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Madison 5, Wisconsin

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Dr. Stuart Mudd  
Department of Microbiology  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Mudd:

Thank you very much for your invitation to join the symposium at the next SAB meeting. I regret that for a number of reasons I will not be able, and had not planned to attend the symposium. It promises to be quite interesting nevertheless.

I am also writing to ask an urgent and intimate personal favor. The occasion of my visit to Philadelphia, when I gave an impromptu talk at the University, was my father's grave illness. He had a cerebro-vascular accident on Monday Sept. 28 which proved to be a massive right capsular hemorrhage of unknown etiology. My parents have been living in N. Phila. during the past few years, and he was taken to the Temple University Hospital, which is conveniently close to their home. Dr. Michael Scott of their Neurosurgical Department has been managing the case; on Thursday evening (just after my lecture) he decided to intervene and remove the clot, which he did with remarkable success. My father's immediate recovery was slow but essentially uneventful except for a continued bronchitis which necessitated leaving an open tracheotomy till very recently. Throughout most of this time (2 mos.) he has been under prescribed special nursing, but Dr. Scott apparently feels that he is ready to be discharged. He has, however, a profound left hemiplegia: the last I could learn, no function at all could be elicited in the upper extremity, but there was a trace at the left hip. It is obvious that he will need special convalescent care. He is only in his mid-fifties and it would be shameful to overlook any reasonable effort at rehabilitation, at least to where he might be able to walk. He has been, as you may know, a rabbi; while the physical demands of his profession need not be strenuous, it may be too much to hope he will be able to return to it. You can imagine that he has not been able to earn more than his daily bread at his profession; my mother has also been working, as a Hebrew School teacher, from preference as much as economic necessity. My younger brother (about 14) still lives at home.

I do not mean to lay my personal burdens on your shoulder, but these facts are of some relevance to the next point. Dr. Scott and Dr. Baier had mentioned a Rehabilitation Institute at the University of Pennsylvania as a possible place for further care. It has been very difficult to keep in touch with them (except upon my personal visits when I could get away between classes) and they have put the burden of further decisions and arrangements on my mother, who is quite unable to cope with them. I want to ask you if you can get me any information on this Institute, whether it would be a reasonable place for my father's immediate needs in his circumstances, what might be done to facilitate his admission-- and I will have to ask what the likely fees and charges would be. I would not bother you with this, but I hardly know where else to turn for friendly advice. If you can suggest any alternative ways with coping with this problem, please let me know. I will be very happy to hear from you

by phone (collect of course) at home (CE-3-2968) or my lab (AL-5-3311, Ext. 2318)  
if you have anything you would prefer to communicate in that way.

I am sorry that I did not have more time for visiting when I was at the  
U., but I am sure the reasons were appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg