

## **'Thompson, CJS - Reports'**

### **Publication/Creation**

Jan-Dec 1909

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cvcyd32>

### **License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WR 2/19/1-21

WR  
WR

WR2/19/11

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,

5th January, 1909.

Dear Sir,

Re the Felizet Collection (10)

I trust that you received my letter written from Paris on the 28th December, informing you that I had purchased the collection of the late Dr Felizet. I called at the house the following morning to start the packing, and had everything cleared out by Tuesday night. In the meantime, Madame Felizet had found several other objects of interest, and a number of books among some lumber in the coach-house, which I examined with her. Some of the books were exceedingly good, and I selected all that were of any use to us. The additional objects are a coloured engraving of Dr Dubois, a well-known physician of the Napoleonic period, an old pewter feeding bottle, an old pair of apothecaries' scales and weights, an old case of suture needles, an old ophthalmoscope, a bronze plaque of a famous French veterinary surgeon, and twenty-six volumes of works on old medicine, surgery and alchemy. For these, I offered one hundred francs more, which was accepted, and I added them to the collection. Madame Felizet told me before I left, that she feels quite sure that at their country house, which is some distance from Paris, there are several other objects of medical interest, including some large pharmacy jars which she remembers, and also probably some books. Their country house is at present shut up, but she and her son purpose going there at the end of February, and she has promised to write and let me know

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,

The other collection in Paris is a great prize. We ought to have a special register of these collections to keep touch.

yes I consider the purchase highly satisfactory and we must respect Mrs Felizet's desires about the mention of Dr Felizet's name. This we can do in the introduction to the catalogue and perhaps in other ways. We must keep watch for every collection in every country in the case of death or disposal for other reasons. The other

126  
JAN 14 1909

Encl.

what she finds, so that I may go over and inspect the objects. I will make a special note to write and remind her, as I feel sure that now we shall have the first pull of anything she may find, at a very reasonable rate. I insured the collection against loss or damage, and it has now left Paris, and will, I hope, reach here in a few days.

I thought I had better not spend any time in Paris this journey, but left for London on Wednesday morning, as the blizzard paralysed all trade, and nearly all the shops were closed for the New Year festivities. I had just time to look in at two of the old book sellers whom I know, and from Kra, in the Rue Elanthe I bought ten old works which we had not got, on botany, medicine, surgery, etc., for £8.8.6. From Mathias, I got a number of most interesting old coloured medical engravings and caricatures, none of which we possess, and an interesting book on alchemy, for £1.18.8.

(15) Sales.

In Foster's sale on the 23rd Dec., one of the most interesting pictures I have seen for a long time came up for sale. It is called 'An Operation', by Quentyn Mastys, and appears to be a genuine work. It not actually by the master, it is a contemporary work, and represents a surgeon performing an operation on a man's head, with an assistant and nurse looking on. The figures are three-quarter length, and the costumes are exceedingly quaint and characteristic, especially that of the Dutch surgeon. I have never seen a reproduction or engraving of this picture, so far as I can recollect. It is 3' 2" x 2' 6", and is painted on a very

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

thick old panel. I put a limit of £45 on it, sent Stow to buy, and went in myself to watch. It was knocked down to us for £26.5s.

At Sotheby's on the 24th Dec., we bought thirty-four old glass medicine phials of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, (17/-) a stone mortar and crusher, two bone skates, a shell burnisher, two seventeenth century brass candlesticks, a box of fire relics, a brass mortar, and eight other pieces, all for 15/- There were no sales last week, so I missed nothing by being away. They begin again tomorrow.

Re (3) 12th Dec. Cases from Madrid. I understand that Cook has not yet forwarded any of the cases you instructed him to dispatch from Madrid. Probably since he received your signed letter they may have been sent off. I have the duplicate lists of the contents of these cases that you sent me.

Re your note of 8th Dec. (2) Mr Priest called at Quaritch's re the fine Guy de Chauliac M.S., early in December last, to make further enquiries, and they informed him that it had been sold about twelve months previously, but they did not know to whom.

Re John Bell's Pharmacy, (12) 22nd Dec. I think it would be well worth trying to get the old shop front of John Bell's pharmacy. I was looking at it yesterday, and it could be taken to pieces with very little trouble, and re-erected. At present the premises are to be let on lease, and nothing can be done until they are let or sold, when, no doubt, alterations will have to be made for any tenant. I will make a special note of

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

*I am sorry to  
lose this we  
must keeply watch  
and secure all  
such in future  
even at large figures*

*right*

WR 2/19/11 [cont.]

good | the matter, and as soon as I see the board  
down, will get into touch with the tenants or  
agents. I am also following up the matter of  
the laboratory fittings.

(16) Christmas boxes for the men.

4 | In your absence, I gave the men the usual  
Christmas boxes in money as in previous years,  
namely, £5 to Bourne, £5 to Llewellyn, and  
£3 to Stow. Reid we have not employed at all  
during the past year, so I dropped his. They  
all wish me to express their great thanks to  
you for your kindness.

(17) Re Artists.

might | As the ladies who formerly did coloured copies  
of photographs taken abroad have been scattered  
and some left London altogether, I have had to  
find new artists to carry out the work on the  
photographs which we brought back from Austria-  
Hungary; after trying a number, I have selected  
two who will, I think, prove really competent,  
both having submitted some excellent work in  
black and white and water colour. I found, on  
going thoroughly into the matter, that it would  
be far more economical to engage them by the  
week than to pay by the drawing as we have  
previously done. By this means the large and  
more elaborate drawings will really come out at  
about the same price as the simpler ones, and  
we shall save in the aggregate. I have engaged  
the two artists at a salary of thirty-five  
shillings per week while the work lasts, and I  
have arranged for them to work in the room  
at Newman Street, where they have a good  
light, and where I can superintend the work  
and colouring. This

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/19/1[cont.]

- 5 -

is a great advantage, as I can now criticise the work as it is done, and see them start before I leave in the morning, and look in again for a few minutes in the afternoon. They commenced work yesterday. The only extra is three and sixpence which I am paying per week to the housekeeper for a daily fire in the room, which is necessary during the cold weather.

right

(18) Re Silver.

72

All the pieces of silver that you left to be stamped, restamped, and repaired, have now been done, and have been added to the list and stored at Shoolbred's, together with another case of M.S.S. that I have packed.

(19) Re Arrangement of Instruments.

It has occurred to me since the purchase of the Felizet collection that something should now be done towards arranging and naming the surgical instruments for the H.M.E.

We must now have stored away several thousands of loose instruments of all periods, exclusive of those in cases, and I think unless it is taken in hand very soon, the task will be a tremendous one if they are allowed to accumulate further. Dr Sambon could give me valuable help in this matter, and if you agree to my suggestion, I should like to talk the whole thing over with him and see if we could not take it in hand without delay. My idea is that we should take each class of instrument, as for instance the speculum, and taking a card, work the history of it out from the earliest and most primitive specimen we can obtain, ranging in chronological order speculi from the most ancient period, and concluding with a speci-

Await my return before making such an arrangement. It is necessary to be very careful - Draft up a in advance a very special undertaking.

Mr Smith will help you. I am sure Dr Sambon will help you. I am sure Dr Brown will help you.

and Sambon's forgetfulness. We must take very exceptional precautions to prevent leakage. I shall be in London probably in 2 or 3 or 4 weeks.

WR2/19/1 [Cont.]

- 6 -

men of the most improved form. I suggest  
that the instruments might be mounted on  
cardboard, <sup>stiffened with light sketches?</sup> either light-blue-grey; or <sup>light-</sup> olive-  
green, with <sup>Cotton or linen</sup> wire, and with the description  
under each. As each card is completed, it  
could be placed flat in <sup>one over the other</sup> the packing-case,  
and then would be ready for placing in a  
glass case for exhibition when necessary.  
I have already commenced to get together all  
the books that we have in the library on  
surgical instruments from the earliest  
time, so that they will be at hand for  
reference. I shall be glad to hear what  
you think of the matter, and will then  
communicate with Dr Sambon.

Faithfully yours,

J. S. Thompson

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

I have got a few  
pictures & books etc  
this trip.

get up dummy  
specimens of  
these for me  
to see also models  
of local or  
inscriptions

These may be  
handled many  
times & used  
at several  
exhibitions & finally  
for a museum.

night

Siskin

10 JAN 1909

128  
Reed  
JAN 12 1909

Snow Hill Buildings,  
7th January, 1909.

WR2/19/2

Dear Sir,

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

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

(21) Celtic Medicine.

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

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

I would not change these blocks this Edition of the Syllabus has not previously been circulated in French. I think

I do not remember in future such a note should go to you or whoever has charge of a work & a full refce. secured so as to facilitate & ensure every thing

WR2/19/2[CONT.] 2.

