic Philosophy of Freemasonry" by Rev. G. Oliver, 1843; "Signs and Symbols explained" (2 vols.); "Account of the Schism between Free and Accepted Masters", 1847; and "Dictionary of Symbolic Masonry", 1853 for twenty shillings.

"The Symbol of Glory", 1850, (Rev. G.)

A. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/5 [Cont.]

Oliver); "The Antiquities of Freemasonry" 1848; "The Pythagorean Feudle", 1875; "Revelations of a Square", 1855; "Signs and Symbols", 1857; "Origin of the Royal Arch", 1857; "The Freemason's Treasury", 1848, for thirty-five shillings.

I bought a fine picture at Robinson and Fisher's on Thursday, called "The Doctor" by Jan Steen. It seems to be a genuine work, and is a fine piece of composition. Size of canvas two feet six inches by two feet. I have never seen the work reproduced, and it is one of the best pictures we have met with for some time. I put a limit of twelve pounds upon it, and it was knocked down to us for nine guineas.

There were a number of medical works sold by auction at a doctor's house in Strand on Wednesday. They were all modern text-books with the exception of one old work on anatomy with very fine plates, 1777, and Rutherford's "Dissections" with plates, 1798. These two were purchased for five shillings.

Miss Barron has handed to me some papers which she found upon your desk after your death, and which I think, from the endorsement, you intended to speak to me about. They refer to an historical medical exhibition which is to be held in Leyden in April next on the occasion of the eleventh annual Medical Congress. There is also the translation of a post-card from Professor Leiden, in which he asked if we could lend him any historical objects connected with medicine, pharmacy, chemistry, or the allied sciences, for the exhibition. I should be glad to know what you would like me to do in the matter.

H. S. Widdowson, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR-18/5 [Cont.]

and if I should write to Professor Leonard; also whether you think the exhibition would be worth seeing.

I forwarded to you my registered book-post on Saturday the manuscript I have just completed on anaesthetics. I have done my best to compress within about forty pages a complete history of anaesthesia from the earliest times to the present day, and have introduced as many incidents and anecdotes as possible to make it interesting. I shall be glad to know which of the two titles that I have put at the heading you think most suitable. I have attached to the manuscript a list of the illustrations which I am having drawn, and would like to have your opinion on these. I had a great difficulty in finding a portrait of Horace Wells. I hunted everywhere, and have at last found a very beautiful engraving of him, which I am having drawn.

Symonds has bought quite a number of interesting things during the last week, mainly through advertisements in country papers. These include some very interesting old instruments, barbers, lancet-cases, old medicine-chests, surgical instruments, dental instruments and spectacles. I have sent him down to Kingston to-day to see if he can pick anything up from the curio-shop of old Dr. Cross, who, I hear, died about a fortnight ago. The doctor lived in the same house in which his great-grandfather carried on a practice in the middle of the eighteenth century, and he should have some very old instruments and books.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wallace, Esq.

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Reed
27 MAY 1907

WR2/18/6

Snow Hill Buildings, London, W. C.

February 11th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Welloome,

I am doing all I possibly can to pick up everything likely to be of interest to us at the auction sales. The best find we have had this week was at Christie's. On going there to look round on Tuesday last at ^a furniture sale I found in one lot a very beautiful mortar, a sixteenth century surgical case, nine ^{ten} inches long, beautifully ornamented with Girdons' heads, and bearing the name of the owner, René Bouché, a seventeenth century bullet extractor and a fine pair of surgical scissors of the same period. They were all included together in one lot, and simply described as "a bronze mortar and other instruments." I was determined to have this lot if possible, as the case is unique, and I have never come across a similar specimen, not even in the museum. I gave Symonds a reserve of twelve guineas upon the lot, and went to the sale myself in case they went over that mark. When they were offered, three men bid against Symonds, of whom one wanted to purchase the mortar for which he had a commission, and another badly wanted the case. The lot was knocked down to Symonds for eight and a half guineas, which I think is cheap, considering their rarity.

There was a sale at Stevens' last Tuesday, but they were a very poor lot. I only purchased a few things, of which the following is a list, showing the limits and the prices paid:-

H. S. Welloome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/16 [Cont.]

Large ju-ju head from Benin. Limit forty
shillings; cost thirty shillings.
Two carved drinking-cups from the Congo. Rare.
Limit thirty shillings; cost twenty-
eight shillings.
Tibetan deity, copper gilt and lacquered, in-
laid stones. Limit 45/-; cost 21.17/8.
Rare ju-ju fetish carving from Sierra Leone.
Limit 35/-; cost 32/-.
Very fine old quern, Roman period, made of the
conglomerate or Hertfordshire pudding-stone.
Found at Great Berkhamstead. Limit 18/-;
cost 15/-.
Two Fulham stoneware Flasks. Limit 15/-;
cost 8/-.
(Ancient Roman Glass)
Various glass bowl on foot, four inches.
Limit 15/-; cost 16/-.
Bottle, four inches, small bowl (slightly
damaged) two and a half inches, and handled
jug (ditto). Limit 30/-; cost 10/-.
Two small vases and two bottles. Limit 35/-
cost 10/-.
Six small tear-bottles and vases, some slight-
ly damaged. Limit 15/-; cost 10/-.
Ditto. Ditto. Ditto.

At a sale at Knight, Frank & Rutley's
on Wednesday, February 8th, a few more pic-
tures were offered that belonged to the late
Canon Garford. We bought a large oil paint-
ing representing a king on his throne under-
going an operation on his eye. Also two old
paintings on glass; the lot for 75/-.

Last Monday I got a catalogue of a sale
at an old-fashioned house at Waltham Abbey.
A number of old books were included, and also

H. S. Welbome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/6 [Cont.]

some rare armour. I went down to view them on Tuesday, and put low limits on a number of lots, and sent Symonds down to the sale. He bought the following:-

A rare helmet of the thirteenth century with mask and visor, and a steel staff for two guineas.

A tilting helmet of the fourteenth century with a falling visor for one pound.

Engraved partisan and a halberd for three pounds fifteen shillings.

Three lots of old books - a number of them medical - seventeenth century, for seven, ten and twelve shillings respectively.

Both the helmets are very interesting, pieces, and are, I believe, quite genuine. The partisan and halberd are also good and genuine. They are of German workmanship I should think from the engraving on the blades and both are seventeenth century.

I came across an old Italian in Soho last week, who had a roomful of old books. I picked out ten, ^(medical) which include two early herbals and one very good anatomy. I paid him twenty-five shillings for the lot.

From Andrews I have bought during the week an early treatise on the cow-cox, sixteenth century work on baths, a very good anatomy, seventeenth century, three vols., and a large bibliography of early medical works, two vols. The lot cost one pound four shillings and sixpence.

I expect Boscawen will complete the cataloguing of the Egyptian collection this week, and in about another three weeks I hope we

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR-118/6 [Cont.]

shall have completed the packing of all the
H.M.S. objects now stored at Rosebery Ave-
nue, and have them placed in the new ware-
house at Dulwich.

Yours faithfully,

E. S. Wellcome, Esq.

WR 2/18/17

124
Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

February 18th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

We have received from Mrs. Irish of Countess Road two railway transport advices, one referring to a case sent by Theresa Gill from Valladolid, and the other to a case sent by Salesse from Vittoria. The former case has been addressed to The International Agency, Paris,

but we have had no communication from them, and two letters that we have addressed to this Company in Paris, asking about the cases, have been returned, the addressees being unknown in Paris. Will you please let us have at your early convenience some idea of what the cases contain for customs declaration here. I have put both letters in the hands of Mr. Parker to be carried through, as Mrs. Irish cannot deal with them.

I put into a miscellaneous sale at Stevens' last week the Spanish surgical instruments and other things that were of no use to us that were bought in Hampshire. They realised two pounds five shillings, which I have added to the credit of the H. S. Wellcome account.

With reference to the Panther and down carriage and which you left with me, I gave Symonds instructions to put it in the best sale possible. Christian would not take it, as he offered it to Robinson & Fisher, with a reserve price of four pounds. It came up for sale last week, but two pounds

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/7 [Cont.]

was the highest offer, and Robinson & Fisher told Symonds they did not think they would ever get more than that for it. However I am taking it out of their hands, and will next try Patrick & Simpson. Kindly let me know if you will lower the reserve upon it, as I do not think it will bring four pounds.

We have bought some interesting objects during the week, including the following from a dealer in Kensington:-

An old staff, bearing a coat-of-arms, that was carried in a procession at the opening of St. Bartholomew's School of Medicine. Five shillings.

A pair of ancient shackles and a pair of handcuffs from Bethlem Hospital, used in the eighteenth century for chaining up violent lunatics. Nine-and-six.

A curious old calometer for five shillings.

I have also purchased from the Rev. W. Barnes of Braughing an interesting old work on medicine, 1481, in original oak boards. He offered to loan this work to us eighteen months ago for the B.M.S., but wrote last week saying that he wished to dispose of it, and sent it for inspection. He has accepted two guineas.

I have bought from a dealer in Brighton whom I saw when I was there eighteen months ago, a very fine gold touch-piece of James I., a gold touch-piece of James II., three old medical tokens of the eighteenth century, and an ancient Roman bronze chalicus used against evil-eye. The lot cost three pounds twelve shillings. The gold touch-pieces are extremely rare, and in fine condition, and

H. S. Wellecome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/7 [Cont]

I am on the track of several others.

I have agreed to see this week who makes long journeys throughout the country, buying up antique things in the villages and small market towns. I have made arrangements with him, and given him a list of objects likely to be of use to us, and he promises to buy such things for us if they are very cheap, or write and describe any object if it is of value that he may meet with on his travels. He starts on Monday for a round of about two months.

There is a very fine sale of antique furniture and objects of art, etc. at Ave-sham House, Cheltenham, which lasts over six days, beginning on February 25th. I have just got a catalogue, and have noted several items of interest, including a print called "The Quack Doctor", an oil painting called "The Alchemist", an old medical case with flint, and an old bell metal mortar, with embossed figures. They are on view on Saturday next, and I intend running down for the day. I have ascertained that we shall have a traveller in Cheltenham district that week and I think it well save expense, if I find these things worth having, to get a limit on them, and let him buy. But I will be guided with regard to their importance after seeing them.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

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8 APR 1907

Bussaco,

24th March 1907

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.1

WR2/18/8

March 28th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I duly received the MS. of "Anæsthetics ancient and modern" together with your notes and suggestions, ^(yesterday the 11th inst.) which I will do my best to carry out in time. The copy should have done finally to press on Saturday, but I held it over expecting to hear from you. Mr. Linstead tells me that I can have another six days at the very outside. I will do in all I can by that time. Anything that is too late can be added to the Exeter book when it is printed.

There have been a number of notable sales during the week, including the Wilfred Lawson collection of prints and engravings at Sotheby's, and the Massey Mainwaring collection at Christie's, which is still proceeding. I went through both these collections very carefully, but could not find anything of interest to us.

There is a South African Exhibition being held at present at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Westminster, S.W.1, which I was told was a model of what a small exhibition should be. I went there the other day, and found the arrangement of the exhibits ~~and~~ excellently carried out. I made a plan, and took notes of the arrangements for future use. Among the Natal exhibits there was a glass case containing some very interesting carves connected with the native tribes. I noticed among these a mediciner's belt elaborately worked with coloured beads, and containing pockets for holding medicine and a number of horns for the same purpose; a chieftain's necklace, com-

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

Contd.

