

Scam

~~Francis lecture~~

September 4, 1975

Should have a  
separate file  
of Burchell correspondence.  
~~Lecture notes!~~

Howard Burchell, M.D.  
Northwestern Hospital  
810 East 27th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Dear Howard:

On Medical Specialism. The Bohemian Club talk is delightful, and the opening Rush story superb. You don't indicate, for the uninformed, why Dearborn's appointment was so unfortunate and the why of his failures.

Certainly the University medical group is disease oriented rather than patient oriented and surely disease rather than health oriented!

I wish you could document that real progress, or otherwise, in research is directly related to the flow of dollars. I believe you are right. Perhaps the best evidence is the "natural experiments" in which the output of the U.S. is compared to France, Germany, USSR, etc. and the people and funds involved.

Your good example of the repetition of errors in medicine could be expanded into a full essay.

I particularly admire your football analogy about defense and offense in medicine. And part of the problem of medical specialism is the insanely aggressive defense.

I really delight in imagining them carrying you to the gate on your soapbox, and tossing you out, unlikely as it would be.

And finally, thanks for the undeserved footnote acknowledgment. If you'll permit, I'll borrow from you in my Francis Memorial Lecture at Ann Arbor.

Thanks,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:jp