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

possibly or  
it may be from  
a larger atlas of  
quaint - old maps of  
Brit Islands which  
picked up -

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S. Thompson,  
per D.A.O.

Don't delay on any of this  
but use some ~~very early~~  
quaint map -

H.S. Wellcome, Esq.

WR 2/19/3

Snow Hill Buildings,  
18th January, 1909.

Dear Sir,

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

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

(22) Purchases.

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

Lot 808. Morini, J.B. Astrologia  
Gallica, Diagrams, old Spanish calf, 1661;  
Mundae Symbolicus, cuts of emblems, old  
pigskin with clasps, Coloniae, 1729. 18/-

Lot 809. Theatrum Diabolorum, title in  
red and black, old stamped pigskin, Frank-  
furt, S. Feyrabend 1593; Valentini. Natur  
und Materialien Kanner, cuts, 1704; Wolfii  
Lectio Memorablem Centenarius, wood-  
cuts (no title) vellum, Lavingae, 1608. 23/-

Lot 619. Penmanship - Shelley G.,  
second Part of Natural Writing, portrait  
engraved throughout, 4to, 1714; (Wyan).  
Practical Arithmetick, engraved throughout,  
4to, 1695, and one other. 22/-

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

Madrid manager  
wrote me saying  
matter was receiving  
attention.

Lisbon office informed  
me goods already  
dispatched -  
Also Lisbon manager said  
he puts understood my  
directions & instructed to  
carry them out but that  
he thought the difficulty  
had been made by  
some statement by  
a member of my staff  
in London to Cook - that  
Cook's office in Lisbon  
was to pack the goods.  
I cannot say how far  
remarks are correct or  
based on guess work etc

WR 2/19/3 [cont.]  
(2)

Lot 820. Penmanship - Beurenfiend M.,  
der Zierlichen Schrieb-Kunst, engraved through-  
out, 2 vols., (1 vol. no title) half bound,  
Nurnberg 1716/38; Kehr. Monarchae Mogolo-Indici  
Numisma, plates, 4to half bound, Lipsiae, 1725,  
(22/-)

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

(23) Maori designs for Medical Diary,  
1910.

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

(24) Ergot. Dr Gubb.

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

See my notes  
& criticisms  
sent to be typed out

I have  
decided to hold  
this over

*You should  
send him a cheque  
when I return  
without fail*

*A fine thing  
you must never  
miss such  
good works  
as this*

*A good  
lot  
I'm glad you  
got them*

WR2/19/3 [cont.] (3)

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

(24) Mr Voynich.

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

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

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

No. 2. Regimen Sanitatis (Diet and Health of the School of Salerno), M.S. written on vellum, 15th century, folio size, consisting of nine folios. (215).

No. 3. Macer's Herbarium, bound together with Sydrach on the Virtues of Precious Stones, M.S. of the 15th century, written on vellum. (Sydrach was an Arabian alchemist of the 7th century, and his works are very rare). (220).

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR-19/3 [CONT.] (4)

(5) M.S. on Materia Medica written on paper, 17th century, £2. 10s.

(6) M.S. Medical Recipes, 17th century, on paper, £2. 15s.

(7) M.S. Medical Recipes in German, 17th century, on paper, £1. 10s.

(8) M.S. Venesection, in French, 17th century, on paper, £2. 10s.

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

The total amount he asked for the lot was £97, and he said that he must have an early decision as he knew he would have no difficulty in disposing of the M.S.S. especially, to Professor Osler and Professor Ferguson. The former has given him an open commission for all M.S.S. he can get on medicine, surgery and anatomy, but, as he said, he had kept to his word and given me the first chance, being his oldest customer. I told him that I could not rise to anything like that amount, but at the same time was determined not to let them go. Eventually, after a good deal of discussion, I got him to accept £76 for the lot, which I think is reasonable. I should think that the Lanfranco alone would at present fetch £60 or £70 at the prices of M.S.S. of this period, and being in English greatly enhances its value.

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

I have sent  
another case to  
Beckman & Co. to  
ship by direct steamer  
to London. RISH & Co.

(Contents: Carved Gilt Frames  
Carved Figures, Fabrics  
Metal work - Pictures etc (5)

(25) Re lists of cases, etc. W.R. 2/19/3 [Cont.]

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

Faithfully yours,

J. S. Thompson

Also - Adlington took to London for me 3 valuable packets containing some of the fine & fragile pieces of silver. These should go into a strong room or strong room at once - 1 tray is valued at £200, another at £50. and the other pieces at £50. for the lot. I will send on being the detailed list and Adlington also took a lot of my luggage to London including my large dispatch bag which should be sealed & kept in my office for my return.

Henry S. Wellesley, Esq.

The large shipment of large cases & crates will be sent from Lisbon in about 4 weeks - very bulky work

*Bianchi*

*As usual I packed and listed these hurriedly at the last moment and I have probably made several errors - You cannot claim as I have no doubt every thing we WR2/19/4 Before whom has should they be Declaration, be made? British Consul, Italy, or Whom - Please get some take with me in future - Probably Mr Pearson who holds my power could make the declaration for me if necessary.*

*I do not understand this invoice says 12 but may be an error as weight is right.*

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,  
26th January, 1909.

Dear Sir,

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

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

Weight according to your list.	Weight according to our scales.
Silver coffee and tea service 3690 gms	3680 gms
Louis XV. coffee pot 1200 gms	1282 gms
Rayed ornaments and crowns 295 gms	195 gms
12 salvers together with 3 snuffer trays 4755 gms	4747 gms (11 instead of 12 salvers to hand.)

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

172

FEB 1909

Right - 2 -

WR 2/19/4 [Cont.]  
Eaton

The weight is  
estimated by  
weighing one handle  
only of each - and  
counting the others.

I do not understand  
100 grams unless  
the crowns &c unless  
they are packed inside  
some of the other silver  
they are very fragile -  
Please have a correct  
typed list for me in  
triplicate when I return

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

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

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

(27) As cases shipped direct from Seville.

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

We cannot  
claim  
this <sup>(breakage)</sup> due to Bad  
Packing

No 1 Sofa was broken  
in transit to  
shipping office  
owing to bad crate  
packing

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

(26) Sales.

At Stevens on the 19th inst. there were a  
few items of interest to us. I put limits  
on 3 lots, and of these we secured 6 as  
follows:-

Lot 27. Ancient wood ju-ju figure used  
at human sacrifices, from W. Cen. Africa.  
(£2.7.6.)

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

Lot 80. Ditto 46 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. (12/-)

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

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

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

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

Lot 805. Herbal - Braunschweig H.  
New Vollkommen Distillierbuch. woodcuts.  
Frankfurt, 1597. (£2.4.)

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

What is the  
English translation  
of Vollkommen  
good!

WR2/19/4 [Conf.]

- 4 -

and is a rare and interesting work.

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

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

(29) Re yours dated 24th inst.

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

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

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

(28) Re Maori designs for Medical Diary.

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

Faithfully yours,

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.

J. Thompson

Hold until  
my return  
to London

Have Mr Walf in Egypt  
try & follow up that  
very ancient marble Egyptian  
monument offered us at a high price  
some years ago Mr Withinson negotiated  
for us - now would be a good time to get  
for a lower price - W

Beauty  
Feb 24 1909

190  
Recd

W/R 2/19/5  
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,

2nd February, 1909.

6061 8 934  
FEB 24 1909

Dear Sir,

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

(30) Major-General Robley.

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

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

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

(32) Lake Ibrahim, Central Africa.

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/19/5 [Cont.]

very much like  
many wide swampy  
regions of the upper  
Nile

yes this ~~should~~  
should fully  
cover the point

2 large trays

~~The~~

& the parcels of silver

? about the Dispatch  
bag ~~the~~ & a box

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

(33) Adlington.

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq., (contd)

WR 2/19/5 [Cont.]

(34) Purchases.

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

*Good*

About a fortnight ago Mr Lang, the dealer in Rome, forwarded me a most interesting M.S. on alchemy, of the early part of the 17th century. It is written on paper, 4to, 180 fols., bound in vellum, and containing thirty-six beautifully coloured drawings of chemical apparatus, including furnaces, retorts and alembics. Also thirty-three drawings in black and white of apparatus, furnaces, etc. The M.S. is entitled 'Opera dell'Ecc.mo filosofo Christof da Pariesi Intitulata Lucidario'. He asked £15 for it, and I wrote offering him £9. I have heard from him this-morning stating that he will accept £10, and I am sending him a cheque to-day for that amount, as the M.S. is a very rare and curious one and the drawings are very fine and beautifully coloured. I told him in my letter that I have sent him a pound over my value as an inducement to send me all early M.S. and printed books on early science that he may meet with, before putting them

*Good*

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

1NR2/19/5 [cont.]