WR2/18/8 [Cont.]

posed of leopards' claws, used to inspire the wearer with courage; a necklace made of eagles' claws used for a similar purpose and a necklace composed of pieces of medicinal roots and beads, used as a charm against disease.

I made enquiries at the Secretary's office as to whom these things belonged, and met the owner by appointment afterwards. I asked him if he was disposed to sell them, but at first he was unwilling, saying that he had not brought them over for sale but simply for exhibition. He also said that they were very difficult to obtain, and he could not get any others. Eventually, however, he agreed to take two pounds ten shillings for the lot, which amount I paid him and brought the things away with me. They are very interesting, and I feel sure you will be pleased with them.

We bought two pictures at Robinson & Fisher's this week, one called "The travelling Apothecary", attributed to Tonders, for four pounds, and an interesting portrait of "Galileo in prison", by Bonpols, 1840, for two pounds, seventeen and sixpence.

I have also bought from Madsen an interesting little book containing the correspondence of the Earl of Carlisle in connection with the first bill introduced for the regulation of the sale of poisons, 4/8^s, ^{also} three drug vases, coloured plaques, 15/-.

Symonds has bought some interesting things during the week, including an old operating table, several old medicine chests and jars and a large number of old instruments. He had a letter from the man at Evans & Wormald's last week, stating that he had raked out another lot of old instruments, which were all they had, and asking if he would like to come

WR2/18/8 [Cont.]

and make an offer for them. Symonds reported to me that there were about forty-eight altogether, very interesting, including forceps, saws, knives, etc., etc., all old and of a good period. We secured the lot for £3. 15s.

I have written for the books that are in the catalogues you sent me from Pau, some of which look interesting.

The total amount spent last week, including Symonds's purchases, wages, etc., was £28. 12s. 11d.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

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Reed
28 MAR 1907

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

WR2/18/9

March 18th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I duly received your letter dated March 12th, advising me of the twenty-six cases, twelve crates and one case of pottery, together with the certificate of insurance, which you have despatched, addressed to Irish & Co. We have ascertained that the steamer will probably arrive in London on Wednesday next, and I have arranged for Gwellyn and Brookes to be on the quay with vans, and have the cases taken direct to the Dulwich warehouse. Mr. Parker is seeing Halls with reference to these cases being handled with special care, and will endeavour to insure them against damage during unloading.

I went to Baintree last Friday to view the objects for sale at Stisted Hall, but could see nothing of interest to us, either among the pictures, silver or furniture beyond the two oil paintings which I marked in the catalogue that I sent on to you. These are two small and well-executed copies of "The Alchemist" and "The Chirographist" by Teniers. I had not seen these examples before, so they will be worth having. I have put a limit of twelve pounds upon them, and am sending Symonds over there to-morrow for the day to get them. He will spend the rest of the day in looking round the antique shops in Baintree, of which I noticed several.

We bought a very interesting lot of books at Hodges's this week, one of which is entitled "The Prerogative of Primogeniture" by D. Jenner, and has the autograph of Thomas Guy, the founder of Guy's Hospital inside the cover, with the date, 1685. With this lot was sold a collection

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/9 [Cont.]

of 150 old wood blocks - a number of them anatomical, and others very quaint capital letters - probably 17th century. They looked so interesting that I put a limit of eight pounds on the blocks and the book, but we got them for two pounds seven shillings. At the same sale we bought twenty-one parcels of old books, all medical and of various dates - about 120 in all for fifteen shillings.

At Knight, Frank & Rutley's we bought a nice little lot of Italian Majolica drug vases on Friday. Some of them are dated, and all are large and polychrome faience. The lot (eight in all) cost £4. 1s. 3d.

At Bonham's we bought two interesting old coloured engravings representing dentists of the early 18th century. I also bought another good old painting of an alchemist in a shop in Shaftesbury Avenue this week for 37/6.

Mr. Overton, who is in charge of the General Office, has asked me if I can lend him some decorative vases to place on the top shelves of the two large exhibition cases in the General Office. On the lower shelves of these cases are the historical medical cases, but he has nothing to put on the top shelves. Have you any objection to my letting him have some of the pharmacy vases that are in the library to display upon them?

With reference to the anaesthetic booklet, the two titles I suggested for it are "Anaesthetics ancient and modern" and "An Historic Sketch of Anaesthesia". Will you kindly let me know as early as possible which one you think more appropriate.

In my letter of February 4th I mentioned to you the historical medical exhibition that is to

WR 2/18/9 [over]

take place in Leyden early in April, and asked for your instructions respecting it. I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know if you wish me to do anything in the matter?

Coming up Shaftesbury Avenue the other afternoon I noticed in a picture dealer's near Oxford Street a remarkably fine painting of a Moorish alchemist in an old laboratory. This picture is a most striking one. The canvas measures about four feet by five. The alchemist, in a white Moorish robe and berberis is seated in a contemplative attitude, gazing at a large still, amidst a quantity of apparatus. The treatment of the subject is most striking, and the technique excellent. On making enquiries of the dealer about it, I learned that it was painted by a French artist named Lomont. It is signed, and dated 1830. It is the property of a stock-broker who is wanting money, and wishes to realize on the picture. The price he asks is £100. I told the dealer that that amount was far beyond anything I could offer but if his client was open to accept a reasonable price I might be able to deal. He shook his head, and said he was afraid the owner would not part with it for anything less than £200, but he would write to him and get to know his bottom price, and then communicate with me. Of course I know it is impossible for you to judge of this picture without seeing it, but it is really a fine thing, and would, I should think, bring between £80 and £60 any day. I should like to know whether I should be justified in offering that amount for it.

The total amount that I expended last week, including wages, rents, sales, etc.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/9 [Cont]

was about £30. Symonds expended (including the instruments from Evans and Wornall and his purchases during the week) 2d0. 5s. 3d.

I forwarded to you on the 14th inst. a copy of the Sirdar's reply to your letter. I trust this came safely to hand.

I enclose a cutting from a bookseller's catalogue, which I received this week. This is the first time I have seen a Balfour Report on the market to be sold second-hand.

Yours Faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

March 23rd, 1907.

WR2/18/10

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Reed
18 APR 1907

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

The steamer bringing the cases you forwarded from Lisbon arrived in London last Tuesday, and I had Blewellyn and Brookes with two vans at the docks ready for them immediately they were unloaded. Blewellyn said he tipped the stevedores, and every case was landed with the greatest care, and without any damage, so far as I can see. By stopping the customs-house official he also got them through without their being opened, and all the cases have been safely stored in the Dulwich warehouse. I think I had better open the one containing the battery, to see if anything is broken, but they do not look as if they had been knocked about in any way.

We bought the two pictures by Teniers at the Stisted Hall sale for six pounds. Symonds also picked up several pairs of old spectacles, etc., in a search among the antique shops in Brompton, but got nothing of any great importance.

At Puttick & Simpson's this week we bought the original black and white wash drawing by Lance Calkin called "The Public Vaccinator" for two guineas. You may remember that we tried to secure this about eighteen months ago, and lost it. It appeared, I think, in "The Illustrated London News".

There was another sale at Puttick & Simpson's this week at which we bought an interesting picture of an old doctor together with two other pictures for eighteen shillings, and a large oil painting by Castillo

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

WR2/18/10 [Cont.]

called "The Anointing" for twenty-two and sixpence.

At the sale of Dr. Roots's books at Hodgson's we secured the Doctor's three old case-books, bound in vellum, including his day-book and post-book, dating from 1748 to 1758, and containing an account of his attendance on David Garrick and his household. These cost 85. 17s. 3d. They are most interesting, and there was considerable competition for them, as they are full of quaint items respecting the medical practice of the period.

I have received the specimens of ^{etc.} unknown arrow poisons from Mr. Athol Joyce, and have spoken to Dr. Power about them. He suggests that Mr. Perreides should first endeavour to identify the roots and barks, and then, if sufficient quantities can be procured, he will make a chemical examination of them. I am handing them over to Mr. Perreides for this purpose to-morrow.

I have supplied Mr. Joyce, at his request, with two dozen copies of the H.M.E. prospectus, which he is sending out with a personal note to the medical members of the Anthropological Institute, asking their assistance in connection with the Exhibition. Mr. Joyce also informs me that he has the consent of the Council to assist you in any way that he can officially.

We have bought from Dr. Wm. Allen of Shotby-Bridge an old Leeds drug jar, an interesting shagreen case of instruments and a Staffordshire pottery group of Florence Nightingale and a wounded soldier, the lot for thirty shillings.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/10 [cont.]

I have bought this week a handle of an umbrella or walking-stick made of black horn, silver-mounted, which contains an ingenious receptacle for a hypodermic syringe and three needles. I paid 7/6 for it. I showed it to Mr. Pearson, and he seemed to think it an excellent idea, and has handed it to Mr. Dowdell to have a model made on similar lines.

I have received four books this week from Dupuy of Pau, whose catalogue you sent me. He has accepted 17/6 for the lot.

You may remember that about four years ago I came across a dealer at Eastbourne who knew the owner of a 17th century surgical saw, but the latter did not wish to sell. He sent me a drawing of it, and said that the lowest price the owner would accept was sixteen pounds, and we let the matter drop. I had a letter from this man last week, stating that he had now got possession of this saw - also of two similar ones, a steel surgical instrument which he calls "nipper" of the same period, and a silver lancet-case, fitted, and dated 1795. "The saws", he states, "are all sculptured steel, very fine, and engraved." He is asking 222. 12s. 6d. for the lot. If they are what he represents them to be they should be cheap for 222. I purpose going down next week to look at them, and if I can bring him down in price to close with him at once, and secure them. Instruments of this period are so rare that it would be a pity to let them slip if I can get them for anything like a reasonable price.

Symonds has purchased a number of interesting things during the week, including two medicine chests, hand mills, surgical instru-

WR 2/18/10 [cont]

ments, feeding-cups, engravings, mortars, etc. He went to Rochester market one day, and brought back several articles. He has also visited Uxbridge, Hitching, St. Albans and several other markets, at each of which he has been able to gather something.

I forwarded to you last week a catalogue of a sale of curios at Stevens's, which began yesterday, and is continued to-day. There are a number of objects of interest, especially in to-day's sale, and I have put limits on all those that I think you would like to have, and have sent Brookes and Reid to buy. The American flag that is claimed to be the first American flag ever made of bunting in the United States is coming up for sale, but it is sure to bring a very high price. I will forward you a catalogue showing the lots we have purchased to-morrow. Stevens's son was telling me the other day that he finds greater difficulty in getting curios now than at any other time. He has been able to hold only three sales this year so far.

The total amount I expended last week including wages, rents, etc. was \$3. 98. 94. Symonds, including sales, spent \$14. 38. 83.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wallops, Esq.

WR 2/18/10 [cont.]

P.S.

I enclose herewith a proof of the final chapter of "Anesthesia ancient and modern", which has been amplified and re-written by Dr. Sharp in accordance with your instruction. Before passing it for press I should like to be quite clear on one point, namely, if you wish Wellcome and Chloroform to be definitely mentioned in the text as in the paragraph I have marked with ink. Mr. Linstead and I both think that this latter paragraph would be better embodied in the advertisement, instead of in the text as at present.

