

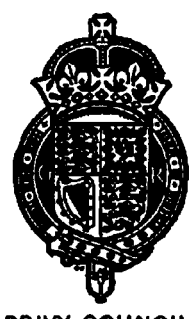
SEP 14 1931

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

401 A
Part Bunt for Medical
Research - Virus
Diseases.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH,
HAMPSTEAD,
LONDON, N.W. 3.

Telegrams: "MEDRESCO HAVER, LONDON."
Telephone: HAMPSTEAD 2232.



PRIVY COUNCIL

July 30th 1931
AG 4/17/31
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Good from Harwich
Germany.

Dear Dr Gregg

I believe that you are on holiday, & must apologize for worrying you with even a hint of business. I am not, as you will see, going to ask you for more than an informal indication, as to the likelihood of certain proposals being favourably received, so that I can go ahead & get the requisite details without undue delay.

I have been giving thought, with my colleagues, to the suggestion which you put before me at your visit, and we are preparing a scheme which I shall hope to put before you soon after the vacation period. Meanwhile, & rather unexpectedly, certain possibilities of promising additions to our team of workers as viruses have presented themselves; & it hardly seems right to delay their consideration until we can present a scheme of general expansion.

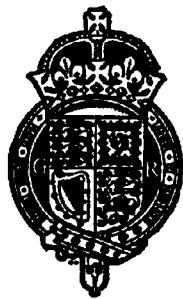
1. J. M. Burnet, of Melbourne (Australia) is a man on whom I have had my eye for some time past. He worked for a period, some years ago, at the Siler Institute, & then went back to Melbourne, where he has been producing some striking work on viruses at the Walker & Eliza Hall Institute. I had hesitated to throw any hint in his direction, lest I might be making an awkward gap in the staff of that Institute by attracting him over here again. My old friend & colleague Kellaway, the director, has now, however, written spontaneously to ask whether we can give Burnet an opportunity wider than that which Melbourne is likely to afford. He speaks of him as a man of brilliant originality, needing more chance of cooperation with other virus workers than Melbourne can give. I believe we should eventually do a real service to the progress of virus investigations in the whole world, if we could get Burnet over for even a few years, with a possibility of his ultimate return, with wider experience & equipment, to Australia.

2. R. H. Fischer, who has in recent years been on Kalle's staff at Frankfurt, seeks opportunity to come to us for about 18 months, particularly with a view to getting experience of virus research & later

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using it in Germany. He is in a different class from Knovet, in that he has not hitherto worked on viruses. On the other hand he has a good record of very sound & accurate work on more conventional immunology.

I have not yet made sufficient ^{personal} enquiries with regard to these men to be able to make proposals in financial detail. Fischer would probably be very pleased to get something of the order of £400 p.a. One of the usual travelling fellowships might be adequate for him; but I should ~~not~~ prefer not to leave the ^{possibility} chance of not getting his help to the chance of his choice, out of a possibly large field of applicants, by the Notgemeinschaft. We probably ought to offer Burnet a higher scale, more comparable to that of a man of Wilson Smith's experience (£700-800 p.a.).

There is one other direction in which our work could be quickly aided by a temporary addition to

personnel. Elford's filtration membranes have become so important a tool of our virus work that he is in danger of being turned into a membrane-maker, to his colleagues' odds, to the detriment of his chances of further advance. I should like to be able to free him presently to go to Sweden, to make contact with Svobberg's work on ultrafiltration. What I want for him is a young colleague, with good physico-chemical training, & a desire to turn it to biological use. I could easily pick up one in this country; but it occurs to me that, in the general interests of virus work, you might like to consider providing the means for us to have a suitable young American in this capacity.

All I want to put to you at present is the question, whether I should go ahead with inquiries in the directions indicated, pending our further consideration of a wider scheme. I do not want to give you the idea that we shall be worrying you with a number of minor & successive applications. On the other hand, I thought you might wish to know that, in the all-important matter of increasing our personnel for this work, there are certain favourable possibilities open at the moment, which we might lose by deferring action until other proposals are ripe. Will you let me have your general view?

I hope you are making good holiday.

Yours sincerely
H. A. Paley