

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
THE ROYAL INFIRMARY
EDINBURGH
EH3 9YW

FROM M.F. OLIVER, MD, FRCP.
031-229 2477 EXT. 2539

29th April, 1975.

Professor J.F. Goodwin,
Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
Hammersmith Hospital,
LONDON, W12.

file copy

Dear John,

Progress in Cardiology.

I have just completed the reading of Henry Blackburn's article in the third volume of the book edited by Paul Yu and yourself. This chapter is Epidemiology and Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease but is in fact an excellent appraisal of risk factors, much enlivened by being a personal one but nevertheless very balanced.

Mary Fulton and I have made quite a bit of progress with the drafting of our chapter on risk factors but still there is a long way to go, and I think it is most unlikely that we can produce a chapter as good as the one written by Henry. At least, much of what we have been drafting has already been dealt with and, interestingly, in rather the same way as we ourselves have planned.

When you originally invited us to write for the 1975 volume, you did not say that Henry Blackburn was contributing to the 1974 volume. Quite frankly, I think that his chapter has pre-empted most of what we would say and I cannot really believe that it is in the interest of readers of "Progress in Cardiology" to have much of the same theme repeated in two successive volumes. Admittedly, I would have been rather more iconoclastic but this is only a rather small change in emphasis and one that Henry and I have discussed in the past as complementary approaches to the same basic problem. And, of course, the facts upon which we base our opinions are essentially the same and this is where I consider that you are making a mistake in commissioning these two chapters.

I have come to the conclusion, and so has Mary Fulton independently, now that we have read Henry Blackburn's chapter, that we ought not to prepare a chapter along these lines at least for two or three years. Now I realise that this may put you in some difficulty and also that you have been relying on us for a contribution.

I have therefore considered what I might be able to do to help. I have two suggestions. One is a chapter on the metabolism of the ischaemic myocardium, a subject in which I am deeply involved and writing about any way, and the other is a reappraisal of the sex factor in relation to ischaemic heart disease, which ought not to be too difficult.

I have looked very carefully at my commitments during the next few months and will undertake to complete one or other of these chapters/

chapters by 9th August but not before. Obviously I feel obligated to you both and the least I feel I can do, when withdrawing one chapter, is to offer another. On the other hand, you should not feel that you are obligated to me and if you would prefer to postpone any contribution from me or drop the plan completely, I shall entirely understand.

With best personal wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Michael

M.F. OLIVER.