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May 31, 1932

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman
P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

I thank you heartily for your kind letter of May 28th and the sympathy you extend us in our battle for Culture. The moral support and sympathy of our legion of friends have given us the needed assistance to stand up for our great cause which we have at heart. But, as you have seen from the papers, we have been assaulted by a self-appointed committee of greedy bankers - the common enemy of our people, and the cause of our depression of today. We are up in a holy fight, and shall go to the limit to win, because if this committee of "respectable racketeers," as qualified by outstanding leaders of culture and education of our country, is backed by millions of which every cent is covered with sorrow and blood, of victims, we are backed by the noble cause of Culture and Aspiration to serve an ideal. We do have faith in our mission and know that the power which backs us will conquer the dark power backing those despoilers who lay their hands now on educational institutions and churches. It was so good to hear from you and to know of your sympathy for our cause. We are confident in every way that we will win.

I was indeed sorry not to be able to see you before you left for Europe, and am anticipating with much pleasure to see you on your return in October.

We are sending you under separate cover some of our literature, and appreciate your interest in sending our leaflets to Mr. Fels. Thank you so much, also, for all the valuable scientific data and information that you gave me in your letter. We will of course be delighted to send you Volume II of the Journal as soon as we receive this volume from India.

Wishing you a happy journey and looking forward to hearing from you, and seeing you again, I am
greetings, With heartiest

Yours most cordially,

Vice-President

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May 31, 1932

Mr. Samuel S. Fels
73rd Street and Woodland Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Fels:

In one of his letters to me Dr. F.E. Hoffman mentioned you in connection with research work in the field of cancer, speaking of your interest and knowledge in this field.

It gives me great pleasure to send you some of our literature, and I shall be very glad to give you any other information which you might like to have. I have just returned a few months ago from the East where I have spent almost three years in India and Tibet, at the headquarters of our Institute.

Should you be in New York in the near future, it would give me great pleasure to have you visit our Museum.

It was a great privilege for me to have met Dr. Hoffman and discuss with him points of common interest to us in the field of research work.

Yours sincerely,

Vice-President

Copy

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FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN
Consulting Statistician

P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

June 1, 1932.

Miss Esther Lichtmann,
Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

It was certainly kind of you to reply at some length to my recent letter. The two enclosed articles have been read with much interest and sympathy. But I feel that you will somehow survive your present tribulations and that better days are ahead of you and those associated with you.

What you say about the banking attitude conforms to my own experience. Bankers are always extremely polite and considerate when they loan money on good security but difficult, if not impossible to get along with in case of trouble. A receivership always affords opportunities for wrongful gains difficult to resist. But you have a magnificent institution and I feel that New York will stand by you.

I am leaving tomorrow and shall be away for four months but your problems will often be in my mind and if anything should develop I wish you would let me know in care of this office. I have become deeply interested in your plans and projects and would consider myself most fortunate in course of time to be of some real service to you. I shall make an effort to see you in the Fall soon after my return.

With best wishes and hopes for your future and the satisfactory settlement of your difficulties, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Frederick L. Hoffman.

June 13, 1932

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman
P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

Many hearty thanks for your very kind letter of June 1st. The sympathy and interest of friends in our strenuous battle is most precious and I have greatly appreciated your very kind lines. We believe firmly with you that we shall "survive the present tribulations" and we are doing everything in our power to stand up for our cause of Culture. I am a firm believer in the formula, "Death of victory," but as I do not believe in annihilation, there is only one goal ahead, and that is Victory.

I have enjoyed immensely your views on the "polite bankers" with whom it is impossible to get along in case of trouble. Somebody spoke of them the other day as "Looters in limousines."

The New York Times carried on June 9th the clipping which I am enclosing herewith and which will be of interest to you. Knowing of your high authority in the scientific world and of your interest in our Himalayan Research Institute, I am addressing myself to you with the plea to recommend us to this Foundation, to whom we have appealed for assistance to enable us to carry out our vast plans of research work. I am addressing myself to you as to the highest authority, and as to a Friend, whom I ask for a great favor.

I have read with much interest your enlightened article in the Times on suicides and their causes in America. How all-embracing are your views on this terrible scourge!

I was indeed very sorry not to have seen you before your departure to Europe and am looking forward with anticipation and pleasure to seeing you on your return to the States. But I shall keep you au courant of all further developm With heartiest greetings and best wishes to you,

Yours cordially,

Vice-President

E. J. D.

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Excerpts from Letter of May 12, 1932 from Dr. F. L. Hoffman
to Miss Lichtmann.

"I therefore will be glad to receive from you the new issue of your Journal when it becomes available. I wish you would send a copy of your publication explanatory of your laboratory and research station to Mr. Samuel S. Fels, 73rd Street and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, who is likewise very much interested in the subject matter of our correspondence. If you have an extra copy of your magazine send that also. Mr. Fels is unusually well informed for a layman and has an interest in workers like myself who play a lone hand in cancer research".

Excerpt from letter of May 28, 1932.

"Will you please send two or three extra copies of your booklets, Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum and a New Outpost of Science. I sent my only copies to Mr. Fels of Philadelphia who is very much interested in your plans.

Excerpt from letter of May 3, 1932.

"I am certainly obliged to you for the publications which you have been good enough to send me and which I have been reading with exceptional interest. I have been particularly impressed with the first issue of the Journal which contains some very interesting discussions. It opens some entirely new viewpoints to me which are both stimulating and encouraging. I feel that the research institute that you have established will offer extraordinary opportunities which I am sure will be realized in due course.

I am fully convinced that great help can be derived from a study of racial habits and methods of living in remote regions, as yet out of close contact with the white population, and assist towards a solution of the cancer problem. That will not be solved for many years for all biochemical investigations require time and patience for results. I wish I were free to enter into your problems whole heartedly and with adequate support. In any event I cherish the hope that sooner or later I may actively become interested in your projects and I shall certainly aim towards that objective even though for the time being it is but a remote ideal.

Regarding cancer in North India, I may refer to the work of Dr. Ernest F. Neve on Kangri cancer in Kashmir, which to me is one of the most fascinating though much neglected fields of study. As I recall it Dr. Neve has performed some two thousand operations for kangri cancer but no exhaustive study

For Dr. F. L. Hoffman

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of the subject seems ever to have been made. You may, of course
be familiar with the following articles, but I give the reference
as a matter of convenience.

7
Oct. 15, 1932.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann,
Roerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

I do not know if I acknowledged your letter of June 13th but if not you must blame my inability to carry on my correspondence during my long trip. I have just returned and hope to make good on renewing our interesting correspondence and express the hope that some time in the near future we may arrange for a conference.

I recently had a letter from Mrs. Poland of South Brownsville, Pennsylvania, who mentions her inspiring visit to the Museum and the deep impression made upon her by Mr. Roerich's paintings.

I hope in the meantime the troubles to which you refer in your letter of June 13th have been adjusted. I would be very glad indeed to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman

P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Mass.
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8
SAMUEL S. FELS
39th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia

November 4, 1932.

Master Institute
of
Roerich Museum,

Mrs. Sina Lichtmann, Vice-President,
310 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 31st in regard to my becoming interested in helping along financially the important work you are doing.

At the present time, I am interested in quite a number of matters, and have come to the conclusion that I must not add any more to the list for the time being.

I have looked over the pamphlet you sent me on the Roerich Museum, and am rather astonished that I have heard so little of it. Am especially interested in your Department of Medical Research in connection with its research into the cure of cancer.

If this Department has issued any results of its work, I should be glad to have the pamphlets.

Shall make it a point, when in New York, to run in and get better acquainted with the work.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Samuel S. Fels

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Konnu's memo rubina Comtein na nussan Mr. Fels'a

9

November 7, 1932

Mr. Samuel Fels
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Fels:

I have received your kind letter of November 4th and wish to express my appreciation of your interest in our department of Medical Research in Cancer which is at present being conducted by our Himalayan Research Institute in the Kulu Valley, India. I am sending you under separate cover a recent issue of our Urusvati Journal together with two pamphlets of this scientific Institute which is being conducted personally by Professor Nicholas Roerich in India.

I would like to bring to your attention some of the facts which are the result of the research work in cancer during the recent period. On pages 156 and 157 of our Journal, copy of which I am sending, you will find under the heading Biochemical Laboratory, data on the research work already accomplished. In fact, the Annual Report of 1931 in this issue will give you a great deal of information.

In addition to this, I might say that the building of the Biochemical Laboratory has been completed except for the installation of Cold Room Equipment and Hydro-Electric Plant. From 1932 up to the present date a fine collection of Tibetan medical books and valuable medical drugs has been made. Field beds are prepared for sowing medical herbs for the purpose of investigation. Outside of the Kulu Valley there are regions in Tibet which are known to be immune against cancer. Cancer has been known to exist in the Kulu Valley, where our Institution is situated, and then to have disappeared for a long period of years.

The great collection of Tebetan medical books which is being assembled and which is being translated into English now by Dr. George Roerich, (Professor Roerich's son) a well-known orientalist, together with learned Llamas, gives us the assurance that the ancient Tibetan medicines successfully healed this disease.

In all, there are over 400 institutions, universities, libraries and foundations which are in active exchange of publications with our Research Institute. Harvard University, the University of Grenoble, as well as noted scientists such as Dr. Felix Lukin in Riga, have offered and are giving their active cooperation in the testing of biochemical materials.