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

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

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

yes

Is this a literal or a liberal translation - I think this was given, as once as a translation into German of *Welcome*

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

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

I have written to Mr Woolf as you suggest, giving him particulars as to where to look for the mortar in question, and instructing him to make an offer for it up to 27, and to let me know the result.

Faithfully yours,

J. S. Thompson

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

David  
Feby 11 187909

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.,  
9th February, 1909.

WR2/19/6

Dear Sir,

(38) Mr Voynich.

On Monday last I had a note from Voynich saying that he had again discovered another batch of important M.S.S. on medicine, in France, and that he would be glad if I would come and see them at once. I called in the afternoon to examine them, and found that he had got some medical M.S.S. of considerable importance. They are as follows:-

(1) A very interesting M.S. by Aretinus on the Heart, written on vellum in the fifteenth century, consisting of 74 fols. 4to, in beautiful condition with finely illuminated initials in gold and colours, the first page having a border beautifully executed in colour and a coat of arms. Its illuminated initials and condition make it valuable as a manuscript independent of its medical interest. I have not been able to find any published work of Aretinus on the heart, and they have no copy of the M.S. in the British Museum. Price £60.

(2) The "Letters of Phalaridis", bound together with the letters of Mithridates and and epitome of Hippocrates' works on medicine, written on vellum in the fifteenth century, 4to, with finely illuminated initials in gold and colours, and first page with a border. Price £35.

(3) Fourteen curious drawings in water-colour representing various alchemical processes, apparently extracted from some

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

very interesting

97

sixteenth century work. Price £2. 10s.

(4) A manuscript of medical and pharmaceutical recipes in French, fol. seventeenth century, bound in vellum, £3. 10s.

(5) A collection of letters, recipes, manuscripts and other documents, all on medicine, alchemy and occult subjects, that belonged to the notorious Chevalier D'Ron. This is a very interesting lot. As far as I have looked through them it appears that the Chevalier, when resident in Brewer Street, Soho Square, was a dabbler in alchemy, and went in for quack doctoring. There are recipes copied from Paracelsus in seventeenth century writing, secrets and recipes of various descriptions, letters from doctors in Paris to the Chevalier, and correspondence from the Chevalier himself dated from Brewer Street. Any M.S.S. relating to this extraordinary character, who excited such great interest at the close of the eighteenth century, are of value. £3. 10. 0.

(6) An M.S. of recipes in pharmacy, seventeenth century, unbound, 25/-

(7) Cultrivori Prussiaci. A rare work dealing with an operation on the liver, with curious woodcut. 15/-

(8) An Essay on the composition of cement, 1774, 2/6.

(9) A manuscript of the eighteenth century on chemistry, £1. 1. 0.

(10) M.S. Antidotes for Poisons in the Middle Ages, 1778. 4/-.

(11) Two notices with respect to hospitals and the treatment of the eyes, in French. 5/-

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR 2/19/6 [Cont.]

(12) De par Les Prevot des Marchands et Echevains de la Ville de Paris. Avis concernant les personnes noyees.

(13) Memoire pour preserver les betes a Cornes de la Maladie epizootique, par M. du Fot.

(14) Two old books on Ergot, one printed in 1769, the other in 1764. I have never come across either of these in any library, and one contains an interesting engraving of ergot.

The price he asked for the whole lot was £109.3.6. My valuation was £75, and I made him an offer at once for that amount. He refused it and declared that they had cost him more. After your note on my letter referring to the last purchase, viz. "not to miss anything good in this way", I did not want to let them go, and so bid him another £5 which was to be final, but he said he could not take less than £85, and I eventually got them for £81. He tells me that he has found France such a good field that he is going to make fortnightly journeys for two or three months. On this last journey he bought a copy of the Cologne Bible for £90, and sold it directly for £300. Of course, in buying from him, we have this to consider, that although he gives bigger prices for M.S.S. and books on medicine than I would do when abroad, we save expenses incurred in getting them, and we have the first refusal of everything in our line that he buys. Later on, if he still rakes up more that are not specially important, I think it would be well

*A very desirable lot*

*He can afford to go to many places & spend an amt of time in delving that we could not & he evidently has a good sense of smell - Encourage him to search thoroughly - he will make a good thing by it & we really save time & money by using his abilities & opportunities but we must*

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

*always*

*keep him in due bounds*

WR2/19/6 [Conf]

to refuse to make more than a low offer,  
to let him down occasionally.

(39) Adlington (38) 2nd inst.

I am sorry that in my previous note I  
omitted to mention that I received your  
despatch box from Adlington, and at once  
sealed it and placed it in your office as  
you directed.

(40) Re German translation (36) 2nd inst.

The literal translation of the word 'voll-  
kommen' is 'complete', the German for  
'welcome' is 'willkommen'.

(41) Sales.

On the 3rd inst. at Stevens' there were a  
few more items of interest and all of these  
I covered in at moderate prices, a list of  
which is attached.

On Thursday at Robinson & Fisher's, we  
bought a large oil painting by Janssen  
called "The Village Quack", for fourteen  
and a half guineas. This is either genuine  
or a good contemporary copy. We have an  
engraving of the picture, which represents  
a quack doctor with one assistant dressing  
a man's leg, and another extracting a tooth.

From a dealer in Hampstead yesterday,  
I bought a small circular oil painting on  
copper by DeLar<sup>4</sup>, of a dentist extracting a  
woman's tooth, finely executed, and in  
original frame. He asked six guineas for it,  
but I got it for 24.15s. From the same  
man I also bought a large full-length  
mezzotint engraving of Michael Faraday at  
about the age of thirty. This is a very  
interesting portrait of Faraday, and I  
have never seen it before. I purchased it

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

for 10/-.

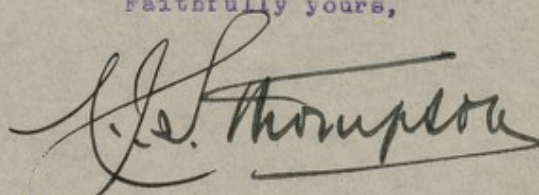
(42) Re picture in 'La Chronique  
Medicale.'

In 'La Chronique Medicale' for this month, there is a reproduction of a very extraordinary picture called 'L'Ether', which is supposed to represent the sensations of a man under the influence of ether during an operation for appendicitis. The picture is described as having been painted by a young English artist, namely, Mr R. F. Cooper, 36, rue Saint Sulpice, Paris, and was exhibited a few months ago at the Salon des Humoristes. I wrote to the artist at once, from Newman Street, asking if the picture was still in his possession, and if so, whether he was open to dispose of it, and the price.

(43) Smith.

Smith has been able to gather in so few objects lately on his rounds in London, that I have sent him off on a journey this week through the South of Yorkshire and part of Lincoln, which I hope will yield good results.

Faithfully yours,



Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Snow Hill Buildings,  
21st April, 1909.

WR-19/7

Falkstone  
April 22 1909  
(290-8 Paris on Friday)  
for a few days  
address Natal Museum

Dear Mr Wellcome,

(1) Re visit to Paris.

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

- 11 old brass barber's basins of various sizes;
  - 2 old barber's basins of Rouen faience;
  - 1 old surgical saw;
  - 1 small brass pestle and mortar;
  - 1 old lithotomy instrument in case;
  - 1 box containing a large number of small surgical instruments such as lancets, bistouries, etc.
  - 1 suture needle in case;
  - 1 silver plaquette, very interesting,
- Pasteur;
- 1 old pewter feeding bottle;
  - 1 old ophthalmic instrument;
  - 1 old lens;
  - 1 ancient trepanning instrument;
  - 1 surgical instrument of wood;
  - 6 small silver instruments;
  - 3 pewter bowls;
  - 1 old surgical case, empty;
  - 2 old pairs of scales in a box;
  - 1 large case of old dissecting knives;
  - 1 old notice concerning the practice of surgery in France, eighteenth century;

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

Very Desirable  
✓ Not

WLR 2/19/7 [Cont.] 3.

