



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Chapman - Chapman

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

August 7, 1981

Carleton B. Chapman, M.D.
President
The Commonwealth Fund
Harkness House
1 East Seventy-Fifth Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Carl:

I have not heard from you since you outlined a project to explore the potential for prevention and preventive practice a year or so ago. The enclosed runs all the usual risk of synthesis: error, oversimplification, and superficiality. Nevertheless, it was fun. Synthesis is necessary to attempt; so few try.

I have done the same sort of thing for Coronary Heart Disease: Evolution and Culture, in much greater detail for the Bishop Lecture of the American College of Cardiology, year before last, but have not got it down in print. It seems to me that it is a reasonable working hypothesis that many of the mass diseases of affluent man can be attributed to powerful cultural factors operating on widespread genetic susceptibility - determined by our evolutionary legacy.

I've not seen it much discussed just this way. Have you?

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:jml

Enclosure: *Review ms.*

8/7/81
AMB

Cover file: Chapman

ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

1300 MORRIS PARK AVENUE, BRONX, N.Y. 10461 • CABLE: EINCOLLMED, N.Y.

Carleton B. Chapman, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chairman
Department of The History of Medicine

Phone: (212) 430-3558

September 11, 1981

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455

file
Check my last 2 letters to him.

Dear Henry:

I've just now received your letter of 7 August and the Diet and Hypertension opus. The reason I've not replied to your earlier communique is that I don't think I ever got it. I left the Commonwealth Fund as of 30 June 1980, having obtained the status of Senior Citizen two weeks before that date.

I shall in due course read over your opus with care. Your thesis certainly warrants careful thought and I don't think it has as yet been examined. Would that there were better data on the population that came to the U.S. in the nineteenth century before they emigrated. The Central Europeans died of infectious disease and, perhaps, malnutrition. When they got to these shores their diet, among other things, must have changed drastically. If there were prior genetic susceptibility - nothing new by the way - one might then (as you probably did) explain vascular disease in Jewish population among other things.

But I'm largely out of CV field, Henry, and can no longer claim anything like expertise. Still, I'm not yet senile and will work hard to formulate a sensible reply.

Strength to your arm.

Sincerely,



Carleton B. Chapman, M.D.

CBC/jd