Will you kindly let me have a reply by return post with your decision on this point?

J. S. Wellcome, Esq.

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

April 9th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

With reference to the large picture called "The Alchemist", concerning which I wrote to you on March 18th. I called on the dealer last week to enquire whether he had induced the owner to accept anything less than the £100 which he originally asked for it. He said he had seen the owner, but he had refused to accept anything below that amount. Before making a definite offer I thought it best to have an independent opinion on the work, and I got old Murect (who is one of the best judges of pictures in the West End) to call in casually and look at it. He did not know the dealer. I saw Murect a day or two afterwards, and he told me that, in his opinion, the picture was a very fine one, and a low value on it would be seventy-five pounds. Next day I called on Wardison, the dealer, and made him a definite offer of fifty pounds, which he submitted to the owner, but he refused it. After leaving the matter for a few days I raised the offer to sixty pounds. This was eventually accepted. I had the picture (which is in a very massive and heavy frame) carted away that afternoon, and for the present I have placed it for safety in the General Office. I think it will be best to keep it there, for a time at any rate, before sending it down to the Dulwich warehouse.

Referring to the ancient surgical saws

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

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WR2/18/11 [Cont.]

which I mentioned to you in my letter of March 26th, I went down to Eastbourne by arrangement on Thursday last. Flatman, the dealer who had them, did not recognise me. He told me the same story that he related to me four years ago, namely, that the saws belonged to an old French gentleman who lives in the neighbourhood of Eastbourne, and is a collector of armour. The saws have been in his family for generations, and he valued them for the beautiful metal workmanship, and for their antiquity.

The large saw (which is 13 inches long, and is stamped with the maker's name and mark and the word "Paris") is the finest specimen I ever saw. The handle is of ebony, beautifully carved in the form of a woman's head with flowing hair. The socket that holds the saw is finely worked in the form of a dragon's head. The other two saws are smaller, but the blade of one is beautifully engraved, and the back of the other is ornamented with gold. The handles are of wood ornamented with brass engraved with designs.

With these was a large steel instrument in beautiful condition, for cutting bone or amputating fingers. The large saw is almost exactly depicted in Ambroise Paré's Surgery, 1565, and is undoubtedly of the 16th century. The two small saws and the instrument are early seventeenth century workmanship. I have never seen anything to equal them in any museum or collection.

For these objects, together with a silver

H. S. Melleme, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/11 [CONF.]

lantern-case dated 1795, he asked £33 18s 6d. I argued with him for a long time, and told him the price was an outrageous one, but I could not get him to come down more than five per cent on that amount. He was a very difficult man to deal with, and at length I made him an offer of £20 for the lot. This he simply laughed at, so, thinking it best to leave him, I bid him good-day.

On carefully thinking the matter over and estimating the value of the instruments, I decided that it would be a great pity to lose them as they were unique pieces, so before returning I thought I would call at his shop again and offer him a few pounds more. When I called the second time I told him I was going straight to the station, and would dismiss the matter entirely from my mind unless he would accept the final offer I was about to make him without any further bargaining, as I would not give a sixpence more. In the end I secured the five pieces for £24. 10s. 6d., and although I have had to pay pretty stiffly for them, I feel sure that when you see them you will think they are worth the price.

With respect to the exhibition of medical antiquities at Leyden, I think that as it will be only a small show, and purely local, it will scarcely be worth while going across to see it, but I have written to Professor Leersum to ask if he will kindly send me a catalogue if one is printed.

H. S. Wellespe, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR 2/18/11 [Cont.]

I forwarded to you last week a catalogue of Stevens's last sale, showing the limits and purchases. The purchases amounted to £88 11s 0d

The total amount spent in purchases last week, including the picture of the alchemist, surgical saws, etc. and Symonds's purchases was £88. 12s. 0d.

Your cable of the 5th inst. respecting the "Chloroform" paragraph in "Anaesthetics ancient and modern" came duly to hand, and is being acted upon.

I viewed the things at Bentley Priory, but the only articles of interest to us that I found were some parcels of books in the library, upon which I am putting a low limit.

The second portion of the Massey-Mainwaring collection comes up for sale at Christie's this week. I see from the catalogue that there is an ancient pair of silver mounted scales ornamented with armorial bearings, and an oil painting by Teniers called "The Surgeon". I am going in to see these to-day.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

WR2/18/12

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

April 17th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I note from your letter of the 8th inst. that you have forwarded another shipment of antique furniture. Will you kindly let me know to whom you have consigned this, and also, if possible, by what line it was forwarded, as we have received no advice from any of the steamship companies nor from Mrs. Irish up to the present. Directly I hear I will make arrangements to have the goods carefully carted and stored, as with previous shipments.

I have noted your remarks in Stevens's catalogue, and will raise the limits accordingly should these articles come up again. One reason why I kept the limits low was that Oldman of Braxton, whom, you remember, we sent Brookes to see, suddenly started running Brookes up upon every lot on which he saw him bidding. On finding this out I thought I would let Oldman in pretty extensively in that last sale. I do not know whether Brookes has spoken to him or told him anything, but I shall keep Brookes out of Stevens's altogether now for some time, and so try to put Oldman off the scent.

On April 11th I forwarded for your approval eight drawings, together with descriptive notes, for the new bandage series of advertisements. I shall be glad if you will kindly return them at your early convenience. These drawings have been made by Mr. Priest, who seems to have got the feeling of the originals very well.

A. S. Wellcome, Sec.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/12 [CONT.]

Last week I heard of a man in West Kensington who had a remarkable series of black-and-white drawings by Walter Allen representing a number of the leading London specialists and physicians with characteristic dogs' heads. They are well-executed, mounted, and framed in two-inch plain oak frames. They originally belonged to Judge Bramwell, and were bought by the West Kensington dealer at the Judge's sale, and he has had them ever since. He asked eleven guineas for them, but I finally got him down to five pounds ten shillings and closed with him. They were drawn, I should think, about twenty years ago, and will form a most interesting series for H.M.S.

I bought four interesting old medical books and a very fine one on calligraphy from Andrews for thirty shillings. Also four rare old books from Thorp, entitled:- "The Astrological Judgment of the Stars" by Barlet, 1598; "The Divine Physician", 1709; "Chyromantic and Physiognomic"; and "Varities, or a Survey of rare and excellent matters" by David Person, 1635. This lot cost four pounds. He wanted four pounds nineteen for them.

Dr. Wallace Budde's new book, "The Egyptian Soudan", in two volumes has been published this week. I bought a review copy from Boscawen at half-price as it is a most interesting work. Dr. Budde makes several allusions to the Wellcome Research Laboratories at Khartoum and also the value of the Firm's products, which can be used to good account. The work is very well and fully illustrated.

I enclose you a translation of a cir-

WR 2/18/12 [Cont.]

cular just received from Professor Salomonsen of Copenhagen. I wrote to him asking when the the Historical Medical Museum would be opened and enclose you a copy of his reply.

There was a curio sale at Stevens's yesterday, but it was a very poor one. There were only five lots that seemed to me to be in any way interesting to us. I sent Stowe to buy, and he got four lots out of the five. The following is a list:-

Articles.	Limbs.	Prices.
Two curious hatchets from Central Africa, one bound with human skin.	60/-	13/-
Steel-shod boarding pike, knobkerrie, old gun, fetish head carved from nut.	60/-	10/-
Kenyah shield from Borneo decorated with human hair	55/-	52/6
Oyak hoo. Melanatan pipe with bone tobacco box.	15/-	10/-

The lot we missed was a bottle in a leather case upon which I put a limit of five shillings. It sold for eight. Stowe tells me there were very few people there. Old Stevens was bemoaning the fact that there is a great scarcity of curios just now, and he may not have another sale for a month or more.

The items purchased last week, including Symonds's purchases, amounted to £21. 4s. 6d.

I handed Mr. Smith an article entitled "Fortunes in Pills" which I cut from "The Telegraph", and which I intended forwarding to you, but I find that he has already done so.

I met Dr. Sambon last week, and he wish-

WR2/18/12 [CONT.]

ed me to inform you that he has discovered a new parasite in the small intestine of the Pedetes caffer in the Zoo, to which he has given your name. He specially wished me to forward you the enclosed, which I promised to do.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Hellebrand, Esq.

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Reed
23 MAY 1907

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Reed
23 MAY 1907
Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

WR2/18/13
April 26th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

There have been a great many good sales during the week, and we have been able to pick up a number of interesting objects. At Robinson and Fisher's we bought a large panel of carved oak, representing a torture scene in relief, seventeenth century, for twenty-six shillings; also an oil painting of a Spanish alchemist on panel, for twenty-four shillings.

From Knight, Frank & Rutley's we bought an old mahogany medicine cabinet of unusual design, fitted with crystal bottles, cupping-glasses, etc. for fourteen shillings.

We bought at Foster's an excellent little picture on panel called "The Monkey-Alchemist" by Bristow, for four pounds; at Sotheby's, a very rare book on astronomy and constellations, by Arratus, containing some curious woodcuts of zodiacal signs, constellations and planets, published in 1488, for four pounds.

Again at Foster's on the 24th inst. we bought another picture called "The Alchemist" by Teniers (one which we have not got) for six guineas.

Dowyer & Bartleet of Fenchurch Street had another sale of eastern antiquities on the 17th, but they were, on the whole, a very poor lot, and not half so good as those they had at the last sale. I put limits on five lots which we secured at low prices, as follows:-

A. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/13 [CONT.]

Articles.	Limits. Prices.
Two old earthenware Greek vases	36/- 9/-
Persian brass bottle	25/- 5/-
Bronze mortar	20/- 21/-
do do	25/- 16/-
do do	30/- 24/-

We received a letter on the 23rd inst. from Dr. Rangoni of Bologna, Italy, informing us of the death of Professor Garati, whose collection of early chemical glass, etc. you will no doubt remember we purchased two years ago. Dr. Rangoni, who is the Professor's executor, has got together a number of very interesting old books, manuscripts, diplomas and other documents, of which he has sent an list. Many of these seem to be of considerable interest, and he is sending them to us, hoping that we may purchase them if they should be of sufficient interest. He is acting on behalf of the late Professor's only daughter. I have replied to Dr. Rangoni in your name, expressing sympathy at the death of the Professor.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Mellore, Esq.

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Recd. 24/5/07

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

WR2/18/14

May 7th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

Your memo dated 1st inst. enclosing documents concerning the shipment of twenty-eight cases despatched from Lisbon duly to hand this morning. I will arrange for the steamer to be met, and will see that every precaution is taken; also that the cases are very carefully handled when being landed, and are safely stored in the Dulwich warehouse.

Since last writing to you we have bought some very interesting items, by private sale and in the auction rooms. They include an autotype of a picture representing Thomas Guy interviewing the architect who is explaining his plans for the erection of Guy's Hospital; and also a separate picture of Guy. These two cost eleven shillings. We have also got a miniature of Professor Simpson on wood, 6/6; a large leather surgical instrument-case, 16th century, from the collection of Herr Thill, Keeper of the Austrian Crown jewels, who obtained it from the Arsenal at Vienna, 22.7s.6d. a good medicine-chest; four pairs of ancient eyeglasses and a very interesting set of apothecary's scales with mother-of-pearl pans, 28/-; sixteen engravings of old London hospitals - a very good lot - 10/-.

