

MCC Minga  
via Lusambo.  
Belgian Congo.  
Dec. 12, 1948.

Dear Doctor Henry,

I've been long wanting to write you. First wanted to ask you a favor, but then I wanted to write anyway, and hope it may not stop with this one. The favor is to ask if you will please write a card to Mr. Hasemeyer, Dept. of Purchasing and Transportation, Board of Missions, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, telling him the name, author and publisher of the little manual on reflexes and syndromes that I gave you, and telling him that is the name of the book I asked him, about September, to order for me. I had told him I would write you for the title, but didn't get to it. Thanks very much. I lost my copy.

Am struggling along trying to get patients quarters rebuilt at the hospital. Have had to refuse patients ever since I've been back, who were not acute cases, telling them I didn't have room enough, and that they were welcome to build huts for themselves on the hospital grounds. Finally some hernia patients, one family with hookworm disease, the family of a compound fracture case, a man with chronic urinary retention from enlarged prostate broke the ice and began building; and now I have a little hospital village of about twenty huts, and they are as proud as punch of their little hamlet. They themselves dubbed it "Utema walanga" or roughly interpreted, "They whose hearts want it", explaining that only they who wanted to build built.

Have gotten in an inspiring lot of equipment that your dear mother helped tremendously to furnish--and much more is coming. The husband of a patient from a distant mission proved to be very skillful and set up the generator and x-ray apparatus; but there is still some fault to be remedied before it will work. An electric shock machine I am using temporarily with a 110 volt converter from my old 32 volt system and have gotten some good results in cases I have diagnosed as involutional depression, psychoneurosis, and probable schizophrenia. The results in the first case have been amazing, and have produced quite a sensation among the Africans. *Of course I am trying to tackle the psychotherapeutic angle.*

Today (Sunday) the two nuns from nearby Catholic Mission, one a nurse and the other a nurse and midwife (well trained and good) brought in on a borrowed Government truck a poor woman pretty far gone with sudden hemorrhage from marginal placenta. The midwife and I scrubbed up, and with the other nun and our Station nurse and some of the Africans helping we worked on her for some three hours. She wasn't even in labor. Did a manual dilatation, version and extraction with considerable difficulty. The baby probably was already dead, and the mother collapsed about the time of the delivery, and soon died. A sad ending; but the mother (grandmother) saw we did our best. We gave her saline intravenously and by hypodermoclysis.



We have some interesting diagnostic problems. Two or three cases I suspect of coronary thrombosis. Had a case this morning apparently of meningismus attributed to a lumbar puncture I gave her for sleeping sickness. Evidently is not serious. Have a preacher's wife with dimness of vision with apparent cloudy vitreous and choked disc. Lumbar puncture showed possible increased pressure (no manometer); am awaiting report on cell count. Haven't caught any neurologic signs, but must examine more carefully. Fear she may have a brain tumor?? Have a metabolizer I must uncrate soon, and an electrocardiograph coming. Probably be sending most of the strips home for diagnosis. Sent a missionary's breast lump specimen not long ago to Johns Hopkins and certainly was happy to get a negative report as to malignancy.

Signing off. Shall be mighty glad to hear from you when and if you can get time, and hope to reply. We have very good reports from our John. Suppose you won't get off to Miami for Christmas. Wish you could. A very very happy Christmas to you, and love and best wishes.

Wm. (Bill) Hughlett

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