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March 22nd, 1955

Dr. William Beecher Scoville,
56 Garden Street,
Hartford, Conn.,
U.S.A.

Dear Bill:

Dr. Milner and I have been putting together our projected paper on loss of memory in relation to the hippocampal area. I have thought many times of our discussion out at Santa Fé, and it seems to me that the cases you referred to throw a very important light on the whole problem.

It is the three psychotic patients in whom you made a removal bilaterally back to a distance of 8 or 9 cm. in the temporal lobe that surely constitute the most important group.

Dr. Brenda Milner, as you know, has been studying these temporal lobe epileptics over the past three or four years. I wonder if it would be possible for her to see those three patients. I remember that they were all psychotic, and I suppose almost anything may have happened to them. She has offered to visit them wherever they are. If they are in an institution I suppose her task would be a simpler one than if they are at home, but in any case, this is a problem you could organize, if provided you are willing to have her do this.

If she were to go down, you could at the same time show her more clearly the nature of the excision. We would, of course, explain our great indebtedness to you in the paper. I suppose you must feel as hesitant in regard to these cases as I do in regard to two patients in whom I have produced a gross loss of memory. Actually, I should feel much worse inasmuch as the patients I operated upon were not psychotic and had a much better outlook on life than yours could possibly have had.

If Dr. Milner could go along to see them, she could bring along her psychological equipment and subject them to a battery of tests. Incidentally, it might be very interesting if she could see one of the smaller bilateral removals, that is, the patients who had no obvious interference with memory. We will make all of these observations available to you to use in your

Dr. W.B. Scoville

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own studies. If you will write to me, either Dr. Milner or I will answer and could arrange this sort of thing at any time. We had in mind to read the paper at the American Neurological Association in Chicago in June, and hope that you would be present for discussion. That being the case, we want to get on with these observations just as fast as we can. We would like to have her see the patients, if she can see them at all, at the first opportunity.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

WGP/AD

S

WILLIAM BEECHER SCOVILLE, M. D.
BENJAMIN BRADFORD WHITCOMB, M. D.
REMBRANDT HARVEY DUNSMORE, M. D.
FRANCIS GEORGE REILLY, M. D.

NEUROSURGICAL GROUP
85 JEFFERSON STREET
HARTFORD 14, CONN.
CHAPEL 6-1636

April 4, 1955

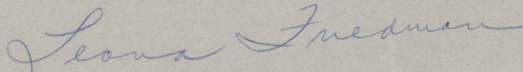
Dr. Wilder Penfield
Montreal Neurological Institute
3801 University Street
Montreal 2, Canada

Dear Dr. Penfield:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter regarding Dr. Milner.

Dr. Scoville is attending medical meetings in South America at present, and will return to Hartford about April 11th, at which time I will bring his attention to your letter for immediate reply.

Very truly,



Secretary to Dr. Scoville

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WILLIAM BEECHER SCOVILLE, M. D.
BENJAMIN BRADFORD WHITCOMB, M. D.
REMBRANDT HARVEY DUNSMORE, M. D.
FRANCIS GEORGE REILLY, M. D.

NEUROSURGICAL GROUP

85 JEFFERSON STREET
HARTFORD 14, CONN.
CHAPEL 6-1636

April 15, 1955

Dr. Wilder Penfield
Montreal Neurological Institute
3801 University Street
Montreal 2, Canada

Shown to Dr. Milner

Dear Dr. Penfield:

I have pulled all the pertinent charts and am delighted to have Dr. Milner come down and go over the cases. The only non-psychotic epileptic case will come into our office. He is one and three-quarter years post resection of the medial surface of the temporal lobes including the uncus, amygdalum and hippocampal gyrus, and according to his mother, over the phone, "his memory is absolutely no good; cannot even be sent to the store alone for purchases." There are some two or three schizophrenic patients still in state hospitals which she can visit and, in addition, she may choose to see some of the twenty-four other cases of bilateral resection of the amygdalum and uncus; bilateral resection of the anterior 5 cm. of the medial temporal lobe; and four cases in which unilateral inferior temporal lobectomy was done with resection of the hippocampal gyrus, uncus and amygdalum for decerebrate rigidity because of incisural herniation. One of these cases showed profound memory loss which was only temporary, subsiding in three to four months. These cases are all available for study but, of course, are complicated by other damage.

Carl Pribrum has just phoned me to say he also would like to study these cases which, of course, is quite all right with me.

I shall welcome Dr. Milner whenever convenient for her and would appreciate as much advance notification as possible so that the state hospitals can get their cases lined up. I enclose the reprint in which we first made reference of memory loss.

Sincerely,

Wm B. Scoville

William B. Scoville, M. D.

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encls.

P.S. Will you be kind enough to give me the name of any national neurosurgical society or organization which would represent the collective opinion of Canadian neurosurgeons, as I am busy getting a world-wide survey as to the need for an international neurosurgical congress and wish to canvas Canadian neurosurgeons.

S,

April 28th, 1955

Dr. William B. Schvulle,
85 Jefferson St.,
Hartford 14, Conn.,
U.S.A.

Dear Bill:

There is no Canadian neurosurgical organization. There is a Canadian Neurological Society, of which the secretary is Dr. Allan Walters, Medical Arts Building, Toronto, Ont. Most of the neurosurgeons belong to this, but I do not think that Walters would feel that he could speak for them in regard to their opinion.

Many thanks for your prompt and cordial arrangements for Dr. Milner. When I returned to Montreal she had already left to go down to Hartford. I hope everything goes well.

Yours sincerely,

WGP/AD

October 25, 1955

Superintendent
Manteno State Hospital
Manteno, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I have followed with intense interest the work which has been done at your hospital on bilateral medial temporal lobe resections for severe schizophrenic patients. If you remember, I assisted at one such operation when I was visiting Mayfield in Cincinnati in May 1954.

Professor Wilder Penfield of Montreal Neurological Institute, his psychologist, Dr. Brenda Milner, and the writer have been studying these patients for possible alterations, improvement or otherwise, in recent memory and retention. Dr. Penfield has studied a goodly number of patients on whom he has performed similar operations for epilepsy.

We shall be deeply appreciative if you will permit us to interview these patients at your hospital in any manner which you deem advisable. There will be no unpleasantness to these tests which will consist mostly of verbal interviews. Of course, we shall be honored to give due credit to your physicians and surgeons who embarked on this project, in any manner you wish.

The writer will be in Chicago on November 2nd and will much appreciate an answer before that time.

Very sincerely yours,

William B. Scoville, M.D.

wbs:lf
cc: DR. PENFIELD

WILLIAM BEECHER SCOVILLE, M. D.
BENJAMIN BRADFORD WHITCOMB, M. D.
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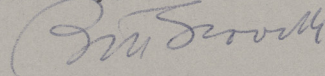
S,
To Dr. Milner.
Where angels fear to tread!

Dr. Wilder Penfield
Neurological Institute
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr. Penfield:

It occurs to me that a study of these cases might prove of intense interest because I know that Kendrich, a competent young surgeon, tended to ignore any memory changes because he believed that the improvement in schizophrenia warranted any other changes of the mind. I warned him of the unfortunate consequences in our few cases. I feel we should study these cases if we possibly can and will let you and Dr. Milner know the answer.

Sincerely,



William B. Scoville, M. D.

wbs:lf
cc: Dr. Milner