Hearing from an old lady at Littlehampton, the daughter of a medical man who died a number of years ago, that she had several objects of medical interest, I called upon her on Thursday last, and purchased an old book on

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/14 [CONT.]

astrology, 17th century, three old glass spec-
uli, a silver catheter and a set of old sight-
testing glasses for 12/-. She had also five
very interesting old diplomas, dated 1820-1833,
for which I offered her one pound. She agreed
to accept this but had to obtain permission
from her brother before forwarding them.

At Pattick & Simpson's we bought an inter-
esting old flat 18th century snuff-box of
wood, on the lid of which are carved three
phrenological skulls, with a key to the same
on the bottom of the box. This cost 18/-.

At Robinson & Fisher's we bought a large
oil painting depicting an operation on the eye
for three pounds; at Foster's an oil painting
entitled "A visit to the doctor", for 18/-;
at Christie's two books, "The illustrated
catalogue of the private room of Pompeian
Frescoes at Naples" and "Histoire de la Gener-
ation" by De Caux, with very fine coloured
illustrations, 84/-; at Hodgson's an ancient
case of surgical instruments, including for-
ceps, saws, etc., 5/-.

Resides these Symonds has got together
a large number of objects including medicine-
chests, old instruments, prints, scales and
weights, etc. The amount he expended last
week was £5. 12s. 9d.

Whitely's library was an exceedingly
commonplace one, and was very much puffed up
by newspaper reports. There were very few
books on either thrift or business life, and
those that he had were of the commonest des-
cription. I put very full limits on those
that were likely to be of use, but they were

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR-2/18/14 [Cont.]

bought in by the family, so we had no chance of getting them. There were no dictionaries of any importance. We can get any of the books for a few shillings from the ordinary sources.

The amount I expended last week, including wages, etc. was 85. 2s. 8d.

There is a very important ethnographical collection coming up at Stevens's on Wednesday. The objects are mostly from Fiji. I am going in to view them this afternoon, and will put good limits on all I think you will wish to have.

We have just received from Mr. de Righi of Darjeeling three very interesting ancient wooden printing blocks of Tibetan charms against disease. They are very similar to the ones exhibited by Colonel Waddell at his exhibition at the Crystal Palace some time ago. I have written to Mr. de Righi thanking him in your name for his kindness in sending them.

Yours faithfully,

E. S. Hallowell, Esq.

(8)

WR 2/18/15

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C.

May 28th 1907

Dear Mr Wellcome,

Your three letters dated from Paris the 25th inst., with memorandum of instructions concerning the cases sent from Vitoria and Valladolid to Seville, came duly to hand yesterday morning.

We at once approached Cooks to know if they would take the matter up, but as they had no agents or representative in Seville they declined to do so, therefore we took the matter to Pitt & Scott who at once said they would do their best, and have written immediately to Mr Bertrand, Padre Merchena, 1 Seville, their agent, to take immediate steps in the matter to claim the parcels and forward them to London. Of course, we have acted in this matter as representatives of Irish & Co.

We have also written in Spanish to D. Venancio Polo, Inacios Picavea, No. 66, Valladolid, as per copy attached marked No. 1, and to D. Juan Ybargottia, (Escultor), Fabrica de Muebles Artisticos, Vitoria, as per copy marked No. 2. We have insured the cases in transit from Seville for 250. We hope to hear from Pitt & Scott in a day or two that the cases have been safely despatched from Seville.

The cases advised from Lisbon via Pitt & Scott have now arrived, and I had them very carefully treated at the Docks, and they appear to be quite uninjured. I have disposed of them as per your instructions. The motor fittings, as you instructed, have been handed to Mr Bristow, and the packing case of silver has been stored in the strong room.

I am sorry to hear that you have been so unwell, and trust that you have now quite recovered from the effects of ptomaine poisoning.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. S. Thompson,
per

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,
Hotel Regina,
Paris, France.

1.

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

January 13th, 1908.

WR2/18/16

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I trust Mr. MacAllister has arrived all right, and reported himself to you.

I called on Mr. Warren of Hooper & Co., Russell Street, Covent Garden, last week as you wished, and he informed me that he was leaving the premises on the 8th, so I asked him then to indicate to me the old apparatus, implements, etc. which he wished to get clear of, as you had instructed me to act for you in the matter. We went all over the building together, and I made a list of the following articles:-

The large copper still, furnace top and worm.
A metal still head.
2 large glass receivers.
2 green glass carboys.
1 old metal suppository mould.
1 large old pewter syringe.
6 small stoneware extract jars.
1 large bell metal mortar and pestle, on stand
Old apothecary's manuscript receipt book,
dated 1711.
An old ledger of drug sales in 1774.
A packet of old letters referring to medical matters, 18th century.
A large packet of prescriptions, early 18th century.

These were all we could find really worth taking away, and I searched the lofts and the cellars. I asked Mr. Warren what he valued these articles at, and he said he would think it over and let me know the

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Contd.

2.

WR2/18/16 [CONT.]

following day. Next morning I received a note from him saying that he thought they were worth twenty pounds. I reckoned that they were worth about fifteen pounds to us, and I offered him that amount, which he accepted on the understanding that when he was making the last clearance out of the place, if anything else turned up, I would supplement that amount.

I arranged to have everything removed by Wednesday last. I had to have three men to remove the furnace and large copper still, which they found a very difficult matter; but in the end they managed it all right without any breakage, and it is now safely stored at Rosebery Avenue. I have had all the old bricks preserved, and put carefully into boxes so that they can be erected at any time in the same position. I have also two good photographs of the old laboratory before we touched it, which will prove useful later on.

There were very few things of interest to us at Stevens's sale last week, in fact I could only find four items worth putting a price upon. I sent Stowe to buy, and he got them all at much below my limits. The following are the lots:-

- Marble goddess 18 in. high with necklace of charms, taken at the siege of Delhi. 18/-
- Collection of London antiquities. (These include a very interesting bone syringe and several knives of interest.) 10/-
- A box of ancient Egyptian pottery. 6/-
- A book "Treatise on Health" by Sir Erasmus Wilson with autograph letter of the author and visiting card. 3/-

At Foster's picture sale on Wednesday there was a very interesting picture called "The Barber-Surgeon" by Teniers, which we secured for five and a half guineas.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq., Contd.

WR2/18/16 [CONT]

At Puttick & Simpson's on Friday there were two large curious mezzotints in old original frames, by Dixon called "The Dentist" and "Tooth Drawing". We got these for three guineas.

There was nothing at Robinson & Fisher's or any of the other rooms this week worth buying.

I have just received from Mr. Sambon the catalogue of his sale of objects of art and pictures which takes place at the Hotel Drouot, Paris, on January 30th and 31st. In the sale is included the large picture of S. Rocco by Buenvicini which you will remember was originally with his medical collection and for which he asked forty pounds. Will you please let me know as early as possible if you wish me to bid for this, and if so I would suggest that I give Levin of Paris a commission to go and bid for us up to a certain limit as he did last month. I should think it ought to come in for twenty-five or thirty pounds.

When passing Miss Cutter's on Thursday I noticed the bronze chain with charm attached to it in the window which you spoke to me about before you went away. I went in and examined it and found it was a Benin fetish. She asked thirty shillings for it, but I got it for one pound.

With reference to the two other items you noted in the curio shop at the corner they want twenty pounds for the large bronze knocker in the form of a grotesque face which you saw in the window. They say it was one of the original bosses taken from the large door of the old Hotel de Ville, Paris, before it was destroyed at the time of the Commune.

On examining it I was very doubtful of it. It is certainly of a more recent date. For the brass lions they asked twenty-five pounds. They have evidently been taken off the corners of a large wardrobe or other piece of furniture of the Empire period. As they would not come down from their prices I have left them for the present.

I understand from Mr. Warden that he has written to you respecting a unicorn which has recently been registered as a trade-mark. I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know as early as possible if the information Mr. Warden has supplied will affect your decision as to the unicorn, as I have not yet put it into the hands of the artist to be done. I have been recommended to John Charlton as being the best delineator of horses that we have, and on hearing from you that I am to go on with it I will see him at once and have the two drawings made according to your instructions.

There was an unfortunate mishap at Sans Walk on Tuesday last. On Bourne making his morning visit there he found that a water pipe on the top floor had burst during the thaw which began about six o'clock on Tuesday morning, and the water was pouring down the stairs. He at once cut the water off from the main and came round to me, and I went at once to see if any damage had been done. I found the top floor had practically escaped but the first and ground floors and basement were saturated with water. We immediately got some men to work and raised all the cases from the floor. We have opened those that were damp but so far we find fortunately that very little damage has occurred. I have consulted Mr. Smith and we are putting temporary stoves in the building to make everything thoroughly dry. I have also had two van loads of furniture removed to Rosebery Avenue which has lessened the congestion there.

Faithfully yours,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(1)

WR2/18/17
Snow Hill Buildings, London, E. C.

January 13th, 1908.

Dear Sir,

C.J.S.T. 1.

Mr. MacAllister. (Developing photos.)

With reference to your query respecting Mr. MacAllister having been instructed in developing, Mr. Price, the photographer, informs me that he gave him instructions with regard to the development of films, and that Mr. MacAllister actually did some practical developing of the films he had himself exposed the week before he left London.

Mr. Price thinks that he might be able to do developing to some extent in cases of necessity, but that he had not sufficient time for practice to make himself competent.

C.J.S.T. 2.

Mr. MacAllister's reference.

I called at the office of Mr. MacAllister's previous employers, Messrs. Bishop & Marshall of Old Broad Street, on Friday morning. Mr. Bishop, who is now, I believe, the sole partner, is a consulting mining engineer to several large companies who run mines chiefly in Spain. He is an F.R.G.S. He left London last week for Spain on business connected with one of these mines, and I saw his manager.

This gentleman told me that he had a personal knowledge of MacAllister while

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Contd.

he was in their employment, and gave him the highest character. His duties were to manage the foreign correspondence, especially Spanish and French, and to take charge of the office in the absence abroad of Mr. Bishop and his manager. They had no complaint to make as to the way in which he performed his duties, beyond the fact that he was a little bit careless at times. He could vouch for his honesty and trustworthiness; considerable sums of money had passed through his hands while he was with them. About his actual business capabilities he could not judge beyond the routine of the work he had to do, but he considered that Mr. MacAllister would be capable of undertaking any work of a trustworthy nature.

Mr. Bishop's manager seemed to be a very straightforward, gentlemanly man, and I have no reason for doubting what he said. He told me that MacAllister left through no fault of his own, but that they simply did not require his services any longer.

C. J. S. P. 3.

Auction Sales.

We have made some interesting purchases during the week. In the catalogue of a sale at Chapel House, Melford, Suffolk, I noticed an oil painting entitled "The Chiropodist". Giving Symmonds a limit of five pounds I sent him down to buy on his judgement. He purchased it for one pound seven shillings and sixpence, and I find that it is a picture of more than usual interest. It is the work of some artist of the 17th century and is painted on panel, 14x12in. It represents a lady sitting in the grounds of a castle

(3)

WR 2/18/17 [Cont.]

having her foot doctored by a nun.

