

'Massiah, Dr Clarence H'

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MASSIAH, DR. CLARENCE H. BARBADOS

1914

4 June 1914.

Dear Sir,

I am sending you herewith by parcel post the old combined cupping and blood-letting instrument that you so kindly lent to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, and trust you will receive it safely.

I take this opportunity for thanking you for so kindly lending this object to us for so long.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C. J. S. T.

Dr. Clarence H. Massiah,
St. Lucy,
Barbados,
British West Indies.



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In reply please refer to

M.I.

LONDON, E.C. 5th May, 1914.

Dear Sir,

The following is an extract taken from a report received from one of my firm's representatives travelling in the B.W.I., which apparently calls for your attention:-

"Please send Dr. Clarence Hy. Massiah, St. Lucy, Barbados, B.W.I., the ancient instrument, date of 1620, which he supplied to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum. It is a combined blood letting cupping instrument. He has had no acknowledgment of it nor of a letter he sent at the same time. It was sent by parcel post. There is another Dr. Massiah here - H.M. Massiah - perhaps it has been sent to him by mistake."

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Henry S. Wellcome,
per

The Curator,

Wellcome Historical Medical Museum,

Wigmore Street,

W.

~~Dec 3rd 1913~~
Jan 7th 1914

Lyndhurst Hastings
Christchurch Barbados B.W.I.

H.S. Welcome Esq.

Dear Sir I first allow me to thank you for your letter of enclosing the account of & addresses at the opening of your Medical Museum which it rejoices me to know is to be permanent so that if ever I am permitted again to come to England I may have the opportunity of visiting it also for the many kindnesses I have during a long medical life of 48 years I have received at the hands of your firm in literature forwarded your invaluable Annual Medical pocket book & above all for placing within my reach for both Objective & Subjective was the drugs in Tabloid form In Chudleigh Devon England British Guiana & during the last ten years here in Barbados when I retired from active practice being now only a consultant I am sending you by parcel post a Peids Original Combined Enema Stomach pump Cupping apparatus as well as for injecting tobacco smoke into the bowels the following is its history It was given to me by the Widow of a Medical Man who had practiced at Bovey Tracy Devon & I am under the impression so did his father before him. Dr Croker he had

a large Moorland practice & was well known in Devon as an Archaeologist. He had used it and so have I all these years & never found it anything but reliable until this climate affected the coatings of the tubes which have had to be renewed. In the box with it were two pamphlets written by the inventor explaining its several uses 25 years ago. I sent it to Messrs Arnold & Co of Smithfield asking to have the tubing replaced in all metal. Calling attention to the age of the instrument the date of the pamphlets was 1780 or thereabouts to my chagrin when returned the pamphlets were gone and elastic tubing again fitted. On enquiring at Messrs Arnold & Co for the pamphlet they expressed regret that men who did the repairing thought the old pamphlets were only old paper put in for packing & had thrown them away. The pamphlet which was illustrated showed the value of the instrument for veterinary use horses cattle &c. I used to use the firing apparatus for plants I do not know whether you will deem it acceptable but I give it with much pleasure. It has for the last four or five years been suffering from constant

and relegation to rubbish rooms packing cases &c
by those who did not know how much I valued
it I entered practice in 1866 and resigned my
appointment from the Brit Guiana Medical Civil
Service in 1904 It is still in original box but very
delapidated I have altered date & delayed
dispatch of box thinking it might miscarry
in confusion of Christmas Again thanking
you for all your firm have done for our profession
I remain

yours faithfully

Clarence L. Massiah
L.R.C.P.L 1867 M.R.C.S. Eng 1866