

William C. Roberts, M.D.
Editor in Chief

August 3, 2004

Henry W. Blackburn, Jr., MD
Division of Epidemiology
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Dear Henry:

Many thanks for your sending *Volume II – The Second 20 Years*, and also for the nice comment on your title page. Although I haven't read it fully yet by any means, I loved your table of contents and the many pictures throughout the book. You are a splendid storyteller. I will, of course, review it in the *Good Books* section which will appear early in 2005.

Again many thanks for your book and your gracious comment. All the best.

With kind regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Roberts".

William C. Roberts, MD

16, The Palms,
Roebuck Road,
Dublin, 14.
Tel/fax: 2831550
email: ristearm@eircom.ie

7 July 2001

Dear Henry,

Thank you very much for the copy of *'If It Isn't fun ---'* which arrived as an unexpected surprise. I shall look forward to reading it and my initial dippings bring back a strong nostalgia of those halcyon days when we were to varying degrees endowed with the pioneering spirit which so successfully drove cardiovascular epidemiology. While Keys, Rose, Stamler and yourself were outstanding leaders in the field, we can all feel that we shared this sense of fulfilment which goes with any pioneering success.

Louise and I listened to your CD and enjoyed it greatly despite my reluctance to acknowledge any music post-dating the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries! Listening again brought back fond memories of our many meetings in various parts of the world.

I gather you are now retired but I expect that you are still busy and as creative as ever. I keep going - writing, cycling, golf, the environment, trees, recent Irish history, and, to keep a little in touch with medicine, I supervise the exercise laboratory for my colleagues at our private clinic and I still do an odd pot boiler. I am enclosing a reprint of such an item which was published by my editor son in the Irish Heart Foundation publication *'Heartwise'*. It is a summary of work we were doing in the fields of rehabilitation and secondary prevention. My son (David) is a cardiologist attached to one of our university hospitals in Dublin. Sadly, he is too busy in the angio lab to get involved in epidemiology and in promulgating primary prevention, although he is well balanced in his approach to rehabilitation and secondary prevention.

It would be so nice to meet with you again sometime. Perhaps you may visit Ireland on vacation or I may find myself in Florida. We still miss Noel Hickey despite the passage of six or seven years since his death. Despite his assumed low profile and his gentle ways, he did much in his short life and was never adequately replaced by a successor with the same conjoined clinical and preventive interests. These are still rare birds in this country as elsewhere. Deirdre is well and we see her every Sunday morning for a drink and a gossip. It was also sad about Rose Stamler. I have met Jerry since her death and he appears to bear his loss as philosophically as one would expect of him.

Sincere best wishes,



Ristearm.

Antoine BLOCH, M.D. F.A.C.C. F.E.S.C.

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Henry BLACKBURN, M.D.
1525 Kaltern Lane
Minneapolis MN 55416
USA

Geneva, June 11, 2001

Dear Henry,

It was good hearing from you. I started reading your book at the beginning of the weekend and could not stop before finishing. It is indeed a remarkable and exciting book. And I enjoyed very much listening your CD.

At the Geneva Hôpital Cantonal the Centre de Cardiologie and the Department of Medicine are still having a lot of (distressing) problems and I am glad that I left, 20 years ago !

We have now a very good team of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons at the Hôpital de la Tour and the atmosphere between us is excellent. I am still busy with a very active praxis, non-invasive cardiology and rehabilitation and teaching (and will become medical director of our hospital at the end of the year). I have therefore little time left for research but some of my colleagues have taken over.

What I have learned from you (and also from Jerry and Rose during a ten-day seminar) remains very important for me in terms of cardiac prevention and scientific rigour. And not forgetting of course admiration for your work and friendship.

With best wishes and personal regards,


Antoine

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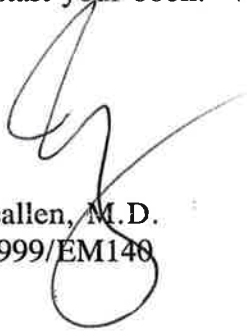
June 7, 2001

Henry Blackburn
1525 Kaltern
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Henry:

About a week ago I was talking with a friend of mine about this marvelous guy that I got to meet in my residency who was a very able musician and became a very distinguished doctor in the field of cardiology. I then today received both your CD playing many of my all-time favorites and your marvelous book which I have already thumbed through and I am going to attack tonight. To say I am delighted would be an understatement. It has always been a joy to follow your career and recognize your compelling confidence, but the other side of your life as a musician has always appealed to me. Also as a great human being, I have admired you a great deal, and the loss of your son was a blow to all of us to some extent as well as a huge blow to you. In any event, I am most grateful for your thoughtfulness, and I am going to play the CD tonight as I start your book. With many kind regards,

Sincerely,



Raymond Scallen, M.D.
310278/- 99999/EM140

H.W.Blackburn
1525 Kaltern Lane
Minneapolis, Minn. 55416
USA

Budapest, 20-06-01

Dear Henry,

To read a friends reminiscences of times shared- though from different points of observation- is always a thought provoking experience. Here are two of mines for your perusal.

Did we- les marechals et les soldats - achieve that life-style change should become a policy issue on the agenda of nations, like growth, safety, security, environmental protection, etc.? Or should we languish happily behind the fences created from the powerline "prevention" in the form of societies, academic chairs, congresses and periodicals ?

The second thought is even more provoking. The leap from individual- to population-health lead to the goal to increase mean life expectancy of the population. Given - though I doubt it - this will spread around the world, will this contribute to the "health" - in our Western sense - of mankind? You packed your bag in India and took the next flight out. Can you check a flight with NASA ? But where to?

Thanks for the book and the memories, cordially,

George *George*

Erika

Athens, August 30, 2004

Dear Henry,

We just received your new book entitled "It isn't always fun" and are enjoying it immensely. Cleo and Cookie are also fascinated by the diversity of the events in your life, particularly the American vs. the European interpretations of various incidents.

We are especially touched by reading and remembering our common experiences: the Gate 27 lab life, the first years of the 7 Countries study with the visits to the other countries, and so many more.

We wish to congratulate you on this achievement and thank you deeply for sending it to us and giving us so much joy.

Keep up the good work!

Warm regards to you and Stacy,

Andy & Jenny D.

Andy and Jenny Dontas

P.S. It has been a difficult decision not to attend the coming weekend celebration for Ancel's 100th birthday. It would be an excellent occasion to see beloved old friends like you again, but unfortunately my recent activities are limited.

↳ Physical

BOHEMIAN CLUB



SAN FRANCISCO

18 August 2004

Dr. Henry Blackburn
1525 Kaltern Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

We received the second volume of your Memoirs of a Different Kind of Medical Life, *It isn't always fun...*. Despite your resignation from the Club—alas!—we shall place it in the collection of works by Bohemian Authors, where your other books are found.

We are greatly obliged for your thoughtfulness, and wish you the best into the future.

Please allow one private word, from just myself. Your treatment of the Bohemian Experience is a wonderful. "Sensitive, sensible, and charming" comes to mind; a real treasure in a few pages.

Ever yours,

Matt Buff
Library and Archives

P.S. One is not supposed
to write about Bohemia
& the Grove. MS

683 N. Beau Chene Dr.
Mandeville, LA 70471-1724
May 23, 2001

Dear Henry:

The Book arrived yesterday. I jumped to the medical school years, and couldn't put it down. I had difficulty going to sleep last night, because I kept thinking of things I wanted to pass on to you.

My, how lucky we were! Had the world not put on a war, I know I would have had a much more difficult time getting a medical education. One item I am specific about is that the date on which I was separated from the service was February 15, 1946. As you recall, the points accumulated by time of service increased by one half point each two weeks; and the points needed for release from the service decreased by one half point each two weeks. During my V-12 days, I had listed my grandmother as a dependent. Each month the government took \$18.50 from my pay of \$50, matched it with \$18.50 of theirs, and she received a check for \$37.00! And so, I was awarded points for having a dependent.

As it happened, on Feb. 15, 1946 the points I had accumulated exactly matched the points needed for discharge on that date. A chief petty officer pulled me out of the line as we were all waiting to make a "choice" of staying on active duty (dropping out of medical school), or going on Naval Reserve status (and remaining in school), told me I was "a special case", and took me over to the ROTC headquarters building on Freret St. There an officer explained that, because of the points, I *must* be discharged completely; I had *no* choice. So, on that date, I was returned to civilian life, without even a position in the reserve.