Symonds also bought at Welford a very fine case of old surgical instruments (nearly one hundred) with ivory handles, for which he paid one pound two shillings and sixpence; also a quaint medicine chest of satin wood inlaid with ebony, and fitted with bottles, for fifteen shillings.

In a sale at a private house at Muswell Hill on Tuesday last there was a large engraving offered, representing Miles Standish and the spinning-wheel, 3ft. 3in. x 2ft. 5in. by W. T. Davis. It is a very beautiful engraving, and I thought that as pictures of Miles Standish are so scarce you would like to have it, so I put a limit of three guineas on it. We got it for thirty shillings.

At a sale at Coley Park, near Reading, I noticed that there was a number of old books, including an old MS. on medicine and another with cookery receipts. I went over to examine them on Wednesday and put limits on several lots of interest. I sent a man over on Thursday to buy.

We got the old medical MS., which is bound in vellum, 17th century, and full of interesting recipes, together with the MS. on cookery of the same period for one pound eighteen shillings; also a very good biographical dictionary bound in half calf, thirty-two volumes for eleven shillings; also fifty early printed books, some of which are of considerable interest, for twenty-eight shillings.

There were no pictures of interest at Foster's or Robinson & Fisher's this week, but in Robinson & Fisher's catalogue of a miscellaneous sale on Wednesday, I noticed a lot described as "Two ivory figures".

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

Contd.

When I went in to view I could not find the these in the room, and on making enquiries of the foreman I found that they had them locked up in the office. I asked to see them, and found that they were another pair of the anatomical ivory figures, somewhat like those we already have, but very much larger, and even more interesting. They are eight and a half inches long, and the internal organs are coloured, and in some cases hinged. An attempt has also been made to show the venous system in red paint. They are enclosed in what is evidently the original old case made for them, covered with green leather, 10x7in., padded with dark red velvet.

They are such an interesting pair that I determined to go up to twenty pounds for them if necessary, and giving Stowe a limit of ten pounds, I went in to cover them in case the bidding exceeded that amount. They were knocked down to us for five pounds, and considering their size and interest, are undoubtedly the cheapest we have yet bought. There is certainly no "fakement" about them, as I could see at once that the ivory is really old, and apparently carved by a different hand from those we already have.

C.J.S.T. 4.

Rustifjael Collection.

Boscawen has now completed the work of cataloguing the purchases made at the last sale of the Rustifjael Collection. He has found among them some pieces of considerable interest, one of the most interesting being an account of Khensu, who, he states, was a god of healing after the time of Im-Hotep.

WR-18/17 [Cont.]

(8) He thinks it is possible to get a picture of this deity, and says that he will have a search to see if he can find one.

His report is so interesting that I enclose you a copy of it which he has corrected.

C. J. S. P. 5.

Re Sans Walk.

We are doing everything we possibly can to make the warehouse at Sans Walk thoroughly dry, and the three stoves that I have had put in have acted excellently.

All the cases that the water reached have now been opened and their contents taken out and examined. A case containing baby linen was found damp throughout, and I have had all the articles properly washed and dried at a laundry, and they have now been replaced.

The only things that we have so far found to be seriously damaged are a number of souvenir menus of the dinner to Dr. Power which were at the bottom of the case, and to which the water had penetrated. We are having these carefully dried, and the damage remedied as far as possible. I shall see that every precaution is taken to keep the place thoroughly dry. I have had three cart loads of furniture removed and stored on the top floor at Rosebery Avenue.

C. J. S. P. 6.

Mr. L. and Motor-car Sketch.

There has been a misconception on Mr. Linstead's part in connection with this drawing.

The motor-car sketch that I submitted

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

Contd.

WR 2/18/17 [CONT.]

to him was the one that Mr. Priest originally drew for an advertisement about five months ago, and which he has now corrected according to your last instructions. It has no connection whatever with B.P.C. matters, but as you no doubt remember was got up at the time of the motor-car race from Pekin to Paris, and was suggested by the picture "Whip Behind

How Mr. Linstead has come to connect it with B.P.C. I cannot understand, as I have never mentioned anything relating to this matter to him, or to anyone in the building except yourself.

When I handed the motor-car sketch to Mr. Linstead about a fortnight ago, I told him that it was for advertising purposes in connection with medicine-cases in particular, and would be followed by two or three others, which you instructed me to tell Mr. Priest to do. I have just seen Mr. Linstead on this matter, and asked him if he does not remember my telling him that the motor-car sketch was for advertising purposes, and he says he does, and that he cannot explain how he came to connect it with B.P.C.

I have asked him to write to you on the subject.

Faithfully yours,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.

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WR2/18/24/1 [Cont.]
17A

I found that the majority were of very little importance, but I selected ten, which include the following:-

Medical MS. dated 1663.

Four works of the 17th century on plague.

A fine old work on medicine by an Arab physician named Haly Abbas, with a fine woodcut title-page, 1523, bound in stamped pigskin with clasps.

A work on smallpox by Thos. Dimsdale, 1767.

Dimsdale was the English doctor sent for by the Czarina of Russia to inoculate her with Jenner's lymph, in 1770. This book is, I believe, very rare.

Voynich asked twelve pounds five shillings for these, but I got them for ten pounds one and ninepence.

He returns to Florence next month, and I have made arrangements with him that he shall put all the medical MSS. he finds on going through his stock aside for me to have the first choice. This he faithfully promises to do, and to write and let me know

C. J. S. T. O.

Re Ivory Instrument.

Among the replies to an advertisement which I drew up and inserted in the "Exchange and Mart" per Symonds, was one from a man in Brighton who stated that he had a curious ivory instrument which he wished to sell. He would not send it by post, nor let it go out of his hands, but I found on writing to him that he would be in the City one day last week, and I made an appointment. The instrument turned out to be somewhat similar to the ivory one that I bought in Paris last November twelvemonth, which you

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Contd.

(3)

NR 2/18/20/1 [cont.]
17A

will no doubt remember. This one, which is even more extraordinary, I bought for two pounds.

C. J. S. T. S. At Philip Son & Neale's on Tuesday there were several early Persian bronze mortars, including one very fine one similar to those Kalebđjian has in Paris and for which he wants such an enormous price. These are undoubtedly genuine and ancient, and I put good limits on them. We secured them all, viz:-

A 13th century bronze mortar, octagon in shape, studded with big diamond bosses.

A 14th century mortar of curious shape, bronze inlaid with silver.

These two cost two pounds five shillings.

A Persian mortar of later date, brass, sculptured with figures in relief, with an ancient Indian tray inlaid with gold for twenty-eight shillings.

At Puttick & Simpson's, at the sale of Nyburg's, the antique dealer's of Regent Street, we bought a large old Dutch water-colour drawing called "The Surgeon", signed by A. Mullimans for four pounds fifteen shillings. This is a very nice piece of work. It represents a Dutch doctor of the early 18th century examining a sick woman.

There was nothing of interest to us at Robinson & Fisher's or at Foster's last week.

H. S. Wallooms, Esq.

Contd.

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WR2/18/24/1 [CONT.]
17A

C. J. S. T. 10.

Re Dr. Hume Griffith.

I enclose an interesting article which I have cut from "The Daily Chronicle". I think we should get in touch with Dr. Hume Griffith, who could probably furnish us with some very interesting details concerning serpent worship in Assyria..

I am writing to him in your name, and sending him a prospectus of the H.M.S.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(1).

Snow Hill Buildings,
London, E.C.

February 3rd, 1908.

WR 2/18/24/2
17B

Dear Sir,

Your replies dated January 27th and 29th duly to hand. I have carried out your instructions thereon.

C.J.S.T. 11. I have just heard from Levin of Paris that he has purchased the picture of Saint Rocce at the Sambon sale for seven hundred and fifty francs ten centimes, and he has already had it put into a packing-case and despatched it to London. According to French custom we have to pay the auctioneer's commission on this amount, which brings the price up to eight hundred and twenty-five francs ten centimes.

C.J.S.T. 12. We did very well at the Middlebrook Museum sale, and secured most of the objects we wanted at fairly reasonable prices. I received your catalogue in time, and made a careful examination of everything you marked. A considerable number of the things were "fakements", and were not worth bidding for, but we got the best. The following is a list of the purchases and prices paid:-

Large vampire bat. 30/-

Dr. Johnson's spectacles. 14/-

General Gordon's cap and the spear said to have been the weapon with which he was killed at Khartoum. £10. 0s. 0d.

Lot containing ju-ju knives, fetish knives, Benin charms, witch doctor's rattle, etc. £1. 10s. 0d.

Lot including a hat worn by Sir H.M. Stanley, a large box of South African war relics, etc. 23/-

Parcel of books, including Livingstone's prayer-book. 25/-

Nelson's tourniquet, a small ivory telescope belonging to him and a box made from the wood of his funeral car. 38/-

A fine miniature of Dr. John Hunter. £4. 0s. 0d.

Taking the sale all round the prices were very low, but for one or two things, including the Gordon relics, fairly high prices were obtained. There was a very large attendance at the sale. I sent Stowe to buy, and went myself to cover any in case of necessity.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

(2).

WR 2/18/24/2 [Ans]
178

I put ten pounds' limit on the Gordon relics, and it just bought them in, Stowe's last bid being exactly that amount. There was considerable competition for them.

There is a letter of identification attached to the spear, written by Captain Rivers, who took it from the hand of the chief at the time of his surrender.

C.J.S.T. 13. We have also purchased during the week at Foster's an oil painting of George Washington, by Gilbert Stuart.

This is an interesting work, and evidently represents Washington when a young man. It is contemporary, and well-painted, and I thought you would like to have it. It was knocked down to us for six pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence.

At Foster's we also bought three large Spanish pharmacy vases, blue and white for thirteen shillings.

C.J.S.T. 14. At Christie's we purchased an oil painting called "The Alchemist" by Teniers, 20x22 inches, for nine and a half guineas. This is a good picture, and one that I have not seen before.

C.J.S.T. 15. Stevens's sale on Tuesday was again a very poor show, and there were very few things worth buying. We got all that I put limits on at moderate prices as follows:-

- Lot 15. Doctor's antique weighing and height machine. £1. 10s. Od.
- Lot 28. Two old ivory medicine cups. £1. 10s. Od.
- Lot 47. Fetish belt composed of human teeth. £1. 15s. Od.
- Lot 206. Box containing medicine charms, and charm for the neck against disease composed of one hundred and fifty garnets.
12/-

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

NR-118/18
Snow Hill Buildings,

London, E.C.

February 29th, 1908.

Dear Sir,
C.J.S.T. 30.

Mr. van Branteghem.

A Mr. van Branteghem of 43, Boulevard Haussmann, Paris, called here a few days ago stating that he had been sent by Dr. Budge to show you some very choice Egyptian antiquities which he wished to dispose of.

I made an appointment with him to show these at his hotel and found they consisted of:-

1. A large **scarab**, of unusual colour.
2. A small amulet in grey rock crystal in the form of a cat.
3. An ibis in blue faience with gold legs.
4. A very small head of **Rameses** in polished white stone.

For these he asked the modest sum of six hundred pounds. I told him that I did not think they would be of sufficient interest to you to consider their purchase, but that I would send you particulars, and if you wished would communicate with him again.

