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| RECORDS SERIES TITLE | Calif. Univ. President Carres. Papers | |
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| FOUND BY/DATE FOUND | R. Landauer 11/23/95 | |

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SAN FRANCISCO: MEDICAL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

May 26, 1950

Francis Scott Smyth, M. D.
Dean of the School of Medicine

Dear Dean Smyth:

Regarding the status of Doctor John H. Lawrence on the School of Medicine faculty, I did not concur with the other members of the promotion committee in recommending his promotion to the professorship of experimental medicine.

Some years ago when he came up for promotion to the associate professorship we did not think he was qualified as Associate Professor of General Medicine and recommended that he be promoted with a title in experimental medicine. Had a promotion not been advocated on the Berkeley campus at that time I would not have made a recommendation for promotion. However, to equalize the titles in the two divisions we finally acquiesced in that promotion.

It should be clearly understood that we have not been satisfied that Doctor Lawrence has personally made outstanding contributions in internal medicine or experimental medicine. His group collectively have, however, shown ability to organize research studies and secure support for their projects.

During recent years there has been an increasing lack of the spirit of cooperation with our division in which Doctor Lawrence and Doctor John W. Gofman hold appointments. Clinical studies have been undertaken without consultation and without the benefit of the resources of our clinic and staff which are readily available. Out-patient clinics have been established on the Berkeley campus and a metabolic unit has been established at the Cowell Memorial Hospital, contrary to our advice and judgment, which tend to dilute our joint effort and dissipate funds which should be used to promote the interests of medical research in the School of Medicine.

The recent publicity given to the work of Doctor Gofman in Doctor Lawrence's laboratory, which may be of great scientific importance, has caused us some embarrassment. The clinical aspects of this problem and the public relations aspect of the work are matters which are the concern of the Division of Medicine. At no time has Doctor Lawrence or Doctor Gofman consulted me about their publications or their plans although we would be ready to provide the clinical facilities to aid in this work. I assume they are establishing a clinic in Berkeley to undertake this side of their studies.

The crux of the matter is whether the University of California is establishing a branch of the School of Medicine in Berkeley with independent resources and facilities including wards, out-patient clinics, etc. or whether the clinical and experimental aspects of this work are to be carried on as an integral part of the Division of Medicine where these two workers held appointments.

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| NOTES | and Div. Med. Physics | 25 of 92 |
| FOUND BY/DATE FOUND | R. Langdon | 11/23/65 |

SAN FRANCISCO: MEDICAL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Francis Scott Smyth, M. D.

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May 26, 1950

The present situation is unsatisfactory and should be clarified at the earliest possible moment.

These are the chief reasons why I am not in favor of the promotion of Doctor John H. Lawrence.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Kerr
Wm. J. Kerr, M. D.
Professor of Medicine
Chairman, Division of Medicine

WJK:mec

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