

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

PORTLAND, OREGON,

January 29, 1929.

Miss Valentine Prichard,
274 Fourth St.,
City

Dear Miss Prichard:

A copy of this letter is forwarded to all those agencies concerned with and co-operating in the maintenance of the Portland Free Dispensary, namely the Peoples' Institute, the County of Multnomah, the City of Portland, The Visiting Nurses' Association, the Community Chest, The State Board of Health, the University of Oregon Medical School and the Oregon Tuberculosis Association. It is urged that there be immediate action by those concerned and very prompt reply because much is dependent thereupon affecting the interest of Portland and the State of Oregon.

For many years the Portland Free Dispensary has been conducted by the People's Institute in affiliation with the Medical School and its work is well known to all concerned and contributing to its support. During the year 1928 more than 14,000 indigent sick and disabled people were cared for in the clinics of this institution. It provides the only station for the modern scientific care of ambulatory sick who are unable to pay for such service, in Portland or in fact in the State of Oregon. Unless provided in these clinics such care would become the obligation largely of Multnomah County and the City of Portland and would constitute an urgent and elaborate expense.

Inasmuch as the dispensary supplies a valuable teaching station for the medical school, all medical and surgical service is supplied by the University of Oregon Medical School without cost to the city, county, or other agencies concerned. The value of this service in terms of money exceeds many times the entire budget expended for operation and maintenance of the clinics. In addition to affording the chief station for relief of the sick it furnishes in a large measure the social service personnel and much nursing personnel that otherwise are incumbent upon Portland or Multnomah County to provide.

The daily attendance of more than 140 patients with the numerous clinics in all divisions of medicine; the growth of laboratory and X-Ray work; the expansion of its use as a teaching facility, and the ever increasing activity in every detail, have caused the present quarters to be outgrown, ill adapted and inadequate. They are too small, poorly arranged, noisy and insufficiently equipped, either as a modern dispensary for a city of the size or as a teaching establishment of a modern medical school.

Accordingly, the medical school has before the Rockefeller Foundation a request for an appropriation of \$400,000.00 with which to build and equip a modern university clinic building upon the campus of the medical school or Marquam Hill for the proper housing of this important activity. The centralization of those functions carried on by the Multnomah County Hospital, the Doernbecher Hospital,

the dispensary and the Medical School will operate to an infinitely superior service for all concerned and greatly improved environment for operating agencies and will render better service to the patients and afford better teaching in the Medical School. Moreover, the cost of operation in the avoidance of duplication of much effort and the elimination of rent will be reduced.

The old argument regarding accessibility need not be brought up. The experience of the County Hospital, the Doernbecher Hospital and the Medical School, within 5 minutes of the Court House, with universal transfer service on the P.E.P. bus lines, has already relegated the old conception that everything must be in the crowded district to the background.

The need of a new clinic building and the wisdom of its association and location with those other elements contributing to the prestige of Portland as a medical center is demonstrable without question. A detailed investigation of the center by a representative of the Rockefeller Foundation has been made and the plan here outlined approved as sound.

One contingency of the request for a gift of \$400,000.00 is that assurance be forthcoming that such a clinic building, if given, will be supported and maintained at least upon the present scale made possible by the present budget. The annual budget for the dispensary is approximately \$42,000.00, derived as follows:

1. Multnomah County	\$2000.00
2. Community Chest	9300.00
3. City of Portland	2800.00
4. Peoples' Institutes Memberships	500.00
5. Dispensary Fees	7900.00
6. Visiting Nurses Association	3000.00
7. State Board of Health	4710.00
8. University of Oregon Medical School	<u>12000.00</u>
	\$42210.00

(It is desired that each element now participating in the budget indicate by action of its executive body its intention to continue its participation therein to the present degree at least, if a new building is given by the Rockefeller Foundation or is built in the medical center on Marquam Hill. The site, of course, will be given free by the University. The professional service in all departments is already and will continue to be given free by the University. The opportunity is here to secure the building free through the University. (It only remains for those co-operating in its maintenance to indicate their intention of continuing to do so at at least the present basis of contribution) and much will be accomplished to amplify Portland's already distinguished position as Medical center of the Pacific Northwest.

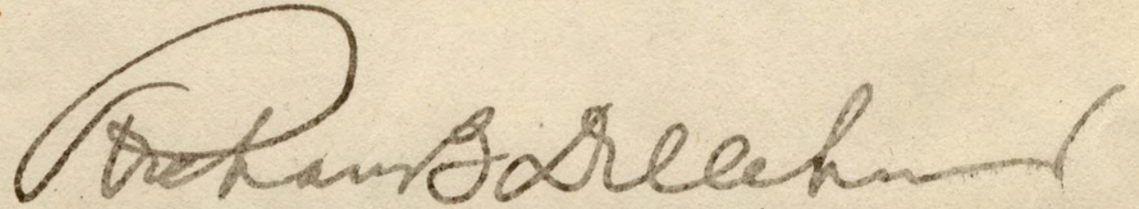
(It requires no guarantee of any increased expenditure by anyone and entails no question of change in policy of administration.) It simply implies a new building in a better place for an old and ever increasing work and the assurance that those now contributing to the budget will continue to do so upon the present basis.) I appreciate the impossibility of any executive body committing itself to a contribution over an indefinite period and therefore suggest that you take action (approving the continued support of the University of Oregon Medical School Outpatient Clinic (which it is proposed to designate the new building and for which the request has been made to the Rockefeller Foundation) for a period of two years at the present

basis of participating in the budget.

I beseech the very prompt and immediate action of your executive body and assure you that its confidence in the Medical School will be well placed and will provide a great impetus to the development in Portland of a great center of research, teaching and medical service.

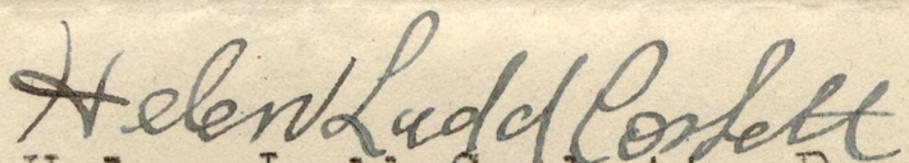
Yours very truly,

Richard B. Dillehunt.

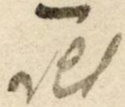


Dean.

RBD: IJ



Helen Ladd Corbett, President,
Peoples Institute



I approve of this plan. Jessie M. T. Tolson - Treas -