

Pembroke House,
133 Oxford Street, W.1.

J. George Adami to W.O.
January 10th 1919.

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My dear Sir William,

The best of thanks for the reprints which I herewith return, adding a copy of the Report of the Committee of Sixteen, at Montreal, which you may not have seen, and taking out a duplicate copy of Harrison's "Management of Venereal Disease in the Civil community".

We had a great field day on Wednesday at Russell Square. Although I was flanked by Lord Sydenham in the Chair on one side, and Sir Thomas Barlow on the other, I went for the National Council in a shocking way, with ungloved hands, and I think had the meeting with me. I was not a little surprised to see what a lot of important people were there - Bassett Smith for the Navy, Goodwin for the Army, Newsholme, Morant, Sir Francis Lloyd, Mrs. Scharlieb, and an overflowing room-full of others.

Sir Thomas Barlow came to me yesterday, more in sorrow than in anger, to give me the whole story of the doings of the National Council, and how they had been blocked at every turn by Keogh, Bonar Law, the Local Authorities and everybody. I told him that if this was so he ought to publish it straight out, and the whole country would see that the right thing was done. Apparently that had not occurred to him: he said he would consult Lord Sydenham, but he was very mad evidently at the meeting and went out without saying a word.

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It seemed to me the only course to pursue to speak out straight, and to stir up things in a way which I, as an outsider, could do, and I must be getting a reputation as being an enfant terrible. Young and Snow were excellent, and really the main function of the meeting was achieved by getting them to put the American Army methods before the responsible heads here in England. If I can do anything further, command me.

Since our talk I have been looking into Worthin's figures with his evidence of syphilitic infection in 40 per cent. of the entire autopsy material. The figures seem to me to be excessive, and I cannot help thinking that we ought to get Klotz at Pittsburg to discuss the matter. I mean this, that Klotz has shewn that acute rheumatism causes lesions in the arterial wall and in the heart muscle which are very much of the same order as those described by Worthin as being purely syphilitic, and he is best able to go through Worthin's material and point out which is absolutely syphilitic and which might be rheumatic. For myself I should be quite prepared to find that 30 per cent. of our population showed rheumatoid changes in the tissues, or other indications of streptococcal infection.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel, A.D.M.S.