5 blue and white Delft drug jars,  
one damaged;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

good

*gpo*

practically cleared Paris of all the old M.S.S. on medicine and the early sciences. I had excellent luck, and after some bargaining, got them at very reasonable prices. I soon got on Voynich's tracks, and found that he had cleared Belin, Lemallier and two or three of the very largest booksellers of their medical M.S.S., but the smaller men he had apparently not touched. From Dorbonne I secured five old M.S.S. on medicine and alchemy. One of these, a large volume of 900 pages, written on paper in 1701, is of a very curious character. It treats of natural history, medicine, designs, astrology, dialing, emblems, and a great many other subjects. It contains a large number of very extraordinary drawings in colour and pen and ink, some of the effects of the designs are very quaint, and will be of great use to us. Old Dorbonne said that he had had this M.S. for a number of years and that he had never seen its equal. His lowest price to me was 600 frs., and I put it on one side and told him that it was out of the question. After I had gone through his stock, I found a sixteenth century M.S. of old French recipes, pharmacy and medicine, a sixteenth century M.S. on alchemy, an M.S. of Paracelsus of the early seventeenth century, and an M.S. on medical recipes and prescriptions, 2 vols. seventeenth century. I got the lot for 400 frs. Several of the old dealers upon whom I have now called for some time past, had put aside for me a number of old

*Do you think we  
might now or later  
go to France &  
Italy for old Mss - mss  
& medical objects*

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR 4/19/7 [Cont] 4.

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

from where did it  
come - did he  
have it before

follow up X

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

(2) Re Davidson Mortars.

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

W/R 2/19/7 [cont.] 6.

*I return about  
May 1st*

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

(3) Sales.

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

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

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

20/- 21/- 115. Carved wooden animal  
shape.

25/- 28/- 116 Two carved wooden

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/19/7 [cont.] 7.

curious shapes.

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

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

8  
There is a picture at Foster's of an  
Alchemist, upon which I have put a limit to-  
day, and at Robinson & Fisher's there is a  
finely executed picture of a lady of the  
Elizabethan period upon which I have put  
a limit of £30, and also a portrait of  
Dr Radcliffe. There was nothing at Chris-  
tie's or any of the other sale rooms this  
week. Yesterday I sent Bourne to bid at the  
Pembroke Square sale of which you sent me  
a catalogue. The weapons which you marked  
were very ordinary and of no special inter-  
est, and I put low limits on them, and we  
did not get them. We bought, however, the  
Indian signs of the zodiac which are very  
interesting, and a small picture of the  
Madonna for £2.6s. He is bidding on several  
lots of the books to-day.

(4) "Antient Medicine in Erin".

The question has arisen with respect to this  
book whether the title shall be printed in  
ancient Irish or in English characters.

In the "Antient Cymric Medicine" we had the

Henry D. Wellocke, Esq.,

(contd)

I suggest  
both -  
Irish first  
and then English  
in brackets -  
The Cymric  
characters  
will be effective  
in appearance  
as much as always  
with these books  
early was better  
than late

WR-19/7[cont.] 8.

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

*Title Page  
same as cover*

(5) Re case from Seville.

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

*yes*

(6) Re Mr R. T. Cooper.

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR 2/19/7 [Cont.] 9.

(7) Re Voynich.

On my return home I found an urgent letter and telegram from Voynich stating that he had three or four M.S.S. of great interest that he wished to show me. I called at his house yesterday afternoon to look at them, and found he had four. One, a small copy of Abicenna on medicine, fifteenth century, for which he wanted £75; an M.S. of the fourteenth century on medicine by Constantine Africanus, £125; an M.S. by Pietrus Abanus, £65; and a small treatise on alchemy, seventeenth century. None of these were of any importance and none contained drawings. We already have an M.S. of Abicenna of an earlier period, and also two of Pietrus Abanus. His prices were outrageous, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to let him down a bit. He seemed very much surprised when I told him I could not see my way to making him an offer as the prices asked were quite beyond all reason. He said that he was leaving for Florence to-day and that he should have no difficulty in selling them for the prices asked there. I let the matter stand at that. As there was little of interest to us in these M.S.S. it will do no harm to leave them on his hands for a bit. He specially wanted a reply about the "Vatican Types" printed on white silk, as he wished to take it with him. I told him that my friend to whom I had lent it to inspect, would give him £15 for it, but he stated that his lowest price is £25. I do not think the book, although unique, is worth it, and I shall be glad to know if you will keep it at the price, as I am sure he will not take a

might

Return  
it

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR 2/19/76 [unclear] 10.

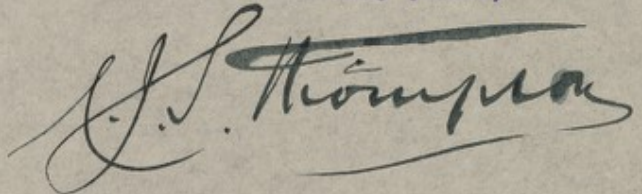
penny less. I had to promise him to return the book without delay, or send him a cheque for £25.

Re Mr Torday's agreement.

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

I will go through this & write you

Faithfully yours,



Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.

Snow Hill Buildings, W.R. 2/19/8  
London,

26th April, 1909.

Dear Mr Wellcome,

(9) Re Mr Davidson's mortars.

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

April 29 1909

How I expect to return  
on Monday

Thursday  
Collect  
I will discuss  
with you then

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

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

#### (10) Sales.

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd)

WR2/19/8 [Cont.] 3.

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

(contd.)

WR2/19/8[CONT.] 4.

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

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

*I could not find the carving in this shop and I did not dare to ask for it - you can follow up another time*

*H. S. Thompson*

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.

Pasadena  
Cal  
Nov 7 1909

18  
RECD.  
23 NOV 1909

WR 2/19/19

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

7th October 1909.

Dear Mr Wellcome,

T.l. We returned to London on Wednesday, September 29th, completing the journey with two days in Paris, during which I visited many of the curio and old booksellers shops and bought an exceedingly fine lot of manuscripts and books of interest.

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.-

WR2/19/9 [Cont.]

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

2  
X  
In Munich I first visited the Royal Library and found there some extremely interesting early manuscripts containing drawings, all of which we photographed. In one manuscript dated 1158 I found twenty-two drawings representing various methods of using the actual cautery; the figures of the physicians and patients are very quaint but well drawn and the whole will form a most interesting series when reproduced. The same work contained five anatomical drawings partly in colour, which are also full of interest.

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

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

WR 2/19/9 [Cont.]

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

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

In Strasburg I made a most interesting find of a little pocket medicine case 4" x 2½" in the form of an old book with metal clasps and elaborately stamped in gold. It contains five quaint little bottles, capped with skin, (the contents being intact,) and a ~~printed~~ bill which appears to have been printed in the late 17th or early 18th century, giving an account of the contents of the case and methods for using same. The bottles contain -

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

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

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

NR2/19/9 [cont.]

-4-

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

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

You may get large lot contd. - price

Follow up closely  
to get the med &  
science and  
examples early  
printing as  
as practicable

WR-19/9 [Contd.]

*This good  
chance to get typographic  
samples*

*also consider  
purchase of  
interesting  
samples of  
typography*

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

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

*I think it was  
referred to Sam.  
OK is in my  
Sambon budget  
file at Snow Hill*

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.-

*I have not  
got it*

W/R 2/19/9 [CONT.]

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

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

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

Faithfully yours,

J. J. Thompson

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Keep Band hand  
work in his best  
view.

yes be sure  
I get it

Prepare for  
a very large increase  
in paintings both oil & water  
we shall need to put  
in hand next summer.

WR2/19/10

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

15th October, 1909.

Dear Sir,

*17*

*H*

T.6. Your letter of the 1st inst., and the revised proof copy of the Press Souvenir duly to hand, and the contents I have noted. As soon as I have completed the revision of the Naval Defence Souvenir, on which I am at present busy, I will at once proceed with the Press copy and go into it thoroughly and forward you the revised scheme you wish.

*H*

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

contd.

WR2/19/10 [Contd]

-2-

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

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

6. A paper covered with Arabic signs referring to the 13th verse of the Coran, which says "Lord, protect us from illness and from the injurious animals which you have created".

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

T.8. Picture of a medical dinner at Dr. Ernest Hart's.

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

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

contd.

*These are all valuable  
pocket send him a good  
case also*

*Don't fail to get it -  
don't let it slip*

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

WR2/19/10 [Cont.]

-3-

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

T.9. I have received from Lang of Rome a very finely written manuscript of the 17th century on Alchemy, containing a large number of drawings of apparatus. It contains 222 pages, but is in poor condition. The size is 5 in by 3 and a half. Lang asks £10 for it, and has refused 25 which I offered. I have now sent him a cheque for 27.7. which I think he will accept.

T.401 Assistance. I have interviewed a number of men this week, who replied to an advertisement I inserted in the Athenaeum. Many of them have good qualifications, but they practically all lack experience of archaeological work. The most likely applicant I have seen is a Mr George Duncan, M.A., B.Sc., of Edinburgh University, and Medallist in Chemistry. He is 29 years of age, and has a good knowledge of French and German. After taking his degree, he became a tutor in a large school in Trowbridge, but he did not like the tutorship and has since been Secretary to a Dr Nowack, an Astronomical expert.

