

Excerpt from  
Confidential Report to Trustees  
October, 1937

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McGill Univ  
Neurology  
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MONTREAL NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE

The largest single contribution so far made by the Foundation in the field of psychiatry was for the establishment of the Montreal Neurological Institute in McGill University. In 1932, the Trustees appropriated \$232,652 towards the cost of a building and its equipment, \$100,665 towards the expenses of teaching and research in neurology, neurosurgery and the physiology and pathology of the nervous system during the two-year period of planning and construction, and \$1,000,000 towards the permanent endowment of this teaching and research. The proposed Institute included high values both in men and in ideas; its location in Canada gave promise of influence throughout the English-speaking world. The record of the first three years of operation has been distinctly encouraging.

The department of neurology at McGill was for years a subdepartment of medicine. Under the circumstances, only a moderate amount of teaching and research could be done. Teaching was improved by the appointment of two clinical professors in 1922, but little progress was made in scientific research and the practice of neurology until 1928. In that year Dr. Wilder Penfield and Dr. William V. Cone were called from Columbia University and the Presbyterian Hospital. Reorganization of the whole department of neurology and neurosurgery took place, the two being combined into an independent department with Dr. Penfield as chairman.

Immediately following his appointment, Dr. Penfield was granted a special Foundation fellowship for a survey of neurological institutes in Europe. As a result, he became convinced that in no other branch of medicine

was clinical organization of more importance than in the study and treatment of nervous and mental diseases and that in no other group of diseases was there greater need for specialized study. He proposed the establishment of an institute as a center of teaching, treatment, and research in this field. Three years of discussion and negotiation - not only between the University and Foundation officers but also between the University and the provincial government - took place before the plans were completely matured. In 1932, both the University and the government were prepared to meet their full undertakings, and the Foundation acted under extremely favorable circumstances as to local support.

The building of the Neurological Institute, adjacent to the Royal Victoria Hospital, was opened late in 1934. It has proven to be admirably adapted to its purpose. A lecture amphitheatre, seating one hundred and twenty, occupies the basement and ground floor. The second and third floors are devoted to ward patients; on the fourth floor are rooms for private patients. The fifth floor, containing two operating theatres with associated rooms, separates the patients from the laboratories above. The sixth and seventh floors are given over to laboratories. Here research is carried on in general by men who continue an active interest in clinical work. At one time the plans for the building were considered ambitious. However, not only have the hospital beds in the Institute been fully used - during 1936 their occupancy was 96 per cent - but the resources of the Royal Victoria have been frequently utilized. In 1936 the total number of patients cared for by the department was 985, of whom 877 were admitted directly to the Institute. In addition, through the outpatient department of the Hospital, the Institute had contact with over 5,000 cases during the year.



Dr. Penfield is not only director of the Institute but also Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery in McGill University. The medical staff of the Institute numbers, in all, eighteen. Of these, eleven have appointments on the faculty of McGill University, two on the faculty of the Université de Montreal. The Institute has a house staff consisting of a resident and six physicians; the nursing staff numbers nineteen. During 1936, ten fellows were attached to the Institute.

Undergraduate teaching in neurology and neurosurgery is carried out in the fourth and fifth years of the medical course. In addition, there are two elective courses, one a weekly case presentation of diseases of the nervous system, the other a course on the fundamentals of neurology. Each week graduate students attend a colloquium in neuropathology conducted by Drs. Cone and Penfield, a meeting of the Montreal Neurological Society, and make complete ward rounds.

The research work is already well developed. The Neuropathological Laboratories, under Dr. Cone, have become a common meeting ground where many of the activities of the staff are correlated. In the Physiological Laboratories, under Dr. A. R. Elvidge, studies have been conducted which are connected with the physiology of the cerebral circulation, the mechanism involved in headache, epilepsy, and with the elucidation of other important neurological questions.

The Institute represents a well organized and concentrated attack on the difficult problem of nervous diseases. Mechanisms have been devised for the exchange of information between the three functions of therapy, research and instruction, and for its utilization in the advancement of neurology. The Institute is rightly regarded as the center of neurology and neurosurgery for Canada.