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Dear Dar,

I very much enjoyed reading your Puerto Rico presentation and hope that you can get this distinguished review published in some journal of wider circulation than the Proceedings of that conference. I'll be interested to talk to you about Stoney's explorations of geographic and time variations in population characteristics with regard to causes of death. This is a subject of a major program project that we are developing in our laboratory.

Ancel's current analyses of Seven Countries data and 10-year mortality suggest that for CHD at least the increment in risk with blood pressure is not smoothly exponential and he is beginning to make noises about "thresholds and critical values".

Some of your statements, though appealing and scholarly, might benefit from a little more precision or delineation, such as the statement in your discussion "since judgments about the levels of blood pressure warranting intervention and the levels to be taken as therapeutic goals depend in part on these impressions, recognition of the differences and impressions and their sources for them may be useful". If you don't want to say anything, fine, but it would be useful to be a little more explicit.

I've never heard anyone comment on the temporary increase in stroke mortality during the World War II years in this country.

You clearly have a mastery of the language and elegance of expression which makes it a pleasure to read. I only stumbled on "complementarity" and "historionomer".

Shall we get up a group to watch the Super Bowl next Sunday at the Cerramar? I plan to go down on Saturday, and to take a little side trip to Guadaloupe Wednesday to Friday and then attend the Stephen Foster Memorial celebration in White Springs, Florida on the following weekend. See you soon.

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

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