November 7, 1932

Mr. Samuel Fels.....2

This work, thus far with its results, gives us the confidence to believe that discoveries can be made in the field of Cancer Research which may be of great benefit to humanity. This has been made possible through the donations and support of a few noble friends of our Institution, one of whom is Mrs. Lionel Sutro, whom I mentioned to you in my previous letter. If it were not for these donors we could not have achieved that which we have achieved thus far. At present, however, the funds given by these donors are exhausted, and as I have written to you in my previous letter, we are facing a serious problem, and are straining all our efforts in this distressing financial period. We do not wish to retrench in any manner in our activities in Cancer Research, as we feel, receiving direct information from our leader, Professor Nicholas de Roerich, that we may be on the eve of important discoveries due to the study and analysis of Tibetan pharmacopoeia.

Therefore at this time we are greatly in need of support, and I am turning to you, Mr. Fels, because I feel that our work, guided by Professor Roerich and directed towards the service of humanity, warrants support.

I shall be extremely grateful to hear from you and it will give me and the Trustees of Roerich Museum, a great deal of pleasure to welcome you at our Museum when you will be in New York.

Most sincerely yours,

Vice-President

COPY

11
P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Mass.
November 10, 1932

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann, Vice President
Roeper Museum
310 Riverside Drive
New York City

Dear Miss Lichtmann;

Thank you for your letter of November 7th just received.

I do not know any one connected with the proposed International Foundation in Philadelphia and I feel a letter of mine would be of no value. At the same time the plan seems attractive and might be well worth while following up.

If you wish to have an interview with Mr. Samuel Fells, 73rd Street and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, it is only necessary for you to mention my name in your letter and make an appointment. He is a very affable person and deeply interested in the dietary aspect of cancer research. He is supporting a student of the subject in Philadelphia, who impressed me as quite competent along certain lines. You might say to Mr. Fells, if you see him, that I am heartily in favor of the studies you propose to make on the subject in Central Asia. I have just returned from Tunis, Algiers and Morocco where I made brief inquiries into the dietary customs of the natives, apparently almost free from malignant tumors.

During my visit abroad I spend a few days at the Rowett Institute of Nutrition near Aberdeen, Scotland. Professor Orr has a clear grip of the question of coordinating nutritional studies to disease. He has not specialized in cancer but his observations are of great value, and he agrees with me that general disease studies among primitive tribes should be made in different parts of the world. I will try to send you a paper of mine on Causes of Death in Primitive Races contributed to the International Population Congress in Rome, which you may find of interest.

The question of nutrition has recently, of course, been completely altered in its various aspects as the result of the discovery of vitamins or excessive food factors. This important question has recently been dealt with from an entirely new point of view in a publication of the Medical Research Council of the British Government, demanding close consideration.

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It should be possible to obtain good data from the Kashmir Hospital and also from the American Christian Hospital in Meshed, Persia. In 1930 the Kashmir Hospital treated 74 cases of Kangri Burn Cancer, which is a subject with a small literature of its own.

I have just learned that a Mrs. Ben Weitman is living at the Roerich Museum. She is engaged in teaching; as far as I know has only a few New York connections, her home being in Chicago. If you have a chance I wish you would look her up and make her acquaintance.

I am just about to leave for Birmingham and New Orleans and will not be in New York until early in December. As soon as I know definitely what my plans will be in December, I will let you know. It was a great pleasure to hear from you and I would be very glad to hear from you frequently in the future. I somehow feel that you can benefit from my experience and that we could work up some project jointly with good results, particularly if we could interest Mr. Fels from a financial point of view. I am at present working upon a report on my European investigations this summer which will be ready in about a month.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Frederick L. Hoffman

December 17, 1932.

Dear Mr. Fels:

I take this occasion to thank you most heartily for the gracious interview you have given me. It was indeed a great pleasure to meet you, for in these days of world perturbations, friendliness and a kind smile are true treasures of the spirit.

Dr. Hoffman must be back by now from Birmingham and New Orleans, and I have written to him about my most pleasant and most interesting visit with you. In his last letter of November 10th, Dr. Hoffman wrote in such warm terms about you, and added to the warm lines about you, the following:

"You may say to Mr. Fels if you see him that I am heartily in favor of the studies you propose to make on the subject in Central Asia."

I hope that you will honor us with a visit to the Museum in the near future.

With heartiest greetings and best wishes for the coming year,

Yours sincerely,

EJL:JS

December 17, 1932.

C O P Y

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

Thank you for your very kind and gracious letter of November 10th. I have not replied earlier as you informed me in your letter that you will be absent until the early part of December. I shall never be able to express to you all our gratitude and deep appreciation for your interest in our work and your enlightened advice.

Last week I visited Mr. S. Fels. Indeed your name opened for me the friendliest door, and I am confident that the friendly hand of Mr. Fels is ready to help, should you give the sign of approval of our work. My interview with Mr. Fels was most interesting. He spoke so highly of you, expressing his admiration for your work and personality. As you so graciously permitted me to tell to Mr. Fels, that you are in favor of our work, I mentioned it to him and he seemed to be highly interested in it. Mr. Fels was greatly interested in the diet and way of living of the part of the country where we are engaged in our scientific study, and I told him all the details I know of from my own experience, having lived three years amidst those tribes. Mr. Fels is indeed a kindly person as you described him, and we finished our most pleasant interview with the understanding that on your next visit to Mr. Fels, he will discuss with you the possibilities to assist us and should you advise him on the merits of carrying out our projects of cancer research work, he will consider to be of assistance. Needless to tell you, dear Dr. Hoffman, what great hope this has given us, knowing of your wonderful attitude towards our work. Should we be able to carry out our plans, your name will be cherished in the annals of our institutions and in our hearts as the great "Helper and Friend". Your indorsement of our plan will seem to be the deciding factor, for Mr. Fels has such great esteem for your high knowledge and judgment.

I have read with great interest of your experience abroad in the field of cancer research. Your views on nutrition questions and diet are so illuminating. I hope that we shall soon have the pleasure of your visit to the Museum. We will be greatly honored if you will stop at the Museum as our guest for the period of time which you contemplate spending in New York.

It will be such a great pleasure to see you again and hear your views on the problems and cures of cancer.

Thanking you from the bottom of my heart for all your help and interest and anticipating the great joy of seeing you soon again; with heartiest greetings,

Yours most sincerely,

E. J. L.

Frederick L. Hoffman
Consulting Statiscian

15
P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

December 20, 1932.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann, Vice President,
Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann;

It was a real pleasure to hear from you and at length under date of December 17th, with particular reference to the future of your Laboratory of Research. I had a letter from Mr. Fels regarding this matter and I have written him several lengthy communications in reply, in which I clearly emphasised the value of the work in which you are engaged or propose to engage. Unfortunately my actual understanding of the situation in India is somewhat vague and I could not make my letters as emphatic as would have been desirable. I have been guided more by the work that has been done in India thus far, particularly by Colonel R. McCarrison of the Pasteur Institute at Coonoor in South India. His address on Problems of Nutrition in India contributed to the Nutritional Abstract, July 1932, is an inspiring illustration of what is being done and suggestive of what requires to be done.

I have had in mind for several years a plan worked out in some detail of a nutritional survey in India with particular reference to malignant tumours. Thus far most nutritional work has been concerned with obvious deficiency diseases of immediate practical importance but this does not excuse the almost total neglect of the cancer situation which is one of absorbing interest although largely negative and suggestive of the relative rarity of cancer in certain native tribes. The dietary differences for different races, castes and tribes are so clearly marked that studies would be possible, particularly in Northern India where the racial situation is well understood. I have been guided in my own observations and conclusions by a book on The Native Races of Northern India by W. Crooke, published in 1907. I at one time owned other volumes of this series and they, of course, could be had when required.

It had been my intention to have seen you before this but unfortunately my last stay in New York was very short. I am about to leave on a trip to the Middle West to attend a meeting in Cincinnati and a conference in St. Louis, from which I shall not return until the first week in January. On my return, if I pass through New York, I will certainly try to see you, for I have written Mr. Fels that I hope to see him about the same time. In fact I have suggested to him that he ask you to come down to Philadelphia and join the meeting which might be very helpful.

Your enthusiasm, of course, is very encouraging. Mr. Fels is an extraordinary man of broad vision and generous disposition but he has back of him certain advisors whose viewpoints must be considered.

If you have any material concerning your laboratory and its plans for the future or anything that will help me to understand the local situation better, I wish you would send it at once to my home address as I can take it with me on my trip. It, no doubt, would be an advantage to stay at the Museum for a day or so, and I may avail myself of the invitation to do so. But I cannot come to New York before I go to Philadelphia, since I am going direct from here to Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, leaving on the 26th. If I write to Mr. Fels before leaving I will send you a carbon copy of my letter.

Assuring you of my sincere personal regards and with the best wishes of the season, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman

12
December 20, 1932.

Mr. Samuel S. Fels,
73rd St. & Woodland Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Fels:

Since my last letter to you was written I have reviewed the situation in India, particularly as presented in an extended paper on Problems of Nutrition in India, contributed to the Nutritional Abstract, July 1932, by Col. R. McCarrison, Director, Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, recognized as a foremost authority on the subject not only in India but throughout the world. Col. McCarrison, with whom I have been in occasional correspondence, has made some extraordinary studies of the distribution of certain diseases in India in their relation to nutrition although thus far he has not touched upon the question of malignant tumours. But the methods he has pursued should be applicable to the same purpose and I therefore will present to you some extracts from his paper with such observations as the facts call for. He introduces his remarks with the statement that,

"Throughout the whole of India the staple article of diet of the masses is a cereal grain of one kind or another --wheat, barley, millet, maize, rice--sometimes a mixture of two or more of them. Most of these grains are eaten whole; these are not subjected to any milling or refining process before use. The outer layers of the grain and embryo, containing valuable dietary constituents, are thus consumed with the endosperm. Rice is the single exception to this rule; though within recent years the use of white flour and white bread is spreading in the larger towns and cities. Rice is always subjected to some form of refining process, - - - As is well-known these processes reduce its nutritive value to a greater or a lesser degree."

