

Mc Dermott

September 12, 1966

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Cornell University Medical School
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1300 York Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Doctor McDermott:

About three years ago I addressed a letter to you regarding some of my research and experiences in the field of gastritis and its relation to chronic alcoholism. I cited some references and expressed some opinions, about which you were kind enough to write me under date May 11, 1963.

Since that time I have read the 11th edition of the Cecil textbook of medicine and have noted that there is no discussion of gastritis in this issue. Your very gracious acceptance of my remarks referred to above leads me to venture the opinion that I believe that many readers of the textbook, like myself, would like to see this subject covered in your next issues. While the last word may not have been written on this subject and that many aspects of the disorder are controversial, this may be the most important reason for including it in such a universally read text.

Probably no other medical concept is more widely entertained by the laity than "gastritis." I believe, therefore, that hardly any medical student reading a comprehensive treatise on clinical medicine would not wonder why "gastritis" was not discussed in a coverage of digestive diseases.

This leads me to say boldly that because of the background of more than 6,000 documented gastroscopies, including a few hundred suction biopsies of diffuse gastric lesions and my studies of the stomachs of severe alcoholics and experiments in so-called atrophic gastritis at the University of Illinois, the Michael Reese and Cook County Hospitals and the Cook County Graduate School over a period of some 30 years,

I would not hesitate to undertake the writing of this chapter for the text if I were invited to do so. I think someone should certainly supply this chapter.

Sincerest regards and best wishes, I remain

Yours very truly,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

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