

UNIVERSITÄT BERN
THEODOR KOCHER INSTITUT

3000 BERN, den April 21, 1970

Freiestrasse 1
Tel. 23 43 22

Karel B. Absolon, MD
Cardiopulmonary Institute
Methodist Hospital
P.O. Box 5999

Dallas, Texas 75222

U S A

Dear Sir,

In your letter of March 25th to the university of Berne you asked for informations about Prof. Theodor Kocher. Here are some indications of his activities from 1865 to 1872.

Theodor Kocher accomplished his medical studies at the University of Berne early in 1865 with his doctoral thesis and an excellent final examination (summa cum laude). He had worked out his thesis "Die Behandlung der croupösen Pneumonie mit Veratrum Präparaten" under the supervision of Prof. A. Briemer the internist of the medical faculty at that time. In March 1865 Briemer was offered a chair in Zurich, which he accepted. Kocher followed him as an assistant. But in autumn of the same year he left Zurich for a journey through Europe to improve his medical knowledge. He went first to Berlin, where he met the surgeon Langenbeck, then he stayed in London until July 1866. He was impressed by the surgeons Th. Backer-Brown, Thomas Spencer-Wells and Paget. It is probably there that he decided to specialize in surgery. Finally he went to Paris to see the surgeons Auguste Nélaton, Aristide Verneuil. He also met Louis Pasteur. In October 1866 he was back in Berne as an assistant with Prof. Lücke, the newly appointed surgeon. Kocher worked with him till September 1869 and introduced Lister's antiseptic methods into the hospital with success. He then practised by himself until he accepted the chair of surgery at the university of Berne in March 1872.

I hope this information can be useful to you.

Sincerely yours

P. v. Tavel

(Prof. P. v. Tavel)