He next points out that all these cereals differ in nutritive value but that all are deficient in certain food essentials, suitable protein, calcium, sodium, iron, phosphorus and certain vitamins. These deficiencies are greatest in whole rice and therefore this cereal is, generally speaking of much lower nutritive value than any of the others.

He next makes some interesting observations that investigations have led to the suspicion that the nutritive value of certain cereal grains, legumes and nuts, in common use in India, may depend to some extent on the conditions of soil, manure and irrigation, under which they are grown. This is a new point of view, suggestive of far reaching importance. Heretofore it has generally been assumed that the nutritive value of grains and vegetable foods generally was uniform, but that now they depend essentially upon the conditions stated which modify food values considerably. In other words, agricultural practices seem to have a definite relation to problems of nutrition in India.

He next takes up local variations in dietary practices in different parts of India, in part as follows:

"In the north of India -- Northwest Frontier Provinces, Punjab, Baluchistan and United Provinces - wheat is the principal cereal grown; though some rice, barley, maize or millet is also grown. Generally speaking, the races resident in these areas - Pathan, (Afridis, Waziris, Bajauris), Punjabis, Sikhs, Baluchis, Rajputs and Paharis --are wheat-eaters. Wheat is the staple article of their dietaries; the other cereals mentioned being merely adjuncts to it.

"A large amount of wheat is also grown in parts of Central India, Bombay and the Deccan; but in general the races resident in these localities, such as the Maharattas, use a diet of mixed cereals - usually wheat and rice.

"Towards the East, through Bihar to the coast of Bengal, all down the east and west coasts and throughout the Madras Presidency rice is the principal cereal grown; though in parts of these regions millet is also a considerable crop. But, for the most part, the races resident in these areas are rice-eaters".

Aside from the foregoing he observes that,

"Throughout the rest of India millet is the chief crop, and forms the staple article of diet of races --much as the Kanarese-- resident therein, who commonly use rice as a supplement to it. In parts of Travancore the staple article of diet is the tapioca root supplemented with rice".

Hence his first important conclusion that,

"As we pass from the north to the east, south-east, south-west and south of India there is thus a gradual fall in the nutritive value of the cereal grains forming the staples of the national diets, this fall reaching its lowest limit amongst the rice-eaters of the east and south. There is also a gradual fall in the amount of animal protein, animal fats, and vitamins entering into these diets. The races of the north are either milk-users or meat-eaters of both; while those of the south and east are both meat and milk sparingly and sometimes not at all".

He next considers the Pathans or meat-eaters who consume the flesh and fat of sheep and goats forming a principal constituent of their dietaries. They also use milk freely, chiefly in the form of buttermilk, curds and butter or ghee.

He next considers the Sikhs who are large users of milk and the products of milk, meat being only an occasional addition to their diet.

Third, he considers the Maharattas who also make free use of milk and milk products, an additional source of animal protein being eggs and fish.

He next considers the Bengalis, Kanarese and Madrassis who,

for the most part are vegetarians, although some of them do eat mutton or fish. Milk and milk products are less extensively used by them than by northern races. Therefore as the nutritive values of the cereal grains diminish there is also a diminution in the amount of animal protein ingested and in the level of protein metabolism attained by the races concerned. There is, too, a precipitate fall in the amount of vitamins A and B ingested by the races of the south as compared with those of the north.

On the basis of these observations he concludes that,

"Accompanying this gradual fall in the nutritive values of the national diets there is a gradual decline in stature, body-weight, stamina and efficiency of the people".

He quotes from a treatise on The Protein Element in Nutrition by McCay the statement that he emphasises

"The all-important influence exerted by food, and particularly protein, in determining the degree of muscular development, the general physical endowment, the powers of endurance and of resistance to disease, and, most important of all, the place a tribe or race has won for itself in manliness, courage and soldierly instincts."

I will not go into further details of this interesting discussion except to point out that malignant tumours are as likely as other diseases in India to depend upon variations in dietary practices. Overstimulating cellular activity or hindering such activity, or deficiencies particularly in the mineral constituents of the diet. All of this is worked out in considerable detail by Col. McCarrison but I will not burden this letter with the facts, except to quote the following statement.

"These experiences illustrate the great importance of food in relation to the physical efficiency and well-being of animals and men; the importance, also of a proper balance of the national diets of India with respect to animal protein, animal fat, vitamins and mineral elements; and the great value, as a health-promoting agency, of the lacto-vegetarian diet used by the people of the North of India, amongst whom are some of the finest physical specimens of mankind."

Hence his extremely important conclusion that,

"Our first problem of nutrition in India - What diet is most likely to maintain physical efficiency and health? --has thus been solved. It is a diet composed of any whole cereal grain or mixture of cereal grains, milk, the products of milk-butter, curds and buttermilk-legumes, green leafy vegetables, root vegetables, fruit and water, with meat occasionally."

To the foregoing I add his conclusion that in India rice is the poorest of all cereals for dietary purposes.

I have for a number of years been in occasional correspondence with Col. McCarrison and I have several of the publications of the Pasteur Institute suggestive of a line of procedure that should be followed in India with regard to dietary studies. As has been found useful in connection with goitre, stone in the bladder, beri beri, etc., this procedure would be increasingly useful in discovering the precise correlation in tumour incidence and dietary variations. Before any such study should be attempted a careful survey should be made of the hospital facilities in different parts of India, including Ceylon and the northermost regions of the country. A new census of India, including Ceylon and the northermost regions of the country. A new census of India for 1931 is in course of preparation and abstracts thereof have just been issued. The opportunity, therefore, was never more promising than at the present time provided, of course, the local investigation is based on a very careful preliminary survey of existing material not availableⁱⁿ this country but which can be had by correspondence.

I have for many years collected statistics and other data for the different provinces of India and the native states, all of which material has been presented to the Army Medical Library in Washington for permanent preservation. But in the event it would be required for my purpose it would all be sent to me for temporary use. The question therefore arises how far such an investigation as I have in mind could be coordinated to the proposed plans and purposes of the Biochemical Laboratory of the Himalayas Research Institute. If you would be at all inclined to consider supporting the work of the Institute, I would be very glad indeed to make an extended study of the present situation, which would involve no expense whatsoever.

I have been deeply impressed with some of the ideas that have been communicated to me by the Roerich Museum through Miss Lichtmann who has spent two or three years herself in Northern India and who speaks therefore from actual personal knowledge. Reports are available on the Punjab which would give an initial clue to the possibilities of extended studies in conformity to prevailing ideas for specialized research as are fostered by the Pasteur Institute in other parts of the country.

According to the announcement the Biochemical Laboratory has actually been completed and a small staff of experts has been or is being brought together. The project seems to me to be ideally prepared for just such work as we have in mind in connection with dietary studies bearing upon the problem of malignant tumors, and at the same time not ignoring correlated diseases of equal importance. I conclude this letter by repeating my own conclusion that in my judgment modern dietary problems are fundamental to the future progress of the white race. We have entered upon a totally new stage of bodily development as the result of enormous changes in food consumption, largely consisting of modified, adulterated, preserved, refrigerated, colored and otherwise altered food products, in all possibility wanting in normal growth-promoting vitamins as yet but vaguely perceived. I have just examined the first five volumes of Nutritional Abstracts issued by the Rowett Institute and the amount of research activity in this field is amazing but overspecialization is a disadvantage and it is difficult at times to coordinate different though

related lines of studies to essential purposes.

I am writing rather hurriedly in view of my preparations for my forthcoming trip to the Central West but I hope you will not misjudge the credit of my observation in anticipation of a more convincing and more strictly scientific report in the future. What I have tried to do has been to make clear to you my own scientific attitude on the matters and my positive conviction that India offers a field of extraordinary usefulness in connection with the cancer problem. But such an investigation as I have in mind would have a much wider range of importance in that it would touch upon other dietary aspects in their relation to diseases as would be inevitable in view of the broad viewpoint that would be assumed at the outset. In all research no one can prophesy definite results in advance for the spirit of research is one of fact finding, fact analysis and fact use as new truths are revealed by means of painstaking investigation.

All of which is respectfully submitted for the time being in anticipation of the pleasure of seeing you personally in the near future,

Very truly yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman

22
December 23, 1932

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman
Post Office Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

Thanks to you the New Year begins for us with the great hope to have our cherished plan of cancer research carried out. Glory to you!

Your letter of December 20th and the most illuminating report sent by you to Mr. Fels, touched me deeply. Your endorsement of our research work will enable us, I am confident with all my heart, to further our plans, and your guidance along the scientific line will be the most precious contribution to science, and to the cause which we have at heart.

I shall be delighted to come down to Philadelphia and join you and Mr. Fels at your meeting -- any time which will suit your convenience, will suit me.

As to our research work in India, as you know, the building of the Biochemical Laboratory with Cancer Research Department is completed. Professor Roerich has further donated a piece of land with a waterfall, for the instalment of the hydro-electric plant necessary for the biochemical research work. The field of research is extremely vast in the region where the headquarters of the Himalayan Research Institute are located, as it covers Northern Punjab and Western Tibet - a region which is known to be immune from cancer. The study of the problems of nutrition and diet in those regions would be of great interest to scientists. Of course we are not limited to any one locality, and our botanist has collected specimens in a vast area, from the plains to the mountain regions of India. Vast materials could be collected through investigation throughout the country.

We have in our possession an extensive collection of ancient Tibetan medicinal books, which are being translated now by Dr. Georges de Roerich in collaboration with a distinguished Tibetan scholar, Lama Mingyur. Besides, our collection of medicinal herbs and plants sent to the N.Y. Botanical Garden and the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, have disclosed many species unknown to the West. We have also an extensive pharmacological collection of drugs and

herbs in usage by lama doctors in Tibet, which would make an exceedingly interesting study.

