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January 28, 1959

VISIT TO VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY - January 22, 1959 (WHOLE BODY COUNTER)

SYMBOL: BMD:CWS

We had a very pleasant visit with Dr. G. E. Meneely and Dr. R. T. Lagemann. They showed us the building which has been constructed by the University of Vanderbilt to house the whole body counter. The foundation and deck of the building are in and the walls are up to the level of where the roof will be. In other words, it is now ready to move in by crane the heavy steel plate that will be part of the "iron" room. The aerial photograph accompanying this memo shows by a red "X" where the whole body counter will be located. Of course, it will be on the first floor and will have an opening into one of the hallways so that patients can be wheeled in directly from the wards. The iron fabrication itself is almost ready to be moved from the bridgeworks where it is being constructed to the university.

The building to house the unit will cost about \$25,000 when completed. The "iron" room when completely assembled and in place will have cost \$23,000. They have a 256 channel analyzer at a cost of approximately \$20,000. They had planned to buy a smaller model but received a \$5,000 check from U. S. Steel toward the project and put this with AEC money to buy the larger analyzer. The story connected with this is that they asked U. S. Steel to furnish the iron for the room. But, they said they never gave away iron, they only sold it, but would a \$5,000 check help.

We saw a group of mathematicians and physicists working on the analyzer and every place we went we saw physicists and biophysicists working on various parts of the equipment such as the crystal, the mechanism for handling and moving the crystal, etc. I was convinced that progress was being made. They were not very happy with the word that they would have only \$22,000 for operating and \$8,000 for equipment but I gather will be able to make out some way.

They seem to me to have a fairly clear concept of the research program they wish to do there. It certainly is not one of measuring "lettuce" but of working with actual patients in connection with studies of various kinds. Frankly, I was very favorably impressed.

cc: B.Hower

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