I believe our class was divided into two units from the start. I recall pretty clearly that I began gross anatomy as soon as I entered medical school. We were not even aware that the windows of the anatomy lab were kept closed, because it was winter, and usually rather chilly in the anatomy lab! I took micro-anatomy in the second semester. Nor can I recall anything like fine art work on the blackboard. You undoubtedly have a greater appreciation of art than I.

In school I hardly knew you. We must have been on different schedules throughout. There were very few time when the entire class was assembled for anything. One such time I'll never forget was when we were all brought into the auditorium in Richardson Memorial so that Dr. Ochsner could introduce Dr. Matas to us. It was rather sad, I thought, because the old gentleman's remarks wandered, and finally The Chief had to break in with a statement such as, "That is a very fine

presentation, Dr. Matas, and I'm sure the entire audience appreciates it." The interesting thing is that it was the only time I ever saw the greatest surgeon of his day, and I do treasure the memory.

Throughout my time in medical school I lived at home, with Bob Schramel, Tom Forman, Bob Campbell, and Sam Johnson as roommates. Bob had an old DeSoto, which we used to commute back and forth. Parking was no problem in those days! My mother had died, but my aunt served as a housekeeper, and we lived and ate well. We did not have to work for room and board as you did. That made the years a very pleasant experience for us.

Tonight I'll see Flora Finch at the New Orleans Pediatric Society meeting. She is going to be so pleased to see your book. As I recall, Flora was the #1 ranked student in our class. She married Bill Cherry, who was #1 in the Class of 1949, and later was the Director of the Marine Hospital in New Orleans, Surgeon General of the US Public Health Service, and Secretary of Health, Education, Human Resources (and almost everything of importance) in the State of Louisiana.

After having four children, Flora came to the Ochsner Clinic Pediatric Department for a fellowship in Pediatrics. I had as a resident, my dear friend and #1 classmate! Flo was certified in pediatrics, got a degree in Public Health, became a full Professor of Maternal and Child Health at Tulane, and now enjoys emeritus status. I'm Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the School of Medicine, Tulane University, and proud of it.

Morris Shaffer had such an important influence on us. It was near the end of the second year that he came to the student lounge during bacteriology lab to find four of us playing bridge. He eliminated but one of the four, Tom Forman. Tom, who had never really wanted to fulfill his parents' ambition for him to become an MD, went into sales of carpeting, got into computers on the ground floor, helped found Recognition Products, Inc., which made the original machines the Postal Service used to read zip codes, and retired to Texas as a multimillionaire. The other three of us did quite well. (By the way, please send me your email address. Mine is jfruthal@bellsouth.net. I hear from Forman frequently, and he sends me a lot of very interesting material.)

I mention Morris because, after his first wife died, he went to New York, wooed and wed Margaret H. D. Smith, certainly the most impressive pediatrician I ever met. Margaret had taken over Edith Lincoln's position as the world's authority on tuberculosis in childhood, but Morris brought her back to Tulane. Margaret once told me that Morris was very proud to have been on the committee that had selected Wm. J. Clinton as a Rhodes Scholar. Margaret is still living in the Poydras Home

for Elderly Ladies, where my grandmother spent her last days. I go to see her now and then. You may remember Margaret as the first to propose publicly that routine vaccination against smallpox should be abandoned in the US.

I'm interested to see that our Dept. of Pediatrics apparently didn't impress you. To me, Ralph Victor Platou was the greatest teacher we had; and one of the greatest teachers of anything I ever saw. But then, **everything** good that happened to me, except marrying my wife of 53 years, or fathering my three children, was attributable to him.

You may be aware that Robert Schramel was such a fine jazz pianist that on several occasions he sat in for Fats Pichon at the Old Absinthe House when Fats took a break. Bob went on to have, I believe, more years of formal training in surgical specialties than any one else in our class. I took care of their children, and as he was in his 7th year of training, in cardiovascular surgery, I asked Marie Louise what plans he had for the following year. In effect she replied, "He's thinking of taking a year with Dr. DeBakey in Houston. He doesn't know it yet, but he's going to work for a living next year; I'm tired of being a resident's wife!"

Again, thank you for the book. I treasure it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

G. J. Fruthaler