I am looking forward with much joy and anticipation to seeing you personally and giving you many details in reference to vital factors for this research work. Your report to Mr. Fels was deeply appreciated. You have set forth the most significant factors of the nutrition values and problems in Ind a; I read it with profound interest. I shall never be able to express to you sufficiently my gratitude and deepest appreciation of your interest and assistance to our projects. I shall deem it the greatest privilege to be able to be of any service to you.

I was so happy to hear that you will honor us by stopping at the Museum as our guest. We are looking forward with much anticipation to seeing you soon.

With my best wishes for a happy New Year, and heartiest thoughts of gratitude,

Yours very sincerely,

Vice-President

HOTEL GOVERNOR CLINTON
7th Ave. & 31st St.
N.Y. City.

My dear Miss Lichtmann: I enclose reply to December 24, 1932.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

Thank you indeed for your kindness to send me your latest publication. I felt thrilled on reading the diary of the 1931 expedition. What could not be done through a medical-sociological expedition into this wonderland of primitive life and unusual customs and their bearing upon disease and longevity?

I expect to discuss your proposals to Mr. Fels very early in January on my return from the Central West. I have submitted to him a detailed plan for the study of cancer in Northern India with control data for Southern and Central India. Corresponding information should be collected for Ceylon and Br Malaya also the Dutch East Indies and possibly Western China and Japan. I am deeply interested and shall do my best. I realize however that my plan may seem fantastic but its sound to the core. Properly financed I would be prepared to go out to Northern India for say six to eight months a year for two or three years. I ask for no compensation but would expect to be reimbursed for my expense. After I have seen Mr. Fels I shall arrange to see you at the Museum or at this hotel. I shall be grievously disappointed if nothing comes of my project to coordinate your work to mine. You impress me as ideally fitted to adjust your own plans to mine. Working with you would not only be a privilege but a real pleasure. Like yourself I have always had a leaning toward the unusual and neglected by paths of science leading towards the higher reaches of knowledge and ultimate TRUTH. Your projects are inspiration and yet practical. What could you not do with adequate funds? Anyway I am going to do my very best to support whatever project you may have placed before Mr. Fels with the hope that substantial aid may be forthcoming. Mr. Fels himself is a truly remarkable man but I don't know much about his advisers whom he is sure to consult.

I would perhaps be of help to me if you were to write me in some detail about your own plans as given to Mr. Fels during your recent visit. Did you ask for any specific sum? If so how much? Also please state whether asked aid for any specific purpose. Of course my only suggestion to him has been in the matter of cancer investigation in Northern India in cooperation with your laboratory in the Punjab. He is really interested in the study of Cancer ~~in primitive races~~ in relation to diet and nutrition. In my conversations with him I have emphasized the value of a study of cancer in selected primitive races apparently free from the disease or subject only types of cancer of the skin or sarcomas. I feel that this question must be kept in the foreground with Mr. Fels to retain his interest.

Hence a letter from you to me would be helpful. Address your reply by January 1st to me c/o Hotel Coronado St. Louis Mo. marked HOLD. I am due in St. Louis by the 31st of December and my stay three days.

C O P Y

New York City, Dec. 26th, 1932.

Dear Miss Lichtman:

Have just received your appreciative letter of the 23rd. Sincerely hope to make good on your expectations. But it will not be an easy matter with a man of Mr. Fel's viewpoints. Yet he is our friend and I shall see him on the 3rd or 4th. He writes me that for the time being he feels that our forthcoming conversations should be with myself only. Later on I shall arrange for both of us to see him.

Have read with exceptional interest the discussion of Lesithin in the Museum Review Vol II. Wish you would send a marked copy to

Dr. Shaw Mackenzie

Ross Institute, Putney Heath
London.

He is an outstanding authority and a most remarkable man whose aid in the future may prove invaluable. Say to him that the copy is sent at my suggestion.

What I have in mind is a personal visit on my own part to India including all parts but terminating at your laboratory where I would expect to stay a month to study the problem on the spot. I would plan six months of preliminary study of the opulation and caste questions assisted by research workers all over India where I have excellent connections. We must study the subject both from the positive as well as the negative point of view. That is the races or tribes who have cancer as well as those that have not. I discussed this matter last summer with Sir Leonard Rogers who knows India like a book and who has studied the autopsy records of deceased patients in Calcutta, holding that cancer in that region is as common as in England. With this view I can't agree. Hence there are excellent opportunities in Ceylon for the study of Betel Nut cancer and in Kashmir for the study of Kangri cancer. Neve has seen 2000 cases. In the south of India is the Pasteur Institute in charge of Col. McGarrison the foremost authority on Nutrition in India. I am in frequent contact with him also. Of course the cooperation of the India Research Fund Assn. should be secured but that would not be difficult. I would plan for a weeks stay at New Delhi before going to Coorg. Then too, I would get in touch with the Director of the Indian Medical Service to get letters of introduction to local officials throughout India. It all helps. I also would expect to visit the Central Research Institute at Kassauli to gain a solid background for my proposed work in Northern India and adjacent parts. Of course just now this is largely blind conjecture but the difficulties are not new to me.

Am just about to leave for Boston to make a train for the West. You can reach me at the Hotel Coronado, St. Louis, Mo. up to January 2nd. Best personal regards and wishes for 1933.

Very sincerely yours

HIF

New York City, Dec. 28th, 1932.

Dear Miss Chapman:

Have just received your appreciative letter of the 23rd. Sincerely hope to make good on your expectations. But it will not be an easy matter with a man of Mr. Bell's viewpoint. Let me as our friend and I shall see him on the 3rd or 4th. He writes me that for the time being he feels that our forthcoming conversation should be with myself only. Later on I shall arrange for both of us to see him.

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December 30, 1933

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman
Hotel Coronado
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

I have received your kind and most interesting letters of December 24th and 26th, and hasten to reply so as to reach you at the address you have indicated.

Your great moral support is the most precious contribution to us. How wonderful it would be if your plans would co-incide with our and we could conduct the scientific work together under such an enlightened guidance as yours, under the auspices of our Himalayan Research Institute. Your high ideals in the fields of science, leading through knowledge to the Ultimate Truth, are ideals that we also cherish. We have so greatly admired your path as a scientist - a lone pioneer in this vast realm.

How dear of you to undertake to discuss our proposals with Mr. Fels. At my interview with Mr. Fels I laid before him the plan at large for the cancer research work. We spoke at length about the possibilities, and the diet of the people. I have told Mr. Fels that the biochemical building (towards the construction of which a donor gave us \$10,000, and the land for which was donated by Professor and Mme. de Roerich), is completed. I told Mr. Fels also of our further need to install a hydro-electric plant; the need of equipment for the biochemical laboratory; and of provision for a biochemist. I did not specify any sums. We know, however, approximately how much the installation of the hydro-electric plant and the equipment would cost (about \$3,000 for the plant), and should you wish any further estimates we could give you approximate figures. It is understood that any sums given by donors for any specific purpose, are applied by our institution exclusively for the purposes specified by the donor, and, of course, that financial reports are submitted.

Mr. Fels might have read in the papers the present litigation in regard to ~~one~~ of our properties on Riverside Drive. If this question should arise during your interview, you may definitely assure Mr. Fels that the litigation has nothing whatever to do with the continuance of the educational and scientific work of the Boerich Museum, and that our property in India, as well as other properties which the Boerich Museum owns in other cities, have nothing to do with the property. As you may know, we are chartered under the educational laws of the State of New York, and cooperate closely with the Board of Education of New York.

I shall be happy to give you any further information you may desire. I wish to assure you, dear Dr. Hoffman, that we will cooperate with you with our entire heart and spirit to the fullest extent. We would not want to tax Mr. Fels with large sums, but we will be deeply appreciative of his assistance, which would enable us to begin this great cancer research work.

Thank you very much for the address of Dr. Mackenzie, to whom I am forwarding the copy of our Journal, Volume II, as requested by you.

I have read with great enthusiasm your thoughts about plans for an extensive research work throughout India. There certainly is no greater authority than you to carry out such work.

I wish again to extend to you the invitation for you to stop at the Museum on your proposed visit to New York. We shall be greatly honored to have you with us.

With all my heartiest thoughts and best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

Vice- President

January 6, 1933.

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN
Consulting Statistician

Miss Esther Lichtmann, Vice President,
The Roerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

It certainly was a pleasure to see you the other day and have an opportunity for discussing matters of mutual interest. I shall keep in mind my promise to write you an article before long on cancer in India which I am sure will make an interesting contribution to the study of the subject.

I shall also very soon write a letter to Mr. Fells of which I shall send you a copy. I first wish to review the situation from a new point of view and make my letter to him of more than passing interest and possibly, importance. As I have said to you, Mr. Fells takes a serious interest in your proposals, only being confused by the novelty of the situation and the remoteness of your Laboratory and its proposed equipment and utility. Yours is an unusual mind full of promise for the future. In my own case I wish to assure you that I am captivated by your plans and shall be delighted to give them every furtherance and support within my power. Your suggestion of a study of the facts of the situation in India appeals to me most strongly and I sincerely hope it will be feasible in due course of time. Many of my own investigations were unusual and for that reason particularly acceptable to the research profession. I have reference especially to my study of cancer in Mexico, Hawaii, Scandinavia and Russia and Holland. I have in preparation a new report for Mr. Fells, of which I shall show you a copy when I see you the next time I am in New York.

