

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE
FLOWER AND FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITALS
FIFTH AVENUE AT ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10029

28 October 1967

Dear Karel,

I very much appreciated your reprint of the "Hunter-Billroth-Wangenstein" article; indeed, I had intended to write and compliment you on writing such a succinct and interesting article, the length of which did not reflect the large amount of research and planning which must have been involved in preparing it. Surely, the Old Man must have been quite pleased with such a tribute. I have on several occasions told O.H.W. that I thought you best qualified to write his biography. I imagine that you have been accumulating material all along for that purpose, and look forward to seeing the result in print.

By now you must doubtless have a very active practice, and you and your family must at long last enjoy the fruits of those long years of waiting and self-sacrifice. I truly envy you . . . up to a point. You

are still, in my opinion (and certainly in that of others,) academic timber. Having myself drifted from the academic mainstream, I know only too well how difficult it is to return to it, and I hope that you will not eventually find yourself in a position of relinquishing creativity because of the demands of private practice. As O.H.W.'s influence fades, (as it unavoidably must,) you may find yourself increasingly hamstrung in the finding of opportunities. Perhaps I am wrong in this impression, or interpreting matters too subjectively.

Although I am busy in research and some clinical work in Charlie Bailey's organization, my longing for the medical center milieu is very strong. As you know, Walt Hillehei is to become the Head of Surgery at Cornell in a few days. This, to my mind, offers a new possibility to explore. Naturally, Walt won't be able to fully apprise his staff requirements until he has been in the Chair for a few months. Hopefully, there may be a slot for me in that Department.

When are you and Mary coming out this way?
I'd enjoy learning of your progress.

Warmest regards,
David