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Dear Stoney:

I am delighted at your pleasant and penetrating analysis of my folksy ramblings and hope I did not do the problem too much injustice by a certain casualness and superficiality of criticism. I have only recently begun to take the opportunities offered to editorialize, as you have done so effectively for years, and I can see that one can quickly get into trouble. I am beginning to question the worth of such undertakings. With the article you have read and the enclosed ones, I think I have said all I would want to say about these matters for a long time, and hope now to get on with other things. I like your combined physical activity-diet hypothesis and I wish there were a better way of examining the idea in detail.

I suppose I did come down a little hard on the casep control studies but I did use the one example that I felt was distinctly misleading, that of the coffee business and the Boston Collaborative Drug Study. And remember, I was addressing cardiologists who are inclined to "buy " the latest article in the New England Journal.

As you apparently know, I have been tagged for the Francis Memorial Lecture this fall at Ann Arbor. I am naturally bouleversé and would welcome any ideas or condolences. I will probably stay in the area of professional and personal attitudes toward prevention and will try to deal from direct experience and observations; all the while trying to heed Polonius' advice about "to thine own self . . .".

I was sorry to have missed the Los Angeles meeting of the AES and seeing you. We are enjoying increasing contacts with your northward migrated colleagues. Life certainly doesn't stand still.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB/kn

Encl: Med. Opin.

Europ. Jرنl. Cardiol.