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Dear Lennie

I thank you for your nice letter and all the information on your library, that I know only by reputation.

It certainly would be nice to give a talk on some facet of Billroth's contribution in your history seminar; I would like to leave the subject and title for you to select. I am reasonably well versed in his early period (1) relationship to Hagenbeck, Meissner - (Billroth the physiologist) (2) Zurich - Vienna (Billroth and the development of surgical education) (3) Billroth the artist (relationship to Brahms) (4) Billroth surgical contributions, etc. His biography that I am writing now had reached some 2000 typewritten pages and I am in the painful stage of assembling, rewriting and cutting out - as time allows, and I hate to cut out things that were painfully written and that I like.

If there should be interest I have a fair short talk on myocardial revascularization, excision of ventricular aneurysms and myocardial infarctions with ciné angios, etc.

Early February or April would suit me best. There is an institution in New York that is interested to have me join them, nothing definite, but it should not realize before May or June 1968, if it comes through. By that time I hope to finish the Biography of Billroth. I am also getting some original letters of Billroth and a book of poetry by Leander (nome de plume of the surgeon Volkmann) with his handwritten dedication in verse to Billroth. It would be nice to show. Would you be interested to come and give a talk on fet embolism or another subject (medical society) and a historical subject (Historical seminar)?

Sincerely

KBA:bc

Karel B. Absolon, M.D.

P.S. There is a physician practicing in Amarillo, Bill Wheir, who comes from the same town in Wisconsin as you do.