

## 'South African Institute for Medical Research'

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1914

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, JOHANNESBURG

1914

Hullu

28 September 1914.

Dear Dr. Pitchford,

Many thanks for your kind letter and enclosure which I will bring before Mr. Wellcome on the first opportunity.

You may rely upon my doing my best to help you in any way I can in forming your historical museum in connection with your institute.

I think you mentioned on your first visit that you might be able to send us some native objects of interest when you returned from South Africa, to add to our collection on Primitive Medicine. I am sure if you could help us in this way we might exchange some objects of which we have duplicates.

I trust you will be able to pay us another visit before you return to South Africa, and I hope your visit to England will be a pleasant and profitable one.

With kind regards,

Faithfully yours,

S. J. H.

TELEPHONE 715 KENSINGTON  
NORFOLK HOTEL,  
BARRINGTON ROAD,  
SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W.

Sept. 26 '14

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I enclose my "official" letter to you. It has been written on the general lines you suggested.

You will doubtless observe the lack of modesty in my ~~suggests~~ request! Un-

fortunately I cannot be  
modest about the wants of  
our Institute. It is a big  
undertaking, and I want  
just as many things as  
Mr. Wellcome and you can  
possibly spare.

I am much obliged for  
your interest.

With kind regards,

Very faithfully yours

W. Wetters Duxford.

Pitchford

---

What he calls Daphnia  
Here are only  
series.

Two; heads very  
full. with contents  
at present.

Probat multiplication

I am in regard to  
~~Wanderer~~ -

Cannot call a  
duplicate  
outcome a  
series -  
more scattered  
in value.

When you see  
Complex  
know, believe a  
Speaking manner



THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE  
SECRETARY TO BE ADDRESSED TO P. O. Box 1198. TELEPHONE 3852.  
DIRECTOR TO BE ADDRESSED TO P. O. Box 1080. TELEPHONE 907.

JOHANNESBURG.

The Curator,  
The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum,  
54<sup>A</sup> Wigmor St.  
W.

Norfolk Hotel,  
Hamington Road,  
S. Kensington.

Sept: 26, 1914.

Dear Sir,

You doubtless remember my calling upon you a few days ago with a personal introduction from my old friend and former colleague Dr. Andrew Balfour.

As Director of the S. African Institute for Medical Research, and on behalf of my Committee, I am visiting the laboratories and museums of the Old Country.

I have been delighted with both my visits to your most extraordinary museum. Not only is it a unique collection of great professional value - and in large part of great antiquarian and archaeological value - but it has suddenly appeared among us like an old foundation: it seems to be nearly complete and richly supplied with duplicates. The whole thing, idea and materialisation, seems to be a masterpiece of genius.

I should like, through you, to interest Mr. Wellcome in our S. African Institute. "The Lancet" is, I believe, shortly publishing an article on its aims and claims, and its inauguration some two years ago was duly noticed by the medical press throughout the world. Our buildings, which have been erected at a cost of some £40,000, include a combined museum-hall and library. The museum is as yet supplied with

pathological specimens only, but I am hoping to have a "historical" section as well. Do you think that Mr. Wellcome himself would help us?

Our Institute is of a national character, and although primarily for medical research work is nevertheless intended to develop into a centre for medical education. As you doubtless know, the education, I might even say the culture, of S. Africa is unusually insular in character, a defect which is largely due to the absence from the country of all antiquities; objects of antiquity are, I think, nuclei around which old traditions cling and around which a knowledge of the past may be developed.

The geographical and racial circumstances in which our Institute has appeared suggest that donations to a historical museum might be suitably arranged on the following plan —

- |         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| Archaic | { | Etruscan { Photographs of medical subjects depicted<br>or vases &c.<br>Photographs, or copies, of instruments (if any)   |
|         |   | Graeco-Roman { Photographs, or copies, of surgical<br>instruments (Pompeian & Athenian)<br>a few original native offerings.  |
|         |   | Egyptian { Photographs of papyrus, incised tablets, or<br>other representations of medical subjects.   |
| Medical | { | English - a few instruments, <sup>pictures</sup> appliances &c.<br>Dutch - { Delft drug pots, prints or pictures.<br>Copies of one or more of <u>hewenhook's</u><br><u>microscopes</u> &c. |
| Modern  | { | African - <u>objects, photographs, diagrams &amp;c</u> from Africa<br><u>north of the equator.</u><br>English } a few of the modern representatives of diseases<br>Dutch } see notes &c.   |

(3)

Should we be so fortunate as to secure Mr. Wellcome's support it is not, of course, asserted that this scheme should be adhered to either in principle or detail. If a collection of sufficient size be given it will be kept apart and denominated "The Wellcome Historical Collection".

One of the facts which has to be borne in mind is that we have the British and the Dutch peoples side by side in S. Africa; and any undertakings which evoke a common interest are specially desirable at the present time.

I cannot but think that if the munificence which established the Gordon Research Laboratories in the Sudan were to overflow into S. Africa it would be received with even greater appreciation.

You may have noticed in the medical papers lately that I am advertising for a Curator for our museum. Any specimens committed to my care will be cherished. I am fully alive to the value of antiquities and appreciate the principle of "diminishing supply and increasing demand" which pertains to such articles.

I shall be very pleased to interview Mr. Wellcome if he desires it.

Yours very faithfully

W. W. Pitt Rivers, M.D.  
Director S. A. I. N. R.

\*. I believe these microscopes are in the possession of the Royal Society. In view of the great importance of the microscope as an agent in the evolution of modern medical knowledge I think your collection should also include such models — if it does not already do so.

Pitchford