Mississippi Steamers.

C.J.S.T. 31. With reference to the search you instructed me to make regarding pictures of early Mississippi Steamers and views on the River, I have now come across three books containing a great many good pictures of this character, namely, "Fifty Years on the Mississippi" by E.W. Gould, containing eight illustrations of the finest and most famous of the old Mississippi Steamers; "Down the Great River" by W. Glasier, containing a number of views on the Mississippi, steamers, log rafts, canoeing, negroes picking cotton, cutting sugar cane, etc., a log boom, and views of cities on the River, and "Life on the Mississippi" by Clemens.

Will you please let me know if I shall have these traced or photographed, as they are in the British Museum.

Lead Cistern.

C.J.S.T. 32.

I called yesterday by appointment to see the Vicar of S. Sepulchre's, who, you may remember, wrote to you concerning an ancient lead cistern which he wished to dispose of.

The cistern was removed from the interior of the house about four years ago, and now stands in the yard. It is a very good one from an

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

NR2/18/18 [CONT.]

(2)

artistic point of view, and stands about three feet six inches in height by three feet in breadth. It is composed of sheet lead about an inch and a quarter thick. The front and sides are enriched with a moulded panel in relief which bears the date, 1699. There are also two crests and four figures one representing Hope and another Charity. Mr. Rogers, the Vicar, said he had been offered eight pounds for it for old metal, and had had a further offer of ten pounds from a dealer in Oxford Street, but he thinks it ought to be worth more. I should say from nine to ten pounds was about its value, but it would be very difficult to know what use to make of it, although it is not so unwieldy as many of them are. I told Mr. Rogers that you are at present travelling abroad, and I would lay the matter before you.

G.J.S.T. 33.

Sales.

There were two good book sales last week, at which we bought some interesting items.

On the 19th at Puttick & Simpson's the library of W. Digby, the editor of "India" was sold. On viewing the books I found that there were not so many items of interest to us as I expected, most of the volumes being works of statistics and others of a similar character, but I put limits on the following, all of which we got:-

Folk Songs of Southern India, by C.E. Gover, and twenty-nine other books on Hindu folk-lore, customs, etc. £1.0s.0d.

Classical Dictionary of Hindu Mythology, by Dowson, and nine other similar works. 16/-

History and Chronology of the Myth Making Age, by J.F. Hewitt, and twelve other books on India. 10/-

Curiositates Eroticae Physiologiae by Davenport (a book we have often tried to get). 19/-

At Sotheby's on the 21st a considerable number of early medical works from the library of Mr. John Crosswell of Newcastle-on-Tyne came up, and I put full limits on all we had not got. I enclose full list of purchases and prices. In some cases we have had to buy duplicates in the parcels, on account of purchasing several books we had not got, but the prices were not high.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

At Foster's on the 21st we purchased five majolica pharmacy jars, including two very good Arab specimens for thirty-two shillings, and on the 22nd a book entitled "Antiquities of Egypt", full of very interesting old steel engravings of Egyptian temples, etc., together with eight framed engravings for fifteen shillings.

The contents of the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, were disposed of last week, but I could not see anything of interest to us to buy. The furniture was entirely of the early Victorian period, heavy and ugly, and there was nothing among the other items that I thought would interest you.

I bought from Mitchell four interesting engravings, viz:-

1. The Alchemist lecturing on the Elixir of life.
2. Testing the plague medicine.
3. Curious etching of the Circumcision.
4. " " " "

The lot cost nine shillings and sixpence.

I also bought this week a very interesting amulet necklace that had belonged to an old Jewess in the East End of London. It is composed chiefly of old jet beads, and strung with them are numerous amulets, one of metal bearing on it in Hebrew characters a prayer to Jehovah against sterility, and others in the form of hands, said to be carved from lamb bones. The man stated that the necklace was worn for a time by each child, and after the child had recovered from a complaint a lamb bone band was placed on the necklace to prevent the illness returning. I had to give twenty shillings for this, but I thought it too interesting to let go.

Early in January I saw in the window of a dealer in Garrick Street a well-painted picture of a quack doctor standing on a platform addressing a crowd in a street, while an assistant extracts a tooth from a man sitting on the platform. The subject is well treated, and the picture is in good condition and signed by the painter, Leaucrete. They asked twenty pounds for it.

On examining the pictures that the man had inside I found a large painting unframed of Regalieu, a famous French physician. For this they wanted five pounds. I made them an offer of thirteen pounds for the two, but could not get them to come down below twenty pounds. I left them alone until the early part of last week, when I got them down to eighteen pounds for the two, and eventually paid them fifteen pounds. I think the picture of the

WR 2/18/18 [enc.]

quack doctor alone is well worth that amount.

G.J.S.T. 34.

Unicorns.

I have just received from Mr. Frank Craig his design in outline for the unicorn, and have sent it together with three further sketches by Mr. Priest and one by Mr. Cox. I have written this morning to Mr. Craig asking him not to go on with the wash drawing of the unicorn until Thursday or Friday until he hears from me again. I should like to know your opinion on it, so that he may make any alterations in the wash drawing you may think necessary. Kindly let me know by return post.

A few days ago I heard of a Mr. Scobie who is an artist on the official staff of the College of Heraldry, and draws and illuminates the armorial bearings and blazons for the diplomas of peers, etc. who are granted arms. It struck me that he might turn out a good unicorn, but of course his work would be of the conventional type and purely heraldic in character. If you do not approve of any of the drawings I have sent will you please let me know if I should see him about it.

G.J.S.T. 35.

Pre-Historic Advertisement.

I have also enclosed with the sketches of the unicorns by this mail by registered ~~mail~~ post, ten rough sketches Mr. Priest has made, illustrating some old medical maxims in pre-historic style. I have talked each of these maxims over with Mr. Priest with the object of getting the best results, and we would like to have your opinion on them before they are properly drawn. He is now working on two more to complete the set.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

P.S. I think it best to send you Mr. Craig's original drawing, and to ensure safety I have forwarded it by letter post, registered and insured.

(1)

WR2/18/24/3
18A
Snow Hill Buildings,
London, E.C.

March 5th, 1908.

Dear Sir,

C.J.S.T. 36.

Ergot.

I have gone very carefully through your letter of the 25th ult. and have made a note of all the points you suggest for further investigation. I am deeply interested in the subject, and feel that up to the present I have only been able to touch the fringe of it, and that the MS. I have just finished only represents a nucleus for further investigation, which may be elaborated from many points. ✓

The MS., as it at present stands, represents two months' research, as I was working against time, and undertook to complete it by the 31st of January, to be ready for the first issue of the Memo. Book for the American Congress. This book Mr. Linstead tells me must go to press for absolute certainty the first week in April. As it would be impossible to do the work that you suggest thoroughly and exhaustively within the month that remains I suggested to Mr. Pearson that we might print the MS. I have written, with any additions I may be able to make within the next four weeks, for the American Memo. Book; then by the time the matter is required for the meeting of the British Medical Association at Sheffield we shall have had time to make considerable headway with the investigations.

I have no doubt that in the district of Sologne and in Aquitaine, Limousin, Angoulême and Lyon, which places were visited so frequently by epidemics of ergotism, there must be manuscripts and records in the Libraries and the Departments of Archives which would yield rich results. I also think we should make a search in Paris, especially in the Print Department of the Bibliothèque Nationale, for pictures showing the visitations of S. Antony's Fire; and also among the dealers that we know. It is more than probable that in the Bibliothèque itself there are many works on ergot, printed in French, that have never been brought into this country.

A great deal might be done in three weeks or a month in the midlands of France and the rye-growing districts, in gathering material of this kind.

In Austria also I believe we should find a considerable amount

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

WR2/18/24/3 [Cont.]
13A

of literature on ergot, particularly in the districts from which it is exported. There should be valuable material also in the Imperial Library at Vienna, where I know there are several Eyzantine herbals which are quite unique. My attention has again been called to these recently by a German work that is being published in parts called "The Folk and Popular Medicine of the German People". I have had the first part sent to me, and have ordered the others to come as they are published. In part 1. there is a most interesting article on mandrakes, mainly drawn from the MSS. in the Imperial Library of Vienna in which there is a very crude picture taken from the Codex Eyzantinus in the same Library.

We have written to two of the best second-hand booksellers and print dealers in Lyon for any pictures of the Convent and Hospital at Vienne and the Church of St. Didier, but as yet we have had no reply from them.

I will ~~begin~~ ^{now} to prepare the maps you suggest ~~at once~~, and will forward tracings of them to you directly they are ready. I will put Boscawen to work on the Babylonian, Assyrian and Hittite allusions to rye, etc., and will write to Mr. Moore about getting details from the libraries in America.

I think Dr. Sambon would be of considerable use to us in tracing the pathological history, and also, probably, in connection with the origin of erysipelas. He called upon me last week and said he was going to Paris shortly for a week or so. Do you think I might put him on a hunt for three or four days for prints or pictures in Paris, and pay him by results? Will you kindly let me know as early as possible?

I have noted the other points mentioned in your letter, and will start working them out immediately.

I had already noticed the article on ergot and its production by Ruffmann and Maben in "The Pharmaceutical Journal" of February 29th, and have taken out the salient points for use in our MS.

In reply to your query, Maben was not on the Committee of the Codex.

Yours of the 2nd inst. just to hand. I will bring the references to the Mississippi Steamers before you immediately on your return. I have noted your suggestions re Symmonds and the East End.

C.J.S.T. 37.

Unicorns.

I trust you have by this time received the drawings of the unicorns. My letter will have explained to you how they were delayed owing to the Post

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

(Contd.)

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Reed
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WR2/18/19

Snow Hill Buildings,

London, E.C.,

9th November, 1908.

Dear Sir,

(1) Sales

Stevens' sale on 3rd November.

On viewing the things at Stevens' on Monday last, I found that there were very few objects of interest to us. Those that were, such as the wizard's medicine bag and the ivory medallion of medical interest, I put good limits on. The latter is an interesting little piece representing a figure reclining on a couch with two doctors dressed up as monkeys in attendance, one carrying a large enema. A Harley Street doctor ran us up on this to two pounds. There were not more than a dozen people at the sale, and Stevens seemed very disgusted at the low prices, the majority of the lots being bought in. I am sending under separate cover a specially marked catalogue as you desired.

Foster's sale.

We purchased a good old oil painting on the 7th inst, 4ft. by 2ft. 8ins. called "A Naval Engagement," (I think it represents the battle of Trafalgar) for four pounds five shillings. We also bought an oil painting on panel representing a sick room with a nurse attending a man in bed, Dutch School, for five guineas.

H. S. Wallace, Esq.,

(contd.)

W/R 2/18/19 [CONT.]

- 2 -

At a private sale of Dr Appleby Stevenson of Mildmay Park, among a lot of ten pictures and engravings in a bedroom I found an autograph letter to the doctor from H.M. Stanley, dated 11th Oct. 1886, together with a photograph of Stanley also autographed, a good litho of Lord Lister, and a steel engraving of Sir Astley Cooper. We bought the lot for ten shillings.

Bonhams sale 6th November.

