

Howard
file

JOHN TILDEN HOWARD, M.D.
TWELVE EAST EAGER STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT

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Dear Leonidas,

Three or four days ago Dr. Louise Young, a lady with a very pleasant voice, called me to request that I discuss a paper which you are to read to Baltimore's Monumental Medical Society on the late afternoon of February twenty-first. She said that you had suggested that I be a discussor---and that was good to know.

I told Dr. Young that February twenty-first will be my seventieth birthday and that I had learned via "the grapevine" that my wife had planned a cocktail party and dinner for me that evening. Though The Monumental's meeting is at five in the afternoon, I said that I would ask Mrs. Howard about the party.

That I have done and I've been told that my wife's plans were made before I received your invitation and that I must be at my own seventieth birthday celebration. Mrs. H said (and my secretary, who is typing this note, will probably agree with her), "You always talk too much, especially at medical meetings. If you attend that meeting, you won't be at home when the guests come."

So I have regretfully declined the opportunity to hear you and to talk about gastroscopy. At the request of Dr. Young, I have suggested that Dr. Charles Siegel be asked to be a discussor in my stead.

I've done no teaching at The Hopkins since 1966 or '67. And I no longer work in the Dispensary there. I am kept reasonably busy with my private practice and I don't seem to have time for the endoscopies as I did them formerly. A few days ago I attempted to pass the Jackson oesophagoscope and the Eder-Hufferd gastroscope on a little woman who was quite tense. It was the first endoscopic procedure which I had done for a couple of months and I was ashamed because I couldn't get either instrument sufficiently far down the gullet. Fortunately, I didn't tear anything. Subsequent roentgen studies failed to show a good reason for my difficulty with the endoscopes.

I wish that I could hear your talk when you are in Baltimore and I'd like very much to discuss it. But I'll only have my seventieth birthday once, eh?

I hope to see you in Boston in May!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Leonidas Berry,
412 East 47th Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

John Tilden