

Dear Dr. Wickersheimer,

At the meeting of the Council of the Historical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine we had the pleasure of nominating you as one of the honorary members of our section. You will receive an official intimation of the same before long.

Would you perhaps bring the following matter before the French Society for the History of Medicine:

The tomb of the great Avicenna at Hamardan, Persia, which has been in existence since his death about 1030 A.D. has fallen into ruin. I am going to propose to the Historical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine to make an appeal under their auspices for the necessary money to put it in good order. Do you think the French Society would co-operate? The idea would be to form a general committee consisting of the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, the Regius Professors of Medicine at Oxford and Cambridge, the President of the Royal Society of Medicine and several others who are specially interested in Arabic and Persian literature. We might ask the Dean of the Paris Faculty, the President of the Academy of Medicine, the President of the French Society for the History of Medicine, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Algiers, and any other persons whom you would suggest as specially interested in Arabic or Persian medicine. And would you act as Secretary for the French Committee?

Avicenna is one of the great names in Mohammedan literature, and France with its large Mohammedan population should have a direct interest. There must be a considerable number of Arabic physicians in Algiers who would take an interest in the project.

If you are willing to undertake this work and can get the co-operation of your Society I will have copies of the circular sent to you in both French and Arabic. I have received an estimate from Hamardan that the total cost, including a sum for a caretaker, would be about £500, about 12,500 francs. I think between France, England and the United States we should be able to raise this without any difficulty.

With kind regards.

May 3rd 1914.