I am obliged to you for the courtesy extended to me on the occasion of my visit to the Museum and for the publications which are being sent to me and which no doubt will be received during the next few days. In the light of my own investigations I am fully convinced that at the root of the situation in cancer lie certain errors of diet and nutrition, especially as it effects gastric and intestinal cancers which should be separately studied as a new problem. I have just received from Mr. Douglas Gane who is the Director of the Tristran da Cunha Fund, a book on the island with extended observations on the rarity of cancer in the local population which, though small, for more than one hundred years has been entirely free from cancer with a single exception of a man who lived for many years in Europe before coming to the island. A reference to this work will be included in my account to Mr. Fells. It would be of great value if a similar account could be written on the people of your particular territory in northern India, with reference to the health situation, local customs and dietaries in conformity to modern methods of research. You will hear from me again before long.

I remain, with the assurance of my sincere personal
regard,

Very truly yours,

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN

28
January 10, 1933.

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman,
Prudential Insurance Co.,
Newark, N.J.

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

What a great pleasure and joy it was to have seen you the other day and to have discussed with you all the vital questions which are of such great mutual interest to us. I was looking forward for a long time to your visit and was so happy that your numerous occupations and time permitted you to come. I hope that on your next visit to New York I shall have again the pleasure of seeing you.

I thank you heartily for your consideration to write an article on Cancer for our next issue of the Journal. It will indeed be a precious contribution.

Thank you again for your assistance in presenting our case to Mr. Fels. I am quite certain that such a wonderful mind as that of Mr. Fels' will realize that all great possibilities are not always in our proximity. Sometimes we have to reach out farther away and discoveries have come to us from remote parts of the world. The Himalayas being a unique part of the world because of their climatic conditions which combine the snows of the heights with the tropics, lend naturally, unique possibilities in many fields of research in science. Besides, our institution being an American institution will bring of course the results for any discovery to our country first. I am wholeheartedly with you when you speak of a cautious approach to Mr. Fels.

It was such a pleasure to go with you through the Museum and share with you your appreciation of Prof. Roerich's Art. I have forwarded to you the books and it will give me great pleasure to send to you some reproductions of Professor Roerich's paintings.

If there is any specific research work close to Mr. Fels we can conduct it under our auspices in the field in which he is especially interested, for as you know yourself it is such a vast field and every channel of research which would prove of help to humanity against this scourge will be a blessing.

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman

-2-

Jan. 10, 1933.

I shall never be able to express to you how happy I am to have found in you such profound understanding for our plans and work. Your attitude is most encouraging. The truly great are few and it is indeed a privilege to have your interest and cooperation.

It shall give me great pleasure to dine with you on your next visit to New York.

With heartiest greetings and best thoughts,

Yours most sincerely,

EJL:JS

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN
Consulting Statistician

P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Mass

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann, Vice President,
The Roerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

It was exceedingly kind of you to send me a collection of books and papers pertaining to the activities of the Roerich Museum. Some of these I have read already and found of interest, particularly the booklet on The Perfect Life by Mr. Hodson. That is indeed an extremely suggestive and inspiring publication, of which I would like to have another copy and for which I enclose one dollar in payment. But I cannot agree with the final conclusion in the last chapter and some day I hope to have an opportunity to discuss the matter with you.

I am especially glad to have the book by Dr. Roerich on The Heart of Asia which promises most interesting reading. As yet, however, I have not received from you some of the prints you promised of Dr. Roerich's paintings. I would like to have about a half dozen and whatever charge there may be for same will be remitted.

As soon as I have had an opportunity to read and review the publications you have sent me I shall write Mr. Fels and send you a copy of my letter. As I have said to you before I believe that the matter must be handled with unusual care in view of the interests at stake and haste or overzealous presentation of your case would be ill-advised.

I hope before long to start on my paper on Cancer in India as soon as I get my material together. It will make a useful contribution to your cause.

At present I am not planning to be in New York until late this month or early next month. I will let you know later so that you may arrange to dine with me.

Thanking you once more for your kindness, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN
Consulting Statistician

P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Miss Esther Lichtmann, Vice President,
The Roerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive
N.Y. City.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

I have been devoting most of my spare time to the reading of the books and papers you were good enough to send me. The book on The Heart of Asia I found most fascinating and instructive. It reveals Professor Roerich as a commanding figure in the field of Art, archaeology and geographical exploration, and also as a man of matchless physical courage, sustained at all times by a fine philosophic background. What a privilege it must be to know him and work with him. His book opens no end of new vistas. But it would take a stout heart and a strong physique to follow in his footsteps into the innermost regions of Central Asia.

I have also been absorbed in the reading of the ten years' review of the work of the Museum. I have taken note of the brief reference to cancer research which, of course, suggests only a beginning. I fully agree that the local opportunity is indeed an extraordinary one. At the same time I feel diffident in offering suggestions as to how this effort can be placed upon a sound working basis at the present time. The whole field of cancer research is badly confused and what progress is being made is not proportionate to the time and the thought and the money that is being expended upon it. I hope to somewhat clarify the situation in my forthcoming paper on cancer in India which, however, will suffer from the want of exact and trustworthy data. Nevertheless even preliminary efforts in this direction should prove useful as illustrating the nature of the problem to be dealt with, which is unquestionably closely related to the problem of diet and nutrition in different parts of India. The foremost authority on this problem is Col. R. McGarrison of the Pasteur Institute at Coonoor, with whom I have occasionally been in correspondence and who has furnished me with much of his material. His essay on The Problem of Nutrition in India, contributed to Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews for July, 1932, is a masterly presentation of the manner of approach which should be universal in all such investigations.

In The Heart of Asia, there is an interesting reference to a similarity between the Mongolians and the Indians of the Southwest. I am surprised, however, to find that Professor Roerich did not mention the most conclusive physical sign of the probable relationship between the Indians of the Southwest and the population of Central Asia known as the "blue spot" on the sacrum of new born Indian children. However, this is not an infallible sign but one of the most definite diagnostic indications since it is asserted that the blue spot is found only among the Mongolian population or those of Mongolian descent. This is probably not quite true but nevertheless it is a clue that should be followed much more persistently than has thus far been the case. I myself have seen the blue spot on Indian

children in both North and South America but it is often difficult to induce the women to unwrap the baby for inspection. The subject has a wide literature but widely scattered in different languages, while most of my own material on the subject has been lost.

Another reference of interest is the statement by Professor Roerich of the frequency and monstrous size of goitres in Mongola. This, of course, is primarily due to iodine deficiency in the water as typified by investigations in our northern and central states, particularly Wisconsin and Minnesota. No one is a better authority on this subject than Col. McCarrison who has studied the geographical distribution of goitre in India.

I have read with particular interest and admiration the little booklet entitled "Be Ye Perfect" by Mr. Geoffrey Hodson. It is a beautiful essay deserving of a wide circle of readers. The Chapter on The Way of Will and the continuing chapter on The Way of Knowledge are particularly suggestive. What is said there with reference to the ascertainment of physical forces in the determination of their strength or weakness in bodily development is highly suggestive of physical studies in Central Asia, as to which at present we know very little. My own physical measurements for different races, which comprehend many thousands of cases, have proven conclusive, even among very primitive people such as the Indians of Eastern Bolivia. I succeeded in measuring nearly sixteen hundred Indian men women and children of different tribes during my seven months' visit to South America. I have since amplified my data with measurements for the Indians of the Southwest, Negroes in Jamaica, Japanese in Hawaii, aside of course from normal measurements of native Americans.

I fully agree with Mr. Hodson's statement that a perfect healthy body is a condition precedent to the workings of a thoroughly healthy mind. But before we can reason very far in this matter we must have a standard by which to arrive at definite conclusions in individual cases representing departures from the normal. In my own investigations I take thirty-five measurements of the body, amplified as occasion suggests by medical examination, particularly of blood pressure, hemoglobin, pulse rate, heart action, etc. I have, however, only touched the fringe of the great question being hindered by the vast amount of anthropometric research, chiefly concerning the nonessential determination of matters concerning bodily conditions which can not possibly have any practical application.

There are also indications in the book on The Heart of Asia of the recognition of the therapeutical value of heliotherapy but it is not made clear how far sun bathes are practiced.

Except for brief references not much is said with regard to the effect of high altitudes except in the most general terms. Of course, there have been no end of observations in connection with mountain climbing in the Himalayas and that field has been pretty well covered although much more theoretical than practical for certain purposes. In my own exposure to high altitudes in the Andes, up to 15,000 to 16,000 feet, I escaped mountain sickness completely by avoiding all physical exertions not absolutely called for. While I have flown on several occasions in Mexico at altitudes of 15,000 feet or more, I did not suffer in any way but this is not significant since there is no exertion, at least on the part of the passenger who hardly notices the difference between 5,000 and 15,000 feet. At least I did not.

I envy you the large personal background you have gained by your residence in Northern India which must have brought you in contact with every phase of native life. I have always been deeply interested in primitive races but rarely have had the opportunity for prolonged stay or contact since I did not know the native languages required for a perfect understanding. I have for many years been interested in our Indian population and collected in connection therewith a substantial library which I have presented to Mrs. Joseph Lindon Smith, Chairman, Indian Welfare Committee, Federation of Women's Clubs. She in turn presented the books, together with her own collection, to the Huntington Library in the Bronx where the books are now in course of being catalogued. I am still, however, an active member of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Indian Association which is quite influential in the Southwest, where we employ several nurses for field work and support the arts and crafts of the Pueblos, Navajos and Zunis as far as our limited means permit.

I have written at some length to emphasize my strong personal interest in the work of the Museum which has come to me as a revelation, for I had very little knowledge of it in the past. I am strongly inclined to concentrate most of my time and thought on your problems in the future and I hope we can bring about a close affiliation of my own interests in connection with those of the Museum and its affiliated activities.

At this writing I am not quite sure when I shall be in New but it is probable I shall be there on the 26th of January when I could see you in the afternoon if you should be in the city. In the meantime I will continue my reading so that my letter to Mr. Fels will have a fairly substantial background of personal acquaintance with your place and purposes.

