

CVS417/51.6

PROF. K. F. WENCKEBACH

WIEN, 14. JUNE 1947

IX. BOLTZMANNGASSE 12
(FRÜHER WAISENHÄUSLIGASSE)
TELEFON 17185.

Dear Doctor

I spent two delicious weeks in my own old country; it was like a dream, glorious weather, a well fed, expansive, quiet and happy population, an enormous number of cattle in the fields, everything to be had, true joyfully dear, kind and sturdy of mankind. It was a bitter return to this sorry country, and came to see and hear of stupid political people here and elsewhere, your interest in Vienna and your steady price & lip are a great consolation, so was your letter, so was a message from Geneva, that a Mrs Buxton, who must be your friend, has come now to be sent to me for my patient, so was more than anything else the welcome visit of Dr Heinz Munro, who arrived here last week. He too has a good deal to say about the medical world and intellectual men abroad. Not the medical world and intellectual people in England, he still a good deal of love for old Vienna. It is not to be believed, how my letter to you was the first talk of how Vienna is flailing since two years and more, and how things are growing worse every day. We were told last year, that the ~~unconscious~~ unconscious would bring England on its knees by taking away (for) transports on the railway or it knees by taking away (for) horses too me, that we did not believe (it), and now Dr Munro too, that nearly nothing was written in England during the whole time of the war!

Dr Munro told me all about the food being ^{given} passed to your people, and what we be due to my disposal for my poor patients in my clinic, and that more services may be put at the disposal of the viennese hospitals. This will mean an enormous improvement of our minnows conditions and you can't imagine, how happy you and your friend are making me. We thought it difficult to organise the distribution of this food coming from England, so that the friends of humanity and of Vienna in England may feel sure. We also hope that there are sending will certainly come into the right hands; and that the people here may know, that everything is being done rightly, without any form of protection and according with the good will of the peoples in England.

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We are forming now a small committee of 5 members, two ladies, three men, one of us being a Dr. - doctor; Prof. Dr. Dürig, our new professor of physiology who is very good and on the problems of nutrition; a member of the social democratic party and a long member of the good intellectual Vienna "Sociedad". I will act as a president of this committee, having had our English friend, who knows me, will be sure, that anything will be done conform their wishes. The nice act "sub auspiciis" of the new department of public health, and the undersignatory of state of this department, who is a socialist ^{member} of our Faculty, Prof. Tandler the anatomist, will give us every support we might want. I hope you will agree. Dr. Morris and I are discussing the over mor of actions and I hope to have the time to take up his return to England, when we started a good work. It will take me a good deal of my time at the beginning, but I can't sit down planning to see what work quickly and my misery going on ~~about~~ in this country. We will discuss also how to bring before our desperate public. What English friends are doing for Vienna and its hospitals and its poor inhabitants.

It is a great pleasure to me to have a good talk with an English colleague, knowing nearly all my friends in England and here it may be the beginning of the writing of my old and dear relatives to the English medical world.

This time of uncertainty is nearly interesting; shows the peace-conditions not be attenuated a mere truce, this time and this law will be absolutely ruined and wrecked. For me there is always the possibility of returning to my country and gaining back my money which I am losing here; the short visit to my country was a great moral comfort to me, and gave me quite a new and strong "backbone". For Vienna and the old Austria this time is really worse than Deceas. True quiet, say true as do where I can; should life become impossible if one has to leave his place, one can say not now.

With kind regards to Lucy and your son our patient

K. F. Wenckebach