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

*It is valuable  
to us ~~and for~~  
~~the~~ for this price  
if need be  
Don't wait close quick  
Too good to lose*

WR 2/19/10 [Cont.]

-4-

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

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

We have purchased some very interesting objects during the week. In a dealer's shop, off Tottenham Court Road, I noticed an anatomical figure of a man, very finely carved in box-wood, showing muscles and ligaments, and standing 15 in. high. I should say it was probably a piece of early 17th century work. It has been much handled, and has an appearance of considerable age. It belonged to an Ex-Army Colonel, and he wanted £4 for it. I got it for £3.

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

WR 2/19/10 [GNT]

-5-

now he is getting very little from the dealers.

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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully,

J. S. Thompson

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Paradeval  
bar 74/909

WR2/19/11

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

October 22nd, 09.

Dear Sir,

good  
good

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

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

Early French Invasion. The Earl of Warwick captures two French carracks, 1418.

Invasion of Ireland by the French in 1798.

Capture of l'Immortalite.

Portrait of Lord Anson, Admiral of the Fleet.

Portrait of Admiral, Sir William Cornwallis.

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

Portrait of Prince Rupert, Admiral of the Fleet.

An Egyptian battleship, Punt Expedition, 1800 B.C.

Greek trireme.

(Battleship of the 4th century.)

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq

Contd.

good pictures  
of Babylonian  
+ Carthaginian  
ships might  
be desirable  
what is the  
to complete the book

send the suggested revise on to you.

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

right

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

**<Duplicate>**

-3-

WR 2/19/11 [Cont.]

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

You may give  
Short paragraph only  
"Wellcome Library"  
of Antient and Modern  
works on Medicine  
Surgery Chemistry  
Mineralogy and allied  
Sciences. and  
Number of volumes

Duplicate.

-4- WR2/19/11 [CONT.]

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

Yours faithfully,

*J. H. Thompson*

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

*Good*

*Keep in  
close touch  
with him*

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

October 29th, 1909.

WR 2/19/12

Passobane  
Dec 27 1898

61  
REC'D  
10 JAN 1910

Dear Sir,

T.17. Dr. Manelli. I have received from Dr. Manelli of San Romano, near Florence, two cases, containing 102 works on medicine, surgery, pharmacy etc, including five Mss, nearly all printed in the 16th and 17th centuries. There are over sixty books in this lot that we have not got, and some of considerable rarity. At a low valuation, I should place them at, at least £20, but I have written to him, offering him 400 lira for the lot. They will be a very desirable addition.

Dr. Rangoni. We have received this week from Dr. Rangoni of Massalombarda, near Bologna (nephew of the late Prof. Carati) two cases containing sixty-seven bottles, flasks and containers of Murano glass, eight surgical instruments, not very old, a number of small pharmacy vases, a wooden mortar, and a large amphora in majolica. He would not say any price, but said he preferred that we should make him an offer, as we have done before in previous purchases. I have made him an offer of 140 lira for the lot.

T.18. There was nothing worth buying at either Robinson Fisher's or Foster's at the usual sales this week. Stevens had a sale, at which there were a few interesting lots, and these we obtained at the following prices:-

L. 151.	Carved wooden fetish.	30/-
L.173	Old drum with portions of human and other skull fetish charms attached	60/-

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

WR 2/19/12 (cont.)

- L. 197 (a) Three rare Indian glass charms against sickness 18/-  
 L. 193. Pair of old Japanese scales with eight  
 curious weights, used by apothecary, made so as to  
 take to pieces, when travelling. Rare. 65/-  
 L. 194. Two ancient Japanese steelyards with two  
 different iron weights. Rare. 26/-  
 L. 195. Japanese Doctor's staff of office, in  
 shape of sword 18/-  
 L. 203. Curious Indian knife and 5 native Indian  
 surgical instruments 30/-  
 L. 213. Medicine or ju-ju ornament (3 pieces) 6/-

I have purchased from Spink this week a very interest-  
 ing, curious, little ivory figure of St Appolonia, about  
 3 inches high, 17th century. St Appolonia is the  
 tutelary saint of 'toothache' in Spain and Portugal, and  
 she is holding in her hand a large tooth. You may  
 remember we have a large coloured picture, that we ob-  
 tained last year in Vienna, of this Saint who was  
 tortured and martyred by having all her teeth extracted.  
 Spink wanted £3. 15 for the figure, and held out for a  
 fortnight for that amount, but I secured it this week for  
 50/-

T. 19. Re Ergot. We have received a letter this  
 week from a Dr Chavant, of Isere, France, who states  
 that he knows of a private library in Italy, containing  
 many rare books, "which are unique in the world", contain-  
 ing very curious information upon Ignis sacer, St Anthony's  
 Fire and the Plague. He does not mention the name of  
 the library or its owner, but I wrote to him at once,  
 asking him if he would kindly supply us with this infor-  
 mation. This sounds very interesting and would be well

Contd

very important  
 to us! Saint Paul  
 to get in touch  
 and buy it  
 and possible

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

yes X  
worth following up, if his information proves correct. This Dr. who lives near Grenoble, not far from the Abbey of St Antoine, seems an enthusiast in the history of medicine, and might be of considerable use in gathering information for us in that district, respecting St Anthony's Fire. I have sent him a copy of "From Ergot to Ernautin" in French, asking him if he could furnish us with any information on Ergotism in his district, which was for so many centuries the scene of great epidemics of that disease.

Follow up Keenly  
many thanks ( T. 20. I am enclosing an interesting article that appeared in the Daily Mail of October 29th, and propose writing to Prof. Mahmud Bey, asking him if he has come across any ancient manuscripts, with drawings or miniatures on medicine, surgery, pharmacy etc, in arranging this library.

I am also enclosing you a review on the Life of Stanley, which appears in the Daily Mail of this morning. Shall I order any copies of this for you?

Yours faithfully,

J. S. Thompson

WR/19/13  
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

November 6th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

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

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

Contd

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

*President*  
*Nov 16/1909*  
*29*  
*REC'D.*  
*29 NOV 1909*

*This man would  
probably be  
well qualified  
to help us greatly  
in Boreo-oriental  
literary work  
as well as in  
antique & numismatic*

WR-19/13 [Cont.]

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

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

Contd.

This seems to be  
the type of man  
we have long  
needed

We have plenty  
of work for  
such a man  
for many years  
the field of work  
is vast and  
important

If need be we  
must have an  
extra man suitable  
for literary  
work & researches

for our  
regular work  
as this man could  
not be put to  
work & it would  
be waste to  
direct him  
to any  
other  
office

think most  
desirable

*yes ok  
even more  
WR2/19/13 [cont.]*

robe, trimmed with fur. At the side is written in script "William Harvey" age 68 and on the table below is the mss of his work on the Circulation of the Blood. It is a picture of the early 17th century, English School, but there is no indication of the painter. I went prepared to go to sixty guineas as an outside limit on it, but it was knocked down to us for twelve and a half.

*must fastidiously  
buy - watch  
carefully the  
whole field  
for every  
chance*

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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully,

*L. J. Thompson*

*If you have not already sent the  
note on the library - you  
might give the little as  
The Wellcome Technical  
Library "*

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

*W.*

*Presidential  
Nov 30 1909*

*WR 2/19/14*

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

November 13th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

T.23. Capt. Anderson called here on Monday morning and I saw him on your behalf. He has sent us the following objects which he gathered on his last journey and which he desires us to take care of for him -

A Sheluk tobacco pipe, a Niam Niam pillow stool, 12 Dinka and Sheluk ivory armlets, 2 Arab ivory bracelets, one Niam Niam wooden "oracle", one Witch Dr's switch, 2 Kederun iron necklets, 10 Gour bracelets, one Kederun woven grass armlet, one Kederun iron armlet, one Kederun iron anklet, 6 small Gour charms, 4 Niam Niam knives, one Dr's knife, 4 Sheluk neck amulets, 2 Spade moneys, 2 Spear moneys, 5 Niam Niam rings, 2 hunting and charm whistles, 5 Musical instruments, 1 Lizard skin, 6 Arab koranic charms, 25 poisoned arrows, 1 Dinka pillow and pouch combined, 1 horn for salt and drugs.