At Bonhams, in the sale of pictures last Friday night, we bought a picture attributed to Velasquez called "The Man with the Skull," 3 ft. 9 ins. by 3 ft. It is in poor condition and unframed, but I saw that there was good work in it, and, on examining it since, I am almost certain it is a three quarter length portrait of William Harvey. He is standing at the side of a table with one hand resting on a skull. I should like Murecott to see it, I believe it will turn out a very good work. We got it for three pounds six shillings.

(2) Nature and Science pictures.

I called by appointment on Mr Maurice Randall, the artist, on Wednesday last and have agreed with him to do a sketch for the adaptation of Thurston's picture. Mr Randall does some remarkably fine work in pastels, girls' heads are his speciality. He had a number in his studio, and his flesh tints were really beautiful. I think

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

he should be able to do the work we want. I explained the whole nature of the thing to him, and he has agreed to do a sketch in pastel for three guineas, and a finished picture in oils or pastel for thirty guineas if his sketch is accepted. As soon as this sketch is finished I will at once forward it to you, with that done by Mr Priest whom I have arranged to see this-afternoon.

(3) Mr Athol Joyce.

I called on Mr Joyce and had a talk with him as you suggested about Stevens and Mr Forday, and I think I convinced him that someone had been "pulling his leg" with respect to the former.

(4) Special safe storage of photographic plates and films.

It occurred to me the other day that the negatives, both plates and films, which we made on continental journeys in the course of the last few years ought to be better safeguarded from risk of loss by fire. At present they are in the care of Mr Price and stored in the Photographic Dept. files. As these negatives are of great value to us, and have cost so much time and money, and as it would be almost impossible to replace them, I think they should be packed in tin-lined boxes and stored at Shoobred's with the other objects of value. If you will kindly let me know if you approve of this

H.S. Welles, Esq.,

(contd.)

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-4 -

suggestion, I will have the matter carried out at once.

(6) Surgical instruments.

I have received from Bernfeld, dealer in antiquities in Vienna, from whom I bought several things in September, a very fine old case of surgical instruments, 23 x 13 ins. It contains thirty-three instruments of old steel which are certainly of the very early eighteenth century. These are fitted in an iron-bound wooden case. He asks four guineas for it. I am going to offer him three pounds to start with, but it is too interesting a set to let go for four guineas even. He is a man who is likely to be of much use to us in Vienna, he buys there for Spink.

(6) Re pictures in Salon.

Your note dated the 8th inst. with reference to prices of pictures in the Salon d'Automne shall be attended to at once.

(7) Stevens.

At Stevens on Friday, we bought an old silver lancet case, and a shagreen ditto, both fitted; and a box of old dental instruments. (8s.)

Faithfully yours,

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Hotel Maurice,

Paris.

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WR-18/20

Snow Hill Buildings,

London, E.C.,

16th November, 1908.

Dear Sir,

(1) Sales.

Hodgson's, 5th, 6th, and 7th inst.

I made a careful examination of the books at this important sale, and, as it was doubtful if I could be there on the day the manuscripts came up, owing to the work on the 'Brown' case, I arranged for Llewellyn to buy. On examination, I found five of these were of exceptional interest, namely lot 477, "An Ethiopic Manuscript, written in the ancient language of Abyssinia on thick vellum, with inscription on first leaf stating that it belonged to the Great Library to be formed at Magdala by King Theodore, 17th century;" lot 479, a Manuscript on medicine and chemistry, in old German, written in green, red, and black, with richly illuminated capitals in gold, 17th century; lot 480, a "Bestiary in Italian," with "crude coloured drawings of Animals, Reptiles, and Insects," some of which are very curious, 17th century; lot 481, "Chinese Herbal," in Chinese, Japanese, Dutch and Latin, with 94 coloured drawings, 1620, and a manuscript in Arabic, in the same lot, gold

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(contd.)

WR 2/18/20 [Cont.]

- 2 -

borders, 1550. (£4 4s.) lot 482, a remarkable Spanish Herbal in manuscript on Drugs and Simples, with many drawings in black ink, and numerous figures drawn in the text, 1733. (£11 5s.)

On Thursday afternoon when these came up, two conferences had been arranged, one with the solicitors, and another with Counsel with reference to the 'Brown' case, but between the two appointments I managed to slip up to Hodgson's just in time to see the lot before 479 put up. This lot, viz: No. 478, was a Hebrew Bible printed on vellum, of the 15th century, which was of no interest to us, and I had placed no limit on it. When I got into the room, which was very crowded, bidding had just started on it. I placed myself on the opposite side to Llewellyn, and was astounded to see him start bidding on the book after it had passed £26. I saw he must have made a mistake, and was bidding on the wrong lot, and I did all I could to attract his attention by signs, but he did not take the remotest notice, but went on bidding. I found he was being run up on the Bible by a Jew, who was standing behind the auctioneer's desk. He ran him up to £52, then dropped, and the Bible was knocked down to Llewellyn at £54. I saw Llewellyn get the next four lots, those we

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(contd.)

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- 3 -

particularly wanted, on which I had put high limits, for quite moderate prices. I could not conceive how he had made this serious blunder, but of course could not speak to him in the room, but had to return to Counsel's chambers. I had to wait until the following morning for an explanation. When I charged him with making this foolish blunder, he only replied he could say how it happened, but had mistaken lot 478 for lot 479 upon which I had put the large limit, and he had not found it out until afterwards. This was, as I told him, sheer stupidity, for my limit was plainly and clearly placed against lot 478, and no mark or limit was placed against lot 479 in his catalogue. I went for him very strongly over the matter, and made him realise the seriousness of his error. For the present I have suspended him from all sales. Of course, the book is a valuable one, but I do not think it is worth more than £80 at the outside. I have told Llewellyn that he must get into communication with the Jew who was bidding against him, and this he is endeavouring to do through Hodgson, and if possible get him to buy the Bible from him at the price he paid for it, or something over. It is most annoying, and I feel as if I could not trust him again. I shall be glad to know

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(contd.)

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what you think of the matter.

I may say that all the manuscripts of importance to us were secured at quite reasonable prices, which you will see from the list attached of the lots purchased at the sale, showing prices paid.

Stevens' sale on the 11th inst. Stevens had a small sale on Tuesday last, but more of a miscellaneous character. There were only four lots of any interest to us and these were of little importance. We got one, namely, No. 135, "Yoruba funeral dance mask, Galeda, Shaka district," (£1 10s.).

At Knight, Frank & Rutley's we bought a large "Mezzotint Portrait of Dr William Kerr, M.D." framed. (14s.).

(2) Spink.

I called to see Spink on Friday and looked at the Ivory Carving "The Judgment of Paris," which you told me to buy if possible. Spink had got put by for me a rather good brass scarifier, and a small case of old surgical instruments with stained wood handles, about 70 or 80 years old. After a good deal of bargaining, I got him to put in the lot for 25 5s.

(3) The large water-coloured drawing of the Tiberine Isle in Rome, restored, exhibited at the Franco-British. I have found that this picture is the

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(contd.)

WR 2/18/20 [Cont.]

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property of the Bibliotheque in Paris, and that they will not part with it, but I got the artist's name and address, and communicated with him. I received a reply this-morning in which he says that he would be willing to do a copy the same size as the original, for 3000 frs. He says that if only a photographic reproduction is required, it has been reproduced, but only very small, in the works of d'Espouy. I think the best way will be to have an enlarged drawing made from this reproduction which is no doubt in the British Museum, and can be copied there.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) C. J. S. Thompson.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

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Recd
DEC 1908

Snow Hill Buildings,
London, E.C.,
26th November, 1908.

WR2/18/21

Dear Sir,

(re 5. in letter 23rd inst.)

I have to-day forwarded to Messrs. Burnay & Co., Lisbon, a small case containing the three sketches for the picture "Nature and Science." I have had to forward them thus because the pastel drawing by Maurice Randall could not be sent unless it was under glass.

With regard to Randall's sketch you will note that he has to some extent failed in getting the enamel-like effect in the flesh tints on the face and neck, but this he can easily remedy. To prevent delay, I would not let him alter it after it was framed. He suggests that by darkening the flesh tints behind the fairies he could throw them more into relief. I think there is no doubt that he could get a very beautiful effect with pastels, which will reproduce as well as a picture in oils.

In Mr Priest's larger sketch, (which he did first), he forgot the directions I gave him with regard to the pot of Hazeline Snow, and made it too large, so he did a second sketch and revised his scheme.

Mr Pearson and Mr Linstead have seen the three sketches. Mr Pearson thinks the smaller one of Priest's is the best as regards the general idea, but he likes the softer effects of Randall's pastel drawing as regards colour. Mr Linstead thinks that the fairies in all cases would be better if they

H. G. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

WR 2/18/21 [CONT.] 2.

were floating, apparently apart from the woman's body, and being led in a kind of procession by the fairy queen.

I may say that both the two artists and Mr Linstead are of opinion that the whole effect would be far greater without the men, sleighs and dogs on the shoulder. From the specimens of Priest's work which I saw in his studio, I think his technique is good, and that he would turn out a satisfactory picture in oils. On the other hand, Randall gets an exquisite softness and transparency in his pastel pictures. Of course the portions of the faces in all these sketches are only rough ideas, and have not been done either from models or from the point of view of beauty. I shall be glad to have your criticisms and decision on the matter, also as to the merits of the artists, and the medium in which the finished picture should be executed.

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Wellcome.

Snow Hill Buildings,
London, E.C.,
30th November, 1908.

WR2/18/22

1574
Reed

JAN 29 1909

Dear Sir,

(1) Curtis.

On the 26th inst., I received a letter from Mr Curtis, together with a letter from Dr Conner to Mr Curtis' brother, copies of which I forwarded you on the 27th inst. I have written to Dr Conner and asked him if he would kindly send his catalogue for inspection, thinking that perhaps you would like to know if he had anything worth while buying before you went to America.

(2) Purchases.

During the week, I have met with some interesting objects. From a dealer in Marylebone, I bought a very quaint old medicine chest covered with fish-skin and fitted with old bottles, a set of old pewter catheters in fish-skin case, a curious optical instrument in a fish-skin case, and a Georgian silver lancet case, the lot for £1 11 6.

From the Antiquarian Book Company, I also bought the following books:-

1. Anaesthesia, Hospitalism, Hermaphroditism and a proposal to stamp out the Small Pox. By Simpson G.T. 1871, Edinburgh.
2. Brevis Delinatio Impotentiae Conjugalis, by Simon John Geo. 1682 Jena.
3. Synopsis Medicinæ; or Compendium of Physick. Salmon W., London, 1671.
4. Pharmacopœia Londiniensis, Salmon W. London, 1696.
5. Schola Salernitana (Mediolanus) 1649, Rotterdam.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

6. Ars Anatomica (Salmon) London, 1714.
17s. 6d. for the lot.

From Seer'st, the following:-

1. Conseils de Medicine le diez aux
plus celebres medecins de l'Europe, (par Chesne
J. du)

2. King's Evil perfectly cured, by
Fern, T.

3. Theoria e practica dell eletrricita
Medica, by Cavallo, T.

From Baldwin's the following:-

1. A Collection of select Aphorisms and
Maxims, 4to.

2. Hermetic and Chemical Writings of
Paracelsus (Watts, A. M.) 2 vols, 4to, 1834.
I paid a second visit to the man in the
Kilburn High Road about the oil painting of the
doctor and the urine glass, of which Dr Oscar
Gutmann wrote to us, and, after further bar-
gaining, got him to accept £14, and I brought
the picture away.