I remain, with the assurance of my sincere personal regards,

Very truly yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman.

P.S. - The one dollar in payment of an extra copy of the booklet on Be Ye Perfect was omitted from yesterday's letter and is herewith enclosed.

34
Frederick L. Hoffman
Consulting Statistician

P. O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

January 12, 1933.

Miss Esther Lichtmann, Vice President,
The Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann;

Thank you for your last letter which I have read with much interest. The same mail brought me a letter from Mr. Fels in which he expressed his interest in India as follows. After considering my research in this country, he remarks, "Would this special work mean that the work in India done by correspondence would be laid aside? I am in hopes in that section of the country to find some part almost free from cancer, and when this is discovered, then to devote some effort to finding out in what way their diet differs from others and possibly find a real lead."

That remark is certainly suggestive of his profound interest in the cancer problem in India and I have accordingly written him a new letter, of which carbon copy is enclosed.

In the meantime you will have received my long letter of yesterday emphasising my own interest in your work, and expressing the hope that before long I may have an opportunity to see you in New York and discuss the matter further.

Very truly yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman.

35

January 12, 1933.

Mr. Samuel S. Fels,
73rd St. and Woodland Avenue,
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Mr. Fels;

With reference to that portion of your letter of January 11th as to whether the special investigations proposed for this country would mean "that the work in India done by correspondence be laid aside" my answer is, by no means. As a matter of fact I have sent out quite a number of letters lately to Indian health commissioners and laboratories which should prove productive of considerable value in due course. The reports for different sections of India, of course, vary in intrinsic value due to the problem of dealing with native populations.

Cancer, according to the official returns, is relatively rare in practically all parts of India except certain forms of cancer, such as Kangri cancer in Kashmir and betel-nut cancer in Ceylon and South India. I have agreed to write an article on the subject for the bulletin of the Roerich Museum which may not be available for six months on account of the time required to receive definite information from India.

I have had an interview with Miss Lichtmann at the Roerich Museum regarding the biochemical laboratory to be maintained by that organization in Northern India and am more than ever impressed with the scientific possibilities for cancer research in that region. Unfortunately the organization appears to be in need of money to place the laboratory on a working foundation and the sooner support is forthcoming the better.

I have made myself familiar with the scientific work of Professor Roerich, best illustrated by his book on "The Heart of Asia", which I have read from beginning to end, as well as the ten years' review of the Roerich Museum for the period 1921-30, recently published. Professor Roerich is unquestionably a most extraordinary personality whose judgment could be relied upon implicitly as regards the strictly scientific aspects of whatever research would be undertaken. It is true that the remoteness of the locality in which the laboratory is to be established makes it somewhat difficult to understand all that is required for a clear grasp of the present situation and future possibilities, but I am making myself familiar with most of the factors demanding consideration and hope before long to be able to commence work on my article on Cancer in India, which will include extended observations on local dietary problems.

I have been furnished with important reprints of recent activities of the Indian Research Fund Association, bearing particularly upon the question of deficiency diseases. If cancer should prove to be a deficiency disease in the sense that certain vitamins are missing from the diet of modern nations, or if present in insufficient quantities, considerable advances would have been made in dealing with causative factors. It is not only vitamin deficiency that I am concerned about but also mineral deficiency which is probably of equal, if not of greater, importance.

Let me quote just one conclusion of Col. McCarrison in a paper on "The Influence of Diets Deficient in Accessory Food Factors on the Intestine.", paragraph two of which reads, "The functional perfection of the gastro-intestinal tract is dependent in considerable measure on

the adequate provision of accessory food factors derived from fresh fruit and vegetables." Paragraph three reads, "Certain gastro-intestinal disorders in the human subject---of which three examples are referred to---may owe their origin to the long-continued sub-minimal supply of accessory food factors."

I also quote the first three conclusions from Col. McCarrison's paper on the "Pathogenesis of Deficiency Disease" published in 1919, reading as follows.

- "1. The absence of certain accessory food factors from the dietary--improperly termed 'anti-neuritic'---leads not only to functional and degenerative changes in the central nervous system but to similar changes in every organ and tissue of the body. The morbid state to which their absence gives rise is not a neuritis.
2. The symptom-complex resulting from the absence of these substances, is due (a) to chronic inanition, (b) to derangement of function of the organs of digestion and assimilation, (c) to disordered endocrine function especially of the adrenal glands, and (d) to malnutrition of the nervous system.
3. Certain organs undergo hypertrophy; others atrophy. Those which hypertrophy are the adrenals. Those which atrophy, and in the order of severity named, are the thymus, the testicles, the spleen, the ovary, the pancreas, the heart, the liver, the kidneys, the stomach, the thyroid and the brain."

I have for a number of years been strongly under the influence of the teachings of Sir William Arbuthnot Lane, who is of the opinion that malignant disease has a direct relation to disordered metabolism manifesting itself in chronic constipation, or what he calls intestinal stasis. My efforts thus far to establish the excessive frequency of intestinal stasis in cancer patients have only been partly successful in that the condition is not recognised by many patients who assume that they have a normal condition while as a matter of fact, close examination proves the contrary. But there is another factor which enters into it and that is intestinal flora which may become pathogenic according to circumstances and the development of irritating bacteria fostering the origin and development of malignant disease. It is due to this condition that many authorities on cancer have been led to assume a parasitical origin, confusing an incidental factor with a primary causative one. As a matter of fact it is doubtful if there was ever a case of gastro-intestinal cancer which was not accompanied by gastro-intestinal infection and the latter may easily be a direct causative factor, but as yet only vaguely recognised.

McCarrison observes in this connection that (1) the freedom of the gastro-intestinal tract from infections depends in the main on the health of the gastro-intestinal mucosa; (2), that imperfect, ill-balanced and insufficient food is the most ready means of inducing an unhealthy state of the gastro-intestinal tract.

When the foregoing observations are coordinated to the admirable presentation on "The Problems of Nutrition in India" by McCarrison, previously referred to, the outlook for practically useful results becomes increasingly encouraging. What he says there is, of course, true in this country that, "We have to deal with combinations of food-faults rather than with single food-faults. There is, for instance, no diet in common use in India which, while lacking in any single element or complex necessary for normal nutrition, is not at the same time faulty in other regards. It may, in-

the adequate provision of accessory food factors derived from fresh fruit and vegetables." Paragraph three reads, "Certain gastro-intestinal disorders in the human subject--of which three examples are referred to--may owe their origin to the long-continued and minimal supply of accessory food factors."

I also quote the first three conclusions from Col. McCarrison's paper on the "Pathogenesis of Deficiency Diseases" published in 1919, reading as follows.

1. The absence of certain accessory food factors from the dietary--improperly termed 'anti-nutritive'--leads not only to functional and degenerative changes in the central nervous system but to similar changes in every organ and tissue of the body. The morbid state to which their absence gives rise is not a neuritis.
2. The symptom-complex resulting from the absence of these substances, is due (a) to chronic inanition, (b) to derangement of function of the organs of digestion and assimilation, (c) to disordered endocrine function especially of the endocrine glands, and (d) to malnutrition of the nervous system.
3. Certain organs undergo hypertrophy; others atrophy. Those which hypertrophy are the adrenals. Those which atrophy, and in the order of severity named, are the thymus, the testicles, the spleen, the ovary, the pancreas, the heart, the liver, the kidneys, the stomach, the thyroid and the brain.

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deed, be doubted whether any deficiency is ever complete; deficiency of vitamin C is the most likely one to be complete. It is with insufficiency rather than with complete want of certain food-factors that we have to deal; and with a combination of such insufficiencies. Associated with them there is, as a rule, an imbalance of the diet with respect to proximate principles; such imbalance usually takes the form of excessive richness of the food in carbohydrate."

Thus far most of the practical applications of these ideas have concerned beri-beri, goitre, stone in the bladder and peptic ulcer, which are considered the outstanding health problems in India and therefore demanding of immediate consideration.

Professor Roerich is apparently of the opinion that he has discovered a race of people in Northern India entirely free from ~~the~~ malignant disease. While this may be accounted for on the ground of inaccuracy in diagnosis, the extreme rarity of malignant disease is fully significant of its comparative absence. I have just received from Rangoon the last annual report which indicates some extremely interesting facts. In Rangoon, with a population of about 400,000, the actual number of deaths from cancer recorded in 1931 was only 41, or a rate of 12 per 100,000 compared with a rate of about 120 for England and Wales at the present time. Granting that the age distribution and medical facilities have something to do with the reporting of the disease it goes without argument that the total of 41 deaths may safely be accepted as suggestive of the conclusion that malignant disease is relatively very rare in the Burmese population. Still more suggestive are the facts when analysed according to sites of the disease and by nativity, for out of the 41 deaths only 4 or about 10% were due to cancer of the stomach which in this country easily constitutes 25% of the total. Correlated to the different racial elements of Hindus, Mohammedans, Burmese, Chinese, etc., the contrasts for the different races becomes very striking.

It will require much correspondence, of course, to clear up a great many of the doubtful points but I anticipate no difficulty in bringing together by correspondence a considerable amount of very useful information. Just now I am trying to obtain a list of the principal hospitals in India in order to address inquiries regarding the facts of local experience. For Kashmir I have some returns from the local hospital but there cancer is represented by practically a single type or that of Kangri cancer which occurs on the external abdomen due to the use of warming stoves causing burns which develop into cancer in a form of the disease not met with among any other people.

I will not burden this letter with further observations at the present time except to renew my conviction that the biochemical laboratory of the Roerich Museum offers for the time being one of the most hopeful opportunities for specialised research in a region in which cancer is practically unknown, unless it be that form of cancer just referred to which is due to a specific irritant not in operation in other regions.