The descriptive notes referring to these objects Capt. Anderson has not yet transcribed, and he wishes us to let him know, if when finished, he should forward them direct to you, or to Dr Balfour. I am to write him a reply to Cairo, as he leaves for Egypt this week. He states that the notes which we sent him suggesting objects of interest to gather and queries respecting medical customs of the various African races, did not reach him in time for his last journey, but he says they will be of considerable use to him on his next expedition, in which he hopes to

Henry S. Wolloome Esq.,

Contd.

34

REC'd.  
DEC 1909

*To Dr Balfour*

WR2/19/14 [Cont.]

visit more savage tribes than he has done hitherto.

T.24. At Steven's this week there were a few interesting African curios, several identical with what Mr. Torday sent to us. We purchased the following all of which are interesting pieces.

Lot 117.	Medicine stick	9/-
.. 135(a)	Bashilele cup	12/-
.. 139	Small carved wooden fetish with bead ear ornaments	12/-
.. 147	Carved wooden seated figure writing, with seed necklace and iron charm, Congo	50/-
.. 148	Carved wooden figure standing 26 in. high with boar teeth & carved wooden charm round neck	42/-
.. 149	Carved wooden figure standing 13 in. high, with grass necklet pair of brass bracelets and wire charms	30/-

At a sale in Addlestone, Surrey, we purchased an interesting parcel of books containing a copy of the history of the Charterhouse, which is now very scarce, and a number of topographical books for 18/-

There was nothing of interest at Robinson & Fisher's this week, but at Foster's we bought five engravings, including one of a village Dr for £1.6. and an interesting water colour drawing of an alchemist for £1. 12.

Yours faithfully,

*L. J. Thompson*

Henry S. Wellecome Esq.,

*So you think there are  
fewer than*

*good*

*H*

*W*

WR2/19/15

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

November 19th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

T. 25. We have received this week from Dr F. Bossard of Cham, Switzerland a most interesting box of objects, which he has presented to you for the H.M.E. The case contains:-

1. Mss on recipes in German, 17th century.
2. Mss on medicine, dated 1722.
3. Mss of recipes and prescriptions, 1730.
4. Work on surgery by Schultetus, 1672.
5. A "Materia Medica", 1713.
6. A work on military surgery, with engraved title page, 1708.
7. Two Gynaecological plaster models.
8. A work on surgery, 1822 with many plates, 3 Vols.
9. Mss, dated 1559, of medical recipes and prescriptions.
10. Apothecary's price list, bound in old Spanish leather, 1701.
11. Mss of recipes and prescriptions with alchemical symbols.
12. Work on Anatomy by Hellwig, 1744, with plates, (lifting anatomical)
13. Large pair of iron obstetrical forceps.
14. Two old dental keys, 17th cent. and 2 dental forceps.

At a low valuation, I estimate these objects at £17. 10. The earliest Mss, namely that of the 16th century is of considerable interest and is undoubtedly valuable. It contains many prescriptions, written in Gothic script, and also several pages of alchemical signs and symbols. Dr Bossard suggests that we might give him in exchange for these articles a bacteriological and also a tabloid medicine case. I am therefore sending these

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Pasadena  
Cal 91709

See 17 X  
42  
RECD.  
4 JAN 1910

very interesting

WR2/19/15 [Cont.]

to him, with a cordial letter of thanks in your name. Dr Vincentius, the Belgian Doctor, who sent us that interesting collection of ethnographic objects, writes to us that he is delighted with the hypodermic case he has received from us, and is sending you further, a "very fine Congo lance, which was employed in human sacrifices". To quote his letter, he states "In future I shall always deal with your Firm".

*Extremely interesting*

T. 26. We have had a splendid haul of Mss this week. Last week, Voynich sent me a note, saying that he had just returned from France, and had purchased some valuable Mss on medicine, alchemy etc., from private libraries, which he wanted to show me at once. I called the same day, and found he had got hold of a most interesting lot. There were 16 Mss in all, three printed books, and one engraved book on calligraphy, folio.

One of the most interesting xxxx is an Mss on medicine and astrology of the 17th century, written in English, and giving astrological aphorisms for the physician, when consulted in various diseases; also the significance and influence of the zodiacal signs, planets and stars over the different parts of the body. Another French Mss of the 17th century on alchemy and optics contains many curious drawings of apparatus of a very interesting character.

There were also two French Mss of the 17th century, one on diseases of women by Jigeroux, and the other in four parts, on pharmacy and recipes, containing drawings of pharmaceutical implements and chemical furnaces and apparatus of the period; a French Mss of the 16th century,

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

WR 2/19/15 [Cont.]

on medicine, pharmacy and astrology, containing an autograph letter, dated 1687; also six French Mss of the 17th century, on accouchement, medicine, recipes and surgery respectively; two French Mss of the 16th century, one on diseases of the throat and angina, and the other on pharmacy and recipes; a French Mss, dated 1744, on the treatment of various diseases; a French Mss of the 19th century on pharmacy and recipes, and an Mss of the 17th century in Latin on Anatomy. One of the printed books was a rare work, dated 1479, on the secrets of alchemy, in black letter, contemporary stamped binding, by William Varignane, also two very rare works on the art of transmuting metals, containing alchemical symbols, and printed in 1518. Voynich says he has not met with a copy of this book before, and I have never seen it anywhere. There was also a Herbal entitled "Florilgium renovatum" with finely engraved plates of gardens, labyrinths, flowers and plants, date 1641.

On examining these, I thought they were decidedly a lot to secure, and as Voynich's prices were not extravagant, I eventually obtained them for £60. He thinks he has now practically drained France, north and south and has visited all the small towns and villages. He is now going back to Italy. *Keep in touch with him*

*and* Sothebys this week have been selling the library of Frederick Hendrik, which contained a few interesting items. The pick of the collection was a Mss of the 15th century on Astrology by Albumasis, finely written on vellum with illuminated capitals in colour, and bound in red velvet. I valued this at £15; we got it for £4. 18.

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

There was a French Mss on Alchemy, containing a

WR2/19/15 Lewis

large number of fine drawings and a laboratory book for the year 1607 and 1608 of alchemical apparatus and experiments. I put £12 on this, we bought it for £4. 15.

I paid 18/- for a book entitled "Containing an account of every week's particular christenings and mortalities in all the years of the Pestilence" printed in London, 1665., and I got a collection of 120 title pages from Latin books of the 17th century, taken from libraries of old monasteries and convents in Toulouse, and mounted in an album for £2. 2.

I have also purchased this week an early 18th century book, pocket apothecary's scales in an old fish skin case, lined with green velvet, a set of French dental instruments, Empire period, in green leather case, and an old dental lancet in old red leather case, same period, the lot for 18/- Also from Spink, I have secured another carved ivory anatomical figure (female) with all the internal organs perfect, similar to those we already have, for £3.13.6 I have been negotiating for this for several weeks, as they first asked £5. 5. but have eventually got them down to £3.13.6 which was the price we paid for the last one. I also bought a water colour drawing by a well known German caricaturist of a military Doctor making an examination of the mouths of a number of recruits. This is a very clever characteristic

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd

WR-19/15 Kent?

drawing and they asked \$6. 6. for it, but I got it for  
\$3. 3.

There was nothing of interest in the <sup>other</sup> sale rooms  
this week.

Yours faithfully,

*J. L. Thompson*

*How about the Geneva collection  
did you see the man & register*

Henry S. Welloore Esq.,

Duplicate.

WR2/19/16

Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

November 27th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

I have duly received your replies to my letters of October 2th, 15th and 22nd, and have noted the same.

T.27. Dr Conner's Medical Library. You will

no doubt remember Mr Curtis enclosing you a letter from Dr Conner of 215 West IXth Street, Cincinnati, U.S.A. who possesses a library of ancient medical works (3500 vols) and who wished to dispose of the same. You may recollect I wrote to Dr Conner twice, namely on the 28th November, 1908, and the 20th May, 1909, asking him in your name to forward us the catalogue for our inspection, but this has never come to hand, and we have heard nothing further from Dr Conner. I am reminding you of this, in case during your stay in America you should be in the neighbourhood of Cincinnati, and might wish to follow the matter up. I am enclosing you a copy of the letter from Dr Conner to Mr Curtis.

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq..

Contd.

Washington DC  
Feb 3 1910

I shall not be  
near Cincinnati

Please write at once  
to Rev Dr Henry  
Curtis 103 Auburn  
Ave. Cincinnati

and call him  
up of the carriage  
(send copies)  
and ask him  
assistance

Good  
follow up

WR 2/19/16 [Cont.]

-2-

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

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

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

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

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

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

WR-19/16 [Cont.]

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

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

Yours faithfully,

J. J. Thompson

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

WR2/19/16 [CONT.]

Copy of letter written to Dr Curtis by Dr. Conner  
November 2nd, 1908.