(3) Sales.

At Stevens, on the 24th inst., there was again
a small batch of ten lots, specially catalogued
as "An Unique Collection of Savage Medicinal
Charms and Fetishes," all to be sold together,
that were got up obviously as a catch. There
was nothing of special interest to us among them,
so I only put small limits on each separate lot.
When they came up, Stevens started them himself
at \$20, but there was no bidding and he refused
to divide them up, so they were withdrawn.
they will, doubtless, be put up again to be sold
separately. Beyond these, there were very few
objects of interest to us

WR2/18/22 [cont.]³⁰

we bought the following:-

Lot 2. "Asaba" fetish, four heads on one neck, surmounted with birds, secured during a punitive expedition up the Niger. (40s.)

Lot 6. Remarkable savage armlet, made of the lower jaw of a slain enemy, and worn to give his added strength to the wearer. (30s.)

Lot 7. Curious collection of savage surgical knives from Masai, East Africa, Tanganyika, Mashona, and the Congo. (30s)

Lot 58. Antique horn fish and large horn spoon. (14s.)

There was a very important sale on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th inst. of early printed books at Sotheby's. A list of those purchased is attached.

At a sale in a private house in Lancaster Gate, on the 27th inst., I went up to see a picture called "La Mort Cholera" by Wiertz, the well-known painter of Brussels. You may remember this picture in his gallery at Brussels, which represents a gruesome scene in a mortuary where a woman, in a coffin, who is supposed to have died from cholera, has been placed. The picture represents her as having just regained consciousness and horror-stricken at her surroundings. The picture at Lancaster Gate was said to be a replica by Wiertz of the one in his own gallery, size 54" x 40" in a massive frame. We secured it for ten guineas.

At a sale in a private house at Harrow, we bought a very old oil painting on panel called "The Dentist," in an old carved frame, for £1 2s.

(contd.)

WR2/18/22 [Cont.] 4.

There are many important sales coming off this week, namely, Lord Ashurst's library at Sotheby's, a sale at Norwich of the "Breeze" Collection of pictures which contains six or seven oil paintings of alchemists, etc., of interest to us, a sale at Market Drayton of a veterinary surgeon's collection, beside the usual weekly sales at Robinson Fisher's and Foster's, etc. Unfortunately, the 'Brown' case is monopolising the greater part of my time, and I am afraid it will be physically impossible to give thorough attention to all of these, but I will do my best not to let anything of interest pass, and will try to get at them in some way or other.

(4) Re cases sent from Madrid.

Your note dated 22nd inst. informing me of the cases you have forwarded per T. Cook & Son addressed to Snow Hill Buildings, together with copies of two of the declaration forms, duly to hand. All these I have noted and will give careful attention to them as soon as delivery is advised.

Faithfully yours,

H. S. Wellesome, Esq.

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Reed
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Snow Hill Buildings,
16th December, 1908.

Dear Sir,

(4) Re your advice of case to be dispatched
from Lisbon.

Your note from Lisbon advising me of the
dispatch of a packing case containing antique
silver and ivories, per Messrs. Cook & Sons,
together with list of the same, duly received
yesterday morning. I am asking Cook to advise
us as soon as the case arrives, so that I can
send someone to superintend the examination
at the Customs House as you wish. I will see
that the case is dealt with with special care,
and have it placed in the strong room on its
arrival.

Re cases left in Madrid.

A representative from Cook called on the 14th
inst. and told Mr Parker that they would have to
to charge for the storage of the goods you left
at Madrid, and that they will not start packing
them until you sign the agreement relieving
them of all responsibility, which I forwarded
to you on the 12th inst. Mr Parker told him
that we had communicated with you, and that
you would no doubt write to Madrid direct.

(5) Re Hebrew Bible purchased in error.

I am very glad to tell you that after a great
deal of negotiating through Hodgson's we have
been able to resell the Hebrew Bible that
Llewellyn bought by mistake at the sale on 4th
Nov. I got Hodgson to negotiate with the
Jewish gentleman who had run Llewellyn up on
the Bible. For a long time he would not offer
more than £30 (which is really about its value)
but after a long time we sprung him up to give

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

WR 2/18/23 [CONT.] 2.

the amount that Llewellyn gave for it, namely, £54., so we have been able to get the money back without any loss, except ten shillings for commission to Hodgson.

(6) Re enclosed copy of letter.

I enclose a copy of a letter received on the 9th inst. from Oldman of Brixton. You will notice that it was addressed to the firm, and was handed to me by Mr Linstead. Up to the present I have made no acknowledgment of it. If you think I should make any reply, kindly let me know. I should suggest that we take no notice of it.

(7) Voynich. M.S.S.

On Friday last I received a note from Voynich stating that he had arrived back in London for three or four days, and had brought with him a parcel of important M.S.S. that he would like me to see at once. I lost no time in calling on him the same day, and he told me that for the last four months he had been travelling through Germany, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Servia. The whole of the M.S.S. he had been able to purchase throughout the entire journey only number thirty. I examined all these very carefully, and selected fourteen on Medicine, Alchemy, and Astrology, the remainder being on different subjects and comparatively recent. There are some very interesting and curious M.S.S. among those I picked out. Some are illuminated, and others contain drawings in colour, and they range from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. He asked £45. 5s. for the lot. I estimated them at a low valuation at £37, but he would not take it, eventually, however, I

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

WR2/18/23 [Cont.] 3.

closed with him for £39. I think they are a good lot for the money, and are the pick of what he had got. I found on talking with him, that his experiences had been the same as mine, that there were very few early printed books or M.S.S. to be had in the Balkans, or in Austria-Hungary. He said he was unable to buy a single book in Serbia or Bulgaria, and only a very few in the other States, and that beyond those at present in libraries, nearly all M.S.S. and early printed books had been destroyed in the various feuds and wars.

(8) Sales.

At Hodgson's this week, an interesting little block of early printed medical works came up for sale. On inspecting them, I found they came from the library of Dr Knott of Dublin, who used to write a good many articles in medical magazines on medico-historical subjects. Many of his books were rare, and I put good limits on them, and was able to secure the lot, a list of which, with prices, I enclose.

At Robinson & Fisher's last week, we purchased an old oil painting on panel, called "The Doctor", for £7. 7s., and at Foster's at a sale of the Blumenthal Collection, we bought a large Majolica drug jar, 21" high, decorated with portraits, for £2.10s. also an Italian marble mortar, carved with masks and medallions for £1.

(9) Professor Martenson.

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Prof. Martenson, with whom we had corresponded so recently. I wrote to him in your name only a few weeks ago thanking him for the trouble he had taken on our behalf with respect to the Tibetan M.S.S. in St Petersburg.

Faithfully yours,

WR 2/18/24/1-4

Dyghali

4 reports clipped together
marked Duplicate and
numbered by Mr Nicholson

WR 2/18/24/1-4

None of these seem to be
duplicates

Re-numbered 17A-B

18A

18A incomplete

Draft not sent

24

Snow Hill Buildings,

22nd November, 1908.

December

Dear Sir,

(11) Dr Scott.

Dr J. Scott, the medical superintendent of the European-Indo Telegraph Company at Teheran in Persia, called here last week. He is the gentleman whom Dr Wishard, late of the American Missionary Society, and formerly of Teheran recommended as likely to be of use to us in connection with the history of ergot in Persia. I found him a most intelligent man, and one who will, I think, be of the greatest assistance to us in Persia as regards the H.M.S. In the course of conversation, he told me he was acquainted with a number of native physicians, and took long journeys into the most out of the way parts of the country. He said that he had often seen the native surgeons using curious, crude instruments, which he thought he would have no difficulty in obtaining if he had a little time. With respect to ergot, he said that it had been used in Persia as an echolic from a very early period, and a case came under his notice only a few months before he left, where an old witch-doctor had given an infusion of ergot and oleander for abortive purposes. He has promised to take the matter up vigorously on his return to Persia in February, and will send us all the information possible together with specimens of ergot when obtainable.

(12) John Bell & Co.

I was sorry to see when passing the other day, that the historic pharmacy of John Bell & Co., in Oxford Street, was closed and being

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd).

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Snow Hill Buildings,

22nd November, 1908.

December

WR2/18/24/4

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H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd).

WR-18/24/X [Cont.]

2.

dismantled. You may remember the twelve old cylindrical carboys they had in the window, which have been a feature of the shop since the time when it was opened. I thought we ought not to miss these for the H.M.S., as coming from the pharmacy of John Bell, the founder of the Pharmaceutical Society, and whose name will always be prominent in the history of pharmacy, they are of more than ordinary interest. Writing from Epworth, Newman Street, I communicated with them to find out if they were willing to dispose of these, and they replied stating that they would like me to make an offer. I offered them three shillings each for the carboys as they stood with the coloured solution. They accepted the offer, and I removed them. I am having a label affixed to each giving the history of the pharmacy and where they came from, and will have them properly stored. I also sent a note to the manager asking him to let me know if they had any pieces of old apparatus in the laboratory, or old pharmaceutical implements or appliances that they wished to dispose of. He replied stating that they probably would have, and when they came to dismantle the laboratory in a few months time, he would not fail to let me know. I shall keep an eye upon these.

(13) Sales.

At an important sale of M.S.S. and books at Sotheby's on the 17th and 18th inst., a first edition of De Magnete by William Gilbert, printed in 1600, came up for sale, together with eight other books referring to this famous work. There are only seventy-one copies of this edition

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR 2/18/24/A [Cont.] 3.

of De Magnete in existence, and, as you may remember, we have been trying to get one for a long time. I found, on examination, that this one is a very beautiful copy, and with all the literature, including an English translation which would have been otherwise difficult to obtain, connected with it, I thought we ought not to let it slip, so put a limit of £25 on it and got it for £25. 10s. The last copy that came up for sale, which was inferior and was without the commentaries, sold for £20. We also bought several other rare works on medicine, botany, and alchemy, a list of which, with prices, is enclosed.

Stevens had a very poor lot of things for sale on the 16th inst., and there were only three lots on which I thought it worth while to put limits. These were as follows:

Lot 1. A copper symbol of ancient Peruvian sun worship. 12/-

Lot 116. Six 18th century surgical instruments, also a print of a fortune-teller by Callot, and another of medical interest. £1. 8s.

Lot 117. An unique magical M.S. with talisman, written by Francis Barrett, physician and student of the occult, 16th century. £1.

At a sale at Hodgson's on the 19th inst. we bought a fine book on chiromancy, full of plates, 17th century. 13/-

At Robinson & Fisher's we purchased a good old oil painting on panel called "The Chiropodist" by Segs, £12. 1. 6. and also at another sale on the same date, an old oil painting on panel called "The Village Doctor" by Brauer. £6. 13. 6

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

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WR2/15/24/CONTJ 4.
From the Antiquarian Book Co. I bought
three books, one on Monograms and Cyphers,
one on Designs for Stain Glass, and another,
the works of Leeuwenhoek in English. 8s.6d.
for the lot.

(14) Antient Celtic Medicine.

This last fortnight I have been able to
make good progress with this book, and have
got together some very interesting matter,
with a number of good illustrations. I
hope to complete the whole of it by the end
of next week.

Faithfully yours,

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.