Perhaps when you have had time to reflect upon the foregoing and the observations in my previous letter, it may be possible for me to come to Philadelphia and discuss the matter with you further whenever you wish me to do so.

Very truly yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman.

Hotel Governor Clinton
New York City

38

January 14, 1933.

Dear Miss Lichtmann,

Rarely has mere reading matter affected me as profoundly as the books and papers which you have been good enough to send me with your compliments. But even more so has the unusual charm of your own extraordinary personality. I seem to have suddenly been impressed with a new spiritual force permeating every fibre of my very soul. It brings back to me my still vivid recollection of an interview with Sir Edwin Arnold at the home of the late President Eliot when spell bound I listened to that master of interpretation of the philosophy of the Far East from the light of Asia to the Perals of the Faith. Yet that was almost forty-five years ago. I talked to him of the Zend Avesta and other sacred books of the East as translated by Max Mueller. I had read books on Esoteric Buddhism, Tao-ism, Confucianism, etc., though now I have but vague recollections. Sir Edwin asked me "Why do you concern yourself with such matters?" And I replied honestly I DON'T KNOW. Later on my interest died for want of encouragement. But now I am reverting to the thoughts of my youth, like the discovery of a long lost treasure. Of course I full well realize that my few remaining years give little hope for mastery of more than a fragment of the greater TRUTH but I shall try. You have helped me more than you will ever know for yourself show such an admirable balance between the higher spiritual and the more concrete practical values of every day life, that our conversation of the other day will ever be one of my most treasured of great memories.

At this writing I am reasonably sure of being in New York the last week of the month. Will let you know as I am certain of my appointments. For I am very anxious to see you again as soon as possible. I have dictated a good portion of my paper on Cancer in India but it will take three months for replies to my letters to India to reach me and supply the data I am in need of. I plan to make this paper one of my very best publications and nothing will be left undone to make the conclusions unassailable.

The paper will include data and observations on Ceylon which are of particular interest on account of the frequency of Betel Nut Cancer and data and remarks on Cancer in Kashmir on account of the local frequency of Kangri cancer. There will be references to the reports of the Kashmir C M S Hospital for which the 1931 report should reach me in the mean time. I shall also refer to the Meshed hospital in Meshed, Persia, if further information reaches me in time.

Near the close I shall emphasize the work or rather the future possibilities of the Himalayan Research Institute and suggest the urgency for adequate support. Extended references will be made to the dietary studies by Col. McGarrison and also the study of post-mortem figures by my friend Sir Leonard Rogers who has reported upon a thousand cases from Calcutta. Hence you will see, I plan, a rather elaborate paper intended for a long time to serve research papers as a foundation for more specialized studies.

The paper is also intended as a start for an annual review of cancer records for India to keep the present day state of facts and the trend of the disease clearly before the public. Quite a number of years ago Hohn Galsworthy in a letter to the London Times called attention to the intention of Sir Bellamy Tite to devote his time and money to a study of the

Waziristan population of Northern India for which the complete absence of cancer had been reported. In 1925 Dr. Katheleen Vaughan expressed apprehensions of the total extermination of the Kashmir population having reference only to the Hindu community.

There will be sent to you through my Newark office a copy of my paper on Cancer in Primitive Races included some detailed observations on Cancer in India with a quotation from Sir Leonard Rogers paper which however cannot be relied upon as fully conclusive. But you will find many interesting observations in my paper even though somewhat out of date.

But I must not take up more of your time. I know my typing is execrable at times but that can't be helped for I never learned to use the machine properly. I trust however that you will take this letter as additional evidence of my real interest in your problems and even more so as of my profound admiration for yourself and your always fascinating personality. Wish that I could see more of you but I hope that will be possible in the future.

I remain

Very sincerely your friend
and admirer,

F. L. Hoffman.

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Wellesley Hills, Mass.
January 16th, 1933.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

If you will pardon this hotel stationary I will attempt at once to acknowledge the receipt of the Roerich prints which have just reached me. I say attempt advisedly for I could not possibly express adequately my very sincere gratitude for your exceptional kindness in presenting me with so large and representative a collection of these beautiful reproductions of one who is in very truth a MASTER of his craft and an original genius of the first rank.

I am completely fascinated by the several publications though so much of it is beyond my very limited understanding and rather narrow range of vision in such matters as the various books essay upon. But I have not been idle in the meantime and the first ten pages of my paper on Cancer in India have been dictated. Some thirty letters have gone out to India and in about three months the paper should be finished. When the first draft is finished I will send you a copy.

At present I am planning to be in New York from the 25th 26th and 27th of this month. Will let you know later the evening I shall have free for you.

Have just received from Meshed Persia the last annual report of the Am. Christian Hospital containing a few references to cancer patients and operations. I have written to the Medical Director for earlier issues.

Anticipating the pleasure and privilege of seeing you soon, I remain,

Very sincerely your friend,

FLH

41
January 18, 1933.

Dear Dr. Hoffman,

Your beautiful letters of January 11th, and January 14th touched me deeply. I have always believed in the great saying that nothing is accidental, and I have always attributed to our meeting a very deep significance. For our meeting was not accidental, and I feel more than ever that the great paths of spiritual quests for the fulfilment of a mission have made our roads meet.

Among the many great and beautiful things that have been revealed to me since I have had the great happiness of meeting Professor and Madame Roerich is my awareness of the Signs in life. The majority of people pass by these Signs without sensing their significance. Your first visit to the Museum last year was to me one of those Signs which made me feel that neither was your coming accidental, nor was our acquaintance. And ever since, this realization grows within me and I am fully conscious of the fact that there had to be a cross-road for us. When I saw you last, you pronounced a beautiful formula about the aim in life being to strive toward the highest objective. This aim you have verily fulfilled.

I am so deeply touched by your profound appreciation of Professor Roerich's genius and his thought. It was my joy and privilege to have sent to you the reproductions of Professor Roerich's paintings. It has also given me pleasure to send to you two books, the Realm of Light, and Foundations of Buddhism.

The book, Be Ye Perfect, ordered by you, we found to be out of stock, and thereupon ordered it from the publisher. I shall deem it a privilege to send to you any of the books issued by our Press, - and will you not permit me to give back to you the green bank note which I found enclosed in one of your letters when next we meet.

Your treatise on Cancer in India will indeed be one of the greatest contributions to science. We are so grateful to you for your wonderful cooperation.

Your warm words addressed personally to me touched me deeply. Many thanks for all of your kind thoughts. Anticipating the great pleasure of seeing you upon your visit in New York, I am, with heartiest greetings and best thoughts,

Yours very sincerely,

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P. O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

January 19, 1933.

Miss Esther Lichtmann, Vice President
The Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann;

Have just received the two books on Realm of Light and Foundations of Buddhism. I am overwhelmed by your kindness and do not know how to express my gratitude in adequate language. I shall read these books with profound interest after I have finished some of the other books previously sent me. It has been fascinating reading matter along lines which heretofore I have almost completely neglected. I can promise you that your kindness will not come to naught as the books will be read with sympathy and grateful attention to matters of mutual interest and importance.

Some time ago another good friend sent me a copy of Baha U'llah, published by the Baha'i Publishing Committee but I have not read this book as carefully as it undoubtedly deserves. It is hard for me to find the time for extended reading but I do my best. The difficulty with Far Eastern religions is that they require serious thought, extended retrospection, as well as silence and isolation. They contemplate philosophies largely out of touch with the hurrying and worrying of every day life. The eastern habit of withdrawing from all society for profound introspection no doubt has enormous advantages in developing the spiritual aspects of the human life. Life in the stream of modern eastern sections is superficial and no effect is very lasting. I envy you your three years in Northern India and your contact with that master mind of Professor Roerich, a personality indeed, not only inspiring but at times overpowering.

I am now definitely planning to be in New York next week and hope to see you sometime between the 26th and 27th. I will let you know later the exact date and time.

I am making progress with my paper on Cancer in India and a considerable portion of it is now in type. I will bring some of it with me when I go to New York to give you an idea as to how I am covering the subject. It is all preliminary for the time being waiting for more information from India to enable me to bring my data complete down to date.

Thanking you once more for your exceptional kindness,
I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman.

43
Jan. 20th 1933

Tutwiler Hotel
Birmingham, Alabama.

Dear Miss Lichtmann,

You touch the foundations of things spiritual in every day human life when you say in your last letter that nothing is accidental. I long ago came to the conclusion that what we call chance is but the result of spiritual forces outside of us trying to influence our course of action in matters of lasting importance. And every chance occurrence is a miracle and as such demands prayerful consideration.

The Realm of Light is a powerful message which has come into my life and thought by just such a miracle of chance. Have read most carefully the first twenty pages and could easily write the same number of pages in explanation of my reactions and serious reflections. It speaks of Faith without Deeds reaching deep in the fallacies of modern life and its artificial education by METHODS of thinking instead of by encouraging intellectual freedom. The word not containing the affirmation of the heart is empty? How little of heartfelt thought ever finds adequate expression? We are afraid to trust our emotions which yet are the only real part of ourselves while the intellect is merely a matter of guidance. "It is better to say five words from the depths of our heart than a torrent of words with the tongue." How obviously true and yet how rarely applied? And how beautifully you express your own attitude? I feel contrite at knowing that it is my privilege to enjoy this exchange of thoughts with you.

I shall be in New York next Wednesday, the 25th. Could you meet me at say 5:00 P.M. at the Governor Clinton hotel for dinner? (quite informal) I would like plenty of time to talk to you which explains the early hour. Please drop me a line to the hotel to make sure.

Very sincerely yours,

F.L.H.

44
FROM: DR. FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN

TO: MISS ESTHER J. LICHTMANN

January 30, 1933.