---

My dear Dr Curtis,

Returning home late Friday, I found your kind letter at my Office on Saturday. I neither know whether I want to sell my library, nor what I want for it. Two years ago, I had a catalogue made (about 3500 volumes) and if you think it best I will express it to the gentleman, and let him, if so disposed, make me an offer for the books .

Yours etc.,

3  
Pasadena Cal  
Dec 27 47909  
WR2/19/17  
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

December 7th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

T.31. Your replies to my letter of November 6th duly to hand, and I have acted upon them at once. I have made an appointment to see Dr Mall, who is at present in Germany, on the 22nd inst., and if I come to an arrangement with him, will start him at work at the India Office Library to begin with, and see how he gets on.

T.32. General Robley. I have seen General Robley twice about the Maori heads, during the last two months. At first he would not take anything less than £700 for two of the best, but last week, at a further interview, I at length struck a bargain with him for £55 for the two best. I also got him to throw in a coloured plaster mask, from the finest head said to be in existence, formerly in the collection of Sir George Grey in Auckland.

T.33. Machaon - Frontispiece for next Medical Diary. After searching for months, I have at length found a very beautiful engraving from an ancient Greek gem, of Machaon, the first military surgeon and son of Esculapius. He is in the act of applying a dressing to the wounded leg of Menelas. This picture of Machaon is undoubtedly authentic, and depicts the actual scene mentioned by Homer. As soon as I have had it photographed, I will forward a print. It could be engraved beautifully on copper and will form a most interesting frontispiece for the next issue of the diaries.

yes very good  
state this and quote Homer  
Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

WR 2/19/17 [Cont.]

T.34. With reference to the paragraph you sent me from the Chemist & Druggist, headed "Curiosities of the Sale room", we bought the old Japanese Apothecary's scales and weights, the Japanese Doctor's staff of office, and the three rare Indian glass charms at Stevens. The invalid's feeding funnel was a Maori feeding funnel, not an invalid's one, and was withdrawn at £30.

XI  
good  
T.35. Sales. We have purchased a number of very interesting objects at the Sales this week. At Sotheby's at the sale of a library of 'a baronet', a herbal of great rarity came up, entitled "Herbarius de Grote", printed in Flemish, in Antwerp in 1547. It was in beautiful condition, with many curious woodcuts. There are only two copies of this work, said to be in existence, this one, and one in the Royal Library at Dresden. I was prepared to put a limit of £40 upon it, but we got it for £26.

Stevens had a good sale on Tuesday of African and Benin curios, collected by Dr W.J. Ansorge. He had got up a special catalogue, with half tone blocks, and a big crowd was attracted. Some of the objects were old and unusual. I did not put big limits on the majority, with the exception of those of H.M.E. interest, but prices ruled low, there was little competition, and we got some of the best things, as you will see from the list enclosed. Lot 27, i.e. the three fetishes carved in wood are the most extraordinary I have seen. The execution sword, which we got for 55/- is also a very fine piece.

At Sotheby's we purchased four large blue Delft pharmacy vases, with brass lids, the four for £3. 2.

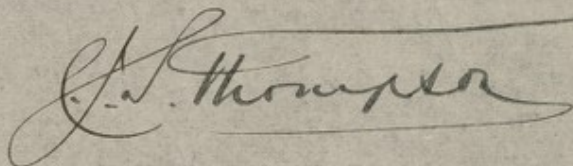
Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

WR2/19/17 (Cont.)

At Robinson & Fisher's an old oil painting, entitled "The Philosopher" for £2, and at Foster's an oil portrait of an old Doctor of the 17th century for £1. 10.

At Knightfrank & Rutley's, we bought a box containing twenty-three old spectacles and eye glasses for 14/- and a large modern oil painting of two caravels, a fine piece of work, for £1. 10.

Yours faithfully,



Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Stevens.

*Benni curies*

WR2/12/17 [cont.]

23. One native fiddle from St Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, (Portuguese) and one grass-string fiddle, Angola, Portuguese West Africa.
24. Three rattles, 1 fetish witch-rattle from Wakitosh, Kairondo, and 1 musical reed pipe, as used in native processions and dances in Uganda, British Protectorate, and 1 charm rattle, Angola, Portuguese West Africa.

12/-

27. Fetish for prolific increase, from Tembo Aluma, North Angola, Portuguese W.

Africa  
armlets

20/-

35. Two, cast bronze or brass. Heavy open trellis work,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches high. 30/-  
(very fine)
94. Two Birds and columnar pedestal, height  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches and  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches 5/-
109. Ceremonial sword. Fish-slice pattern, in splendid state of preservation, length  $40\frac{1}{2}$  inches 55/-
110. Ceremonial wand, length  $32\frac{1}{2}$  inches, solid handle, with 2 figures, one representing a chief holding a sword, the other a king with ceremonial sword of fish-slice pattern. 40/-
113. Execution sword, measures  $36\frac{3}{4}$  inches along outer curve of the iron blade, the bronze or brass hilt measures 7 inches. 50/-
187. Early iron sugar cutters, folding iron dagger and 2 iron corkscrews 20/-
391. Two Chinese surgical instruments in fish skin case, ditto scissors, and a miniature ivory steel yard for weighing drugs 30/-
439. Silver-mounted gun, used by Livingstone, the great African explorer, with interesting inscriptions thereon. 60/-

63

6187 27 NOV

Paradenal  
DEC 30 1909

Snow Hill Buildings. E.C.

WR 2/11/18

December 14th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

T. 36. Imperial Press Conference Souvenir.

I completed the material for the second edition of this book yesterday, and have handed the same to the publishing section to be put in hand. I have instructed them to forward you a 'make-up' for your approval, as soon as the blocks are all made, and it is quite complete. I have left no stone unturned to try and carry out all the suggestions you made in the interleaved copy, which you returned to me. During the time that I have been making these researches, I have met with such a wealth of interesting material, that I have had, on some occasions, three or four different objects photographed, so that you might see them, and reject some, if you think necessary.

After a long search, I found some remarkable pre-historic British, Scotch, Cymric and Irish stone chronicles, and have filled in all the gaps that are possible, in the newspapers of the 17th and 18th centuries. With the help of the Superintendent of the British Museum Library, we at length unearthed a printed copy of the so-called "Gazetta of Venice", which I have had reproduced, and in searching for this, we came across a printed serial chronicle of the Senate in Venice, published in 1517. I have also included a collection of quaint woodcuts from the old Newsletters, dating from 1603, which were the predecessors of the Newspapers of a later period.

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

are Photos

X

X/

good/

X/

WR2/19/18 [Cont.]

X/ I have been able to obtain the photos of the other War correspondents you mentioned, including one of O'Shea, which we at length discovered down in Camberwell. I hope you will not now find the book too unwieldy, but the whole of the matter seems to be so interesting, that it would be a pity to have to eliminate any of the blocks. We will enclose with the make up the other portrait of Stanley, which you desired to see, but Llewellyn says there are only two in the parcel, the one for which we now have a block made, and the other which we shall send with the make up copy.

We will retain the present one of Stanley

Never mind this

X/ I have communicated with Mr Myring with reference to photographing some further specimens of his collection of Chimu pottery, as you suggested, but he says that all the best specimens are now packed away. Until he has occasion to unpack them later on, nothing further can be done, but when he does so, he will be pleased to allow us to photograph any we wish. At the present time, however, I am afraid nothing can be done to add to those we have.

T. 37. Sales. At Sotheby's on the 9th inst., a very remarkable book came up for sale. It is the "Life of Dr John Hunter", by Jesse Foot, Surgeon, printed in 1794. This was Foot's own copy, which he has laid down in three large volumes and "grangerized" by adding a very large number of rare engravings, thirty-two original water colour drawings, a sketch of Galen and the skeleton by Thurston, numerous fine portraits of medical and classical authors, a number of rare engravings of Natural history subjects, printed and

Contd.

WR 2/19/18 [Cont.]

manuscript additions to the work. There are also engravings of statuary of medical interest - Esculapius, Hygeia, Hippocrates; title pages from ancient medical works, anatomical details, old medical customs, eccentric medical practices, engravings of hospitals and medical institutions, a mezzo tint portrait of John Sheldon, with an original autographed letter, and a portrait of Jesse Foot, the author, by Ward, after Opie, especially designed titles - 3 volumes in blue Morocco, stamped in gold, by Lewis.

On examining these volumes, I found them to be a most remarkable collection of old medical prints and interesting objects of its kind, that I have ever come across. It is a perfect mine of medical lore of the 18th century, that will probably be never got together again. I had put a limit of fifty guineas on it for Bourne, and went in to watch, in order to give another £10, in case it went higher. Bidding started at £20, and there was considerable competition, but we secured it for £35. 10.

