

THE PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
41 EAST 70TH STREET

November 13th, 1924.

Sr. Don Pio Del Rio-Hortega,
Conde de Aranda, 4
Madrid, Spain.

Dear Don Pio:-

Greetings from America! I hope that you have the Laboratory running well, and that your family is all well.

I was in Baltimore the other day and talked with Dr. Adolf Meyer. They are very anxious to get you to come to Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, and Dr. Meyer is writing to you. This letter is to explain conditions in Baltimore a little so that you may more easily decide what answer to return to his letter. Adolf Meyer is Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins, and in my opinion, is the best psychiatrist in America. He is a Swiss, speaks German very well and, I suppose, French. The postmortem material from all cases dying in the Hospital, whether under Dr. Meyer's care or someone else's, go to the Department of Pathology, which is under the control of Professor W.G. MacCallum, whose name you probably know. At present there is no one, I believe, working up the neurological material. There are 600 beds in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, but I do not think that the number of pathological brains is very great except for the surgical material. Dr. Dandy is the neurological surgeon there and has a very large clientele. There must be almost as much brain tumor material as in Dr. Cushing's Hospital in Boston. Dr. Meyer told me however that he could get pathological brains from other institutions.

The atmosphere in the University at Baltimore is I think a very pleasant one. Baltimore is a town a little smaller than Madrid. Many of the people there are Southerners, and I have found them on the whole more agreeable than those whom one meets in New York or Boston. I do not know whether there are any of your countrymen in Baltimore or not. Dr. Louis Weed is the Professor of Anatomy in Baltimore, and he has done very good work on the ~~promotion~~ and absorption of cerebrospinal fluid. You probably know his work, as well as that of Dr. Dandy on hydrocephalus. Dr. Florence Sabine is the Professor of Histology. She is a very good scientist but interested particularly in the origin of blood cells and the development of the lymphatic system. I think you would find the people as congenial as anywhere in America.

format

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41 EAST 70TH STREET

Sr. Don Pio Del Rio-Hortega - #2.

I do not know how much money Dr. Meyer is going to offer you. Living in Baltimore is much less expensive than in New York, and on a guess, I should think it would be ^{about} ~~near~~ the same as living expenses in Madrid, although travelling expenses are higher. I want to present what I know about conditions in Baltimore to you fairly so that you can make up your mind in advance whether you would like it or not. I do not believe that you would find the kind of cafe that you would like, but perhaps there will be other things to take its place. I cannot tell you how anxious I am to have you in this country where we can see you at least once in a while, and if you come, you will come of course by way of New York and will stop over at our home.

With best regards for your father and sisters,

Very sincerely yours,

Wilder G. Penfield

Postscript. And now that I have given as good a description as I can of conditions in Baltimore, I want you to please not make up your mind about it until after you hear from me again. The New York State Institute of Psychiatry, which is now on Wards Island, has just become associated with Columbia University. The amount of neurological material which is available there is many times greater than that in Baltimore, and before you make up your mind about Baltimore, please wait until we can find out what opportunities there may be here.

I am going to send you two copies of this letter at different times for fear that one does not arrive.

Second Copy

418. 70th St.
New York City.

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