Dear Miss Lichtmann;

In a recent letter from Mr. Fels he makes the significant request that in my forthcoming investigation of cancer in relation to diet and nutrition in this country, not to forget to take note of two or three localities in India for the same purpose. I thought it would encourage you to know his interest in the India cancer problem is still active.

I wish you would write me a brief note explaining your project in India in connection with which you wish to raise funds, in some detail feasible for presentation to Mr. Fels in the near future. It is possible I may go to Philadelphia some time this week and I would therefore appreciate a prompt answer.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman

P.O. Box 28
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

January 31, 1933.

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Dear Dr. Hoffman,

Please forgive my not answering your letters at once. I have been away, in Washington, where I have given a lecture on "Kulu Valley, the Realm of 360 Gods". I have just returned and have haste to send you these few lines.

It was indeed a great pleasure to have seen you, and to have spent the most pleasant evening with you. It is always such a joy to experience with another such flights of thought. I was so interested in your remark concerning the interest of Mr. Fels in Cancer research in India, and in his desire that you include a few localities of India in your contemplated investigations.

As for our Cancer research work, we will endeavor to study local conditions in connection with local diseases and cures, - the study of local diets, - experimentation of local medicines, - study of the Tibetan medical books, - investigation of plants and herbs. Of course this work will be done in connection with the biochemical laboratory which is under construction. How wonderful it would be to find a pioneer as enlightened as you are in the domain of science, who would assist us financially to carry out these plans for the general welfare, - especially considering the fact that large sums are unnecessary for the launching of this work.

I shall be so interested to hear of your visit with Mr. Fels.

Many thanks for your beautiful poem, "Violets".

With best greetings,

Very sincerely yours,

46

February 1, 1933.

Mr. Samuel S. Fels,
73rd Street & Woodland Avenue,
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Mr. Fels:

With further reference to your request of some time ago regarding my opinion concerning the Biochemical Laboratory of the Roerich Museum in Northern India, I now write to say as follows:

After reading a fair amount of the writings of Professor Roerich, I feel that he is indeed a man of most extraordinary mentality and vision. I am convinced that he is sincerely devoted to the advancement of science in its relation to human progress, both intellectually and physically, as well as economically, as a prerequisite to the attainment of a higher civilization. He is in my judgment only apparently visionary in his views on human life and its pressing needs while clearly recognizing, and better perhaps than any other man living, that higher spiritual ideals and a more simplified mode of living must take precedence over all other steps in present day efforts making for the advancement of mankind.

My views concerning Professor Roerich and his plans and purposes are unfortunately not based on personal contact but I have discussed, on several occasions, his achievements with Miss Esther Lichtmann, Vice President of the Roerich Museum, who herself is a woman of unusual intellectual powers and a fixed objective with regard to the Laboratory with the success of which she is probably more interested than in any other phase of Professor Roerich's work.

My conclusions are therefore largely based on the reading of his writings, particularly his explorations in Central Asia, published in the form of a volume entitled "Heart of Asia" and his philosophical views in a book entitled "Realm of Light" which contains a chapter on health and related practical questions. I have furthermore reviewed the account of the Roerich Museum for the ten years ending with 1931, on which a volume is available also. All these and others are sources of information but particularly the Roerich Museum Journal, of which two volumes have been published in behalf of the Himalayan Research Institute.

Aside from these there is much material relating to medical research in India, particularly the reports of the Medical Research Fund and Pasteur Institute in Southern India, and countless reports on Indian health administration, both provincial and local, and the annual reports of the hospitals maintained by the Presbyterian Medical Mission in India and Persia. Of the latter, the report for the Kashmir Mission Hospital is of especial interest and clearly visualises the local medical situation in the region immediately tributary to the field of the Biochemical Laboratory of the Roerich Museum.

The outstanding conclusion of this reading is the want of adequate finances for thoroughgoing research activities in all parts of India on the one hand and the urgency of the existing medical situation on the other. The field of hopeful research in India can probably not be

matched by any other part of the world. The population complex offers the most fascinating possibilities in view of the simplicity of life and the possibilities of tracing cause and effect in the prevalence of particular affectations.

I am therefore convinced that there is need for such an institution as the Biochemical Laboratory and that any financial support you may extend to it is, in my opinion, bound to produce far reaching results of value not only to the immediate section concerned but also, and possibly more so, to the world at large. As I understand it the immediate financial needs of the Laboratory are very modest and \$2,000 would be probably fully sufficient to provide for it the hydro-electric equipment of which it is most in need. In any event I feel absolutely convinced of the sincerity and disinterestedness of the purposes disclosed by the appeal for funds which under different economic conditions would easily be forthcoming.

While personally I am chiefly interested in the cancer problem as it presents itself in India under exceptional conditions both in the extreme north and in the extreme south of the country, I realize the larger possibilities of the Laboratory in dealing with numerous other affections peculiar to the country. These are clearly visualized in the annual report of the Kashmir Mission Hospital of the Presbyterian Church and the corresponding institution of the Mission Hospital at Meshed, Persia, which I have carefully read and studied in the light of comparative investigations elsewhere. Personally I feel strongly inclined to extend my own aid and interest in this direction, having said to you before that I have prepared the first draft of an extended discussion of Cancer in India based almost entirely on official sources. The preliminary draft will be very much improved later on in the light of additional data which is in course of being collected from India and which will be available within the next few months. This will be amplified by a study of malignant tumors based exclusively on autopsy records made at the Laboratory of the Research Institute of British Malaya, which I have just consolidated for a five-year period and which deals with nearly 1,000 patients whose bodies were subjected to a qualified, pathological examination. The results of this study will be presented to the American Cancer Research Society at its annual meeting in April, corresponding more or less to the study of autopsy records in Calcutta made some years ago by Sir Leonard Rogers.

Without further enlarging upon the plans of the Biochemical Laboratory of the Roerich Museum, I will close by saying that in my judgment you would be fully justified in meeting the modest application for its financial aid made to you by the Museum, as I understand, some time since.

In connection with the foregoing permit me to quote the words of the late Dr. D. Noel Paton of Glasgow with reference to the objective in research, "At present I fear there is a great tendency to insist that all investigations shall have a utilitarian object; but all experience has shown that most of the important advances in the application of science to medicine have been based upon investigations which primarily seemed to have no direct bearing on the well-being of mankind." In all research of genuine lasting value the important objective must be merely the seeking of new truths that may be revealed by mere chance in the pursuit followed. No one can say beforehand what the results will be but certain results are bound to emerge be they what they may. That has been the principle that has guided my own investigations for many years and as best shown in my study of the effect of radio-active substances on the human body

revealed by the lamentable situation in the Oranges where a large number of girls were poisoned by radium mesothorium emanation in the pursuit of their daily dial painting activities. I myself had no idea what this investigation would lead to when I started it.

I trust I have made it clear to you that it is my personal conviction that your interest in the Biochemical Laboratory of the Roerich Museum would not go amiss but is bound to produce useful results of some kind or other in due course of time.

Very truly yours,

Frederick L. Hoffman

49
HOTEL GOVERNOR CLINTON

Feb. 7th, 1933

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

Am going to Philadelphia for another interview with Mr. Fels who writes me "We can then also talk over the question of the Bio Chemical Laboratory of the Roerich Museum in Northern India. " So you see his interest in your needs is still alive ? Shall be in Philadelphia Thursday and Friday and would like to hear from you while there c/o Bellevue Stratford Hotel.

Expect to be in New York on Saturday, Could you dine with me at this hotel say at 6 P.M.? If so I shall be glad (very glad) indeed to see you again.

Very sincerely yours,

FLH

F. L. Hoffman

February 14, 1933.

Mr. Samuel S. Fels,
73rd Street & Woodland Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Fels:

I shall have to be in Philadelphia during the next few days and wonder if it would be convenient for you to see me with reference to our previous discussion of interesting you in the Biochemical Laboratory with Cancer Research Department of the Roerich Museum in India. The present time is peculiarly opportune for an inquiry into the important question of the apparent rarity of cancer in Northern India, since the financial condition of the India Research Fund Association is rather precarious and nothing is likely to be done by that organization in the near future. The question of medical research in India was recently discussed by the All-Indian Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Calcutta. Suggestive of far reaching possibilities, particularly in the field of bio-chemistry and nutrition which are attracting more attention than ever, chiefly through the Pasteur Institute. It is said in the report in the Lancet, as late as January 28th, 1933, that "the future of research in India is thus not on a very sure foundation and that "the cloud of financial stringency still overshadowed the proceedings, but otherwise the conference was a distinct success.

We therefore feel that we have a definite purpose to serve, but everything depends upon putting the laboratory in an efficient working condition. For this purpose, for the time being, we are mostly in need of the Hydro-Electric Plant, involving an expenditure of about \$3000.00. If I could discuss the matter with you, I am sure I could make clear to you the urgency of our needs and the practical results likely to follow an energetic policy such as we are preparing to pursue in the near future.

If I could show you photographs of our present situation, I am sure they would be of interest to you. The field of Northern India is unusually attractive, in view of the homogeneity of the population and the simplicity of its habits and customs which can be studied to excellent advantage.

The subject of cancer in India and Western Tibet has thus far received very inadequate consideration and there are few authorities on the subject. The available material will be summarized by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, in a paper which he had the kindness to agree to prepare for the Journal of Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute in the near future. That paper is intended to include answers to a questionnaire which is being sent to about one hundred hospitals

Mr. Samuel S. Fels

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Feb. 14, 1958.

in India, Persia and possibly Tibet.

I therefore hope it will be possible for you to see me, and if you will let me know when it will be most convenient for you to see me I will make my arrangements accordingly.

I always remember with great pleasure my first interview with you and shall greatly appreciate hearing from you at your convenience.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

E. J. L.
Vice President.

EJL:JS