Through an advertisement in the Bazaar, last week, I also bought a most interesting album or scrap book, folio size, containing articles, cuttings, portraits of medical men, famous medical women, pictures of medical interest, of funerals, etc., of famous medical men, caricatures and cartoons, curious anecdotes and pictures of medical interest, old medical advertisements dating from 1762, a very complete material of the life of Florence Nightingale, including many portraits of her carriage, used in the time of the Crimean war, and of her residence, brought up to

This is very valuable and we could not afford to lose it at 150. or 200. We must always secure these things

Foot

Very valuable

WR 2/17/18 [cont.]

date, rare cuttings and pictures of her, in the time of the Crimean war. The material in this album, which is practically unique, dates from 1747 to 1908, and each item is separately dated. It will be exceedingly useful for H.M.E. purposes. The man wanted \$5 for it, but he eventually accepted \$3. 2.

very  
moderate

At Glendinning's this week, we bought a large well painted miniature on ivory of Sir Anthony Carlisle, FR.S., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, - a three-quarter length figure, holding a scroll, for \$6. 5.

At Robinson & Fisher's, we bought a large old coloured engraving, in fine condition, framed, called "The love-sick Maid" by Ward, after Opie, for 34/-

At Hodgson's we bought an astrological Mss, dated 1655, with a number of engraved diagrams, inserted, for \$1.10., also a packet of American newspapers, and an early book on Protestant Missions, 1763 for 12/-, the works of Paracelsus, 1575, Helmont's Microscopum, 1685, Packe's "Medela chymica" 1702, and Hartmann's "Basilica chymica" for \$1. 1.

Watch picture  
sales for the  
ships and costumes  
the pictures I  
want

useful for  
missionary book

T. 39. H.M.E. Building. I inspected a building last week, which would answer admirably for building up and arranging the H.M.E. In fact, it is so well situated, and the building <sup>such</sup> a good one, that the actual Exhibition could be held in it. It is at present used for the Public Baths of the Westminster Borough Council, and is situated in Orange Street, immediately at the back of the National Gallery, within half a minute of Trafalgar Square. It is a large ornamental building of red brick with white stone dressings, and consists of two large floors, each divided in half by a staircase. The basement

WR2/19/18 King

with concrete floor, is supported on brick pillars and arches, which would make an excellent site for the ancient pharmacies, alchemical laboratories etc. It is perfectly dry and fire-proof throughout, all the floors and staircases being of stone and concrete, and the building is practically isolated. It includes the Superintendent's house - 4 rooms and a kitchen - where a caretaker could live. It is lighted throughout by gas; electric light could be installed from the main in the street. The Borough would not entertain the idea of letting the building for any purpose where there would be risk of fire, on account of its close proximity to the National Gallery. The whole flooring, when cleared, has a superficial area of over 11,000 ft. The building is held on Crown lease, 36 years unexpired, at a ground rental of £80, and the Borough Council are at present asking a rental of £600 a year. I was given to understand, however, by the Superintendent, that they would be willing to accept any reasonable offer, and they would do a considerable amount in decoration and repairs, removing all the Council fittings, etc.

I took Mr Smith and Mr Garnham with me over the building on Wednesday last, and they have a full report of the matter. I certainly think this building is worth serious consideration as the position is unique, and it would avoid the expense of getting an extra building to arrange the objects, as well as a suitable one for holding the H.M.E.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. Thompson

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.

What is the entrance like

Said me also rough sketch of vicinity

Said me a plan to seal  
What window lighting each floor -  
What nature of walls and inside  
What do you think is lowest they would accept

I will confer with Mr Smith 22  
this in reply

134  
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

December 17th, 1909. WR 2/19/19

Dear Sir,

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

Contd.

WR2/19/19 [CONT.]

-2-

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

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

Yours faithfully,

*E. J. Thompson*

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

WR2/19/20

Dear Sir,

Should be  
Enlarged as much  
as practicable  
and very finely engraved  
and recouped  
and revised text

MO  
RECEIVED  
24 JAN 1910

T. 40.    Sales.    Stevens had a small sale last week, mainly of modern Japanese curios, but among them were included a little batch of curios from the Congo district, which there seems little doubt was put in the sale by one of Mr Torday's staff.    I put low limits on them all, and we bought the lot very cheap.

They were as follows:-

Lot 479.	Fetish double cup, Tukongo tribe	20/-
.. 480	Carved fetish drum, Bashilele	40/-
.. 481	Divining fetish for discovering a thief, or the remedy for an illness	19/-
Lot 482	do do do	15/-
.. 483	Carved medicine man's chair	45/-
.. 484	Old fetish pipe	10/-
.. 485	Old carved clyster	10/-
.. 486	Initiation mask and dress	21/-
.. 487	.. .. ..	18/-

At Robinson & Fisher's on Wednesday, we bought a good bone model of a French frigate, three-decker, made by French prisoners after the Battle of Waterloo, for £3. 3s. This is a very well executed model of good size and is a bargain. At their picture sale on Thursday, we bought a finely painted old Dutch panel

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Contd.

WR 2/19/20 [Cont.]

of the interior of a Doctor's shop for £4. 4.

At Foster's on Wednesday, we purchased an old Dutch panel oil painting called "The Chiropodist" for £2 and at their sale on Thursday a fine antique bell metal mortar, 12 inches in diameter, on an oak stand, and a scagliola pedestal, in one lot for £4.

At Hodgson's we bought the following:-

Lot 113. "Illustrated Natural History, 3 vols, half Morocco, and "Natural History of Man" 2 vols, cloth by J.G. Wood 7/-

Lot 163. Micrographia Illustrata, plates, 4to, old calf 1747; by G. Adams; - Opera Omnia, plates, 4 vols sm.4to, half bound, uncut, 1792 by Leeuwenhoek, and Translation by Hooke, 2 vols in large 4to (binding broken), 1800 and others 10 vols £3- 13.

T. 41. Portrait of Washington. In accordance with a request Mr Pearson showed me this morning, which has been forwarded from the New York depôt, I have to-day sent, under separate cover, one of the mounted prints of the portrait of George Washington, <sup>by Robert Gordon Hardie</sup> that you presented to the Grand Lodge of England. I take it that this is the picture you require.

Yours faithfully,

*L. J. Thompson*

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

Washington DC  
Jan 21 1899/0  
(80)  
RECEIVED  
1 FEB 1910

WR2/19/21  
Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.

December 29th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

T. 21. Dr Mall. I had a further interview with Dr P. Mall, who has just returned from Germany, concerning whom I wrote to you some weeks ago. I briefly outlined to him the kind of work that he would be called upon to do, and he said that he felt sure it would be very congenial to him, although strange to him at first. I gather that in the various positions he has held, he has never worked to definite hours, and he has no previous knowledge whatever of medical history. beyond a great interest he tells me he feels in the subject. He states that in India he would have no difficulty in gathering native surgical instruments and appliances, as he speaks most of the native languages and dialects, and he liked to live among the people, and could learn much of the folk lore and native medicine first hand from the Hakims and medicine men. He tells me he could get access to all the manuscript libraries of the Rajahs, and Buddhist monasteries of India, where he says he feels sure there is much important material to be found concerning ancient Hindoo medicine. From my last interview with him, I should say he was a man of a highly strung, artistic temperament, and like most Hindoos, something of a mystic. He would require careful handling, but if treated tactfully, might do some very good work. He returned last week to Tübingen, Germany, to complete his term, which ends on the 23th February, and to take his Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. After

To buy as much  
as practicable  
of class ms  
re

Contd.

WR 2/19/21 [Cont.]

that he is open to come to us from the first week in March.

Dr Mall asks a salary of £300 a year to commence with, and he states he would be willing to do any foreign travelling in Europe or the Far East at an allowance of about 12/- a day expenses, and 2nd class railway fares. I tested his knowledge of Persian, by asking him to give us a translation from English into Persian of a circular supplied by Mr Linstead. This has been submitted to Prof. Rankin of Oxford, for his opinion, and I have not yet heard the result.

I also loaned him a Perso-arabic work on surgery of the 18th century and asked him to translate half a page. This has puzzled him to some extent, as he states that the mixture of Arabic and Persian is very complicated and out of date, and it will take him some time to do.

I will await your reply before definitely engaging him, but meanwhile will take up his references. Should we engage him, I should suggest an agreement being drafted similar to the one Mr Smith prepared for Dr Sembon.

Yours faithfully,

to secure to us all  
benefits of objects &c &  
not for purchase  
for himself or other  
no communication  
results or information  
to be

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.,

if he is useful  
He is useful  
may be useful  
to us in many  
ways