

May 9, 1967

David Charles Schechter, M.D.
208 Anderson Street
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Dear Dave

The case was an attempted suicide 12 years ago with a long needle, which stayed lodged for that time. Diagnosis by x-ray, pleura adherent to pericardium. Needle on exploration found in apex, extracted after dissection. Preoperative ECG: Slight T wave flattening. Postop inversion V1-V3, neg. T V4-V6; subsequent ECG neg. T limb leads, neg. T V4-V6 on further followup return of T wave toward normal. Postop: Some pleural fluid Rxed by aspiration. Not too impressive a case.

I just returned from Minnesota. Things were as you describe. Walt Lillehei "appears to be" going to Cornell, Rich will stick it out for a while. Big long faces everywhere, Chief will put up a fuss. The celebration was quite impressive. The department will be run by Rasputin Varco and dear John Naj, Marilyn moved to become Varco's sec. The Chief tells me that Varco tried to "black-bowl" Walton - I would not be surprised if now he is getting ready to lead John Naj the same path.

I presented a little study on J. Hunter - Billroth - Wangenstein - philosophy & accomplishments. Finished an annotated translation on the Wolfler - Billroth paper on gastrectomy (my first book) which the Chief wanted for Chicago Univ. Press. Now working on biography of Billroth - a big study - which I hope to finish before I get some kind of an academic post, if and where, perhaps never. If not then I will continue to rot and try to make a living.

With best regards.

Sincerely

KBA:bc

Karel B. Absolon, M.D