

Charles R. Drew: Primary Sources



Charles Drew (top row, third from right) with the rest of the Dunbar High School football team. [1920]. Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBFS>.

Bard Hall - 50 Haven Ave
Columbia Presbyterian
Medical Center
June 18, 1938

Dear Mother,
Here goes the first of a new series - Salem - Amherst - Morgan - McGill - Montreal General now Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia and Presbyterian. Each new step has marked growth in a thousand ways, yet through it all I have seemed to have remained essentially the same; the people and things dear to me from a very long time ago retain, and probably always shall retain first place in my thinking and feeling, so much so that though separated from them, never estranged and the living force in this intangible bond which holds so tightly is you.
This place is so immense and has so many ramifications that I haven't even found my way around

Transcript of the first page image on the left:

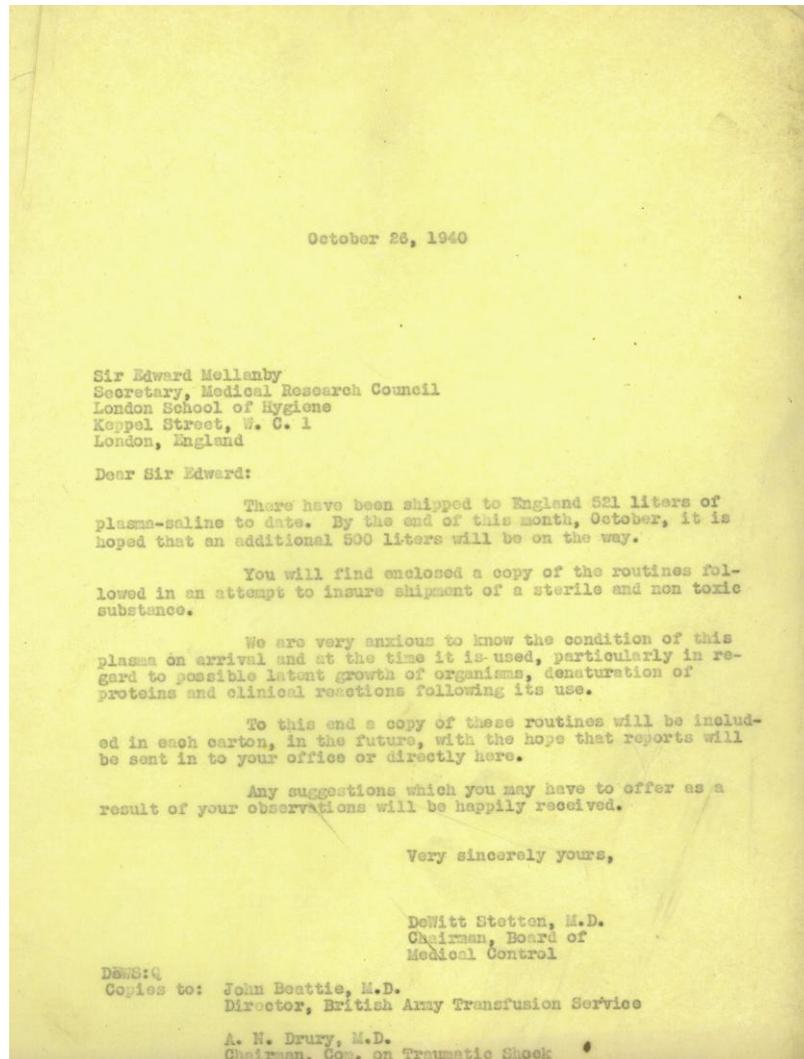
Bard Hall - 50 Haven Ave
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center
June 18, 1938

Dear Mother,
Here goes the first of a new series - Salem - Amherst - Morgan - McGill - Montreal General now Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia and Presbyterian. Each new step has marked growth in a thousand ways, yet through it all I have seemed to have remained essentially the same; the people and things dear to me from a very long time ago retain; and probably always shall retain first place in my thinking and feeling, so much so that though separated [sic] from them, never estranged and the living force in this intangible bond which holds so tightly is you.
This place is so immense and has so many ramifications that I haven't even found my way around

Handwritten letter from Charles R. Drew to his mother, Nora (June 18, 1938) Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBGF>.



Charles Drew (top row, far left) with the rest of the Dunbar High School basketball team. [ca. 1921]. Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBFR>.



Transcript of the letter image on the left:

October 26, 1940

Sir Edward Mellanby
Secretary, Medical Research Council
London School of Hygiene
Keppel Street, W. C. 1
London, England

Dear Sir Edward:

There have been shipped to England 521 liters of plasma-saline to date. By the end of this month, October, it is hoped that an additional 500 liters will be on the way.

You will find enclosed a copy of the routines followed in an attempt to insure shipment of a sterile and non toxic substance.

We are very anxious to know the condition of this plasma on arrival and at the time it is used, particularly in regard to possible latent growth of organisms, denaturation of proteins and clinical reactions following its use.

To this end a copy of these routines will be included in each carton, in the future, with the hope that reports will be sent in to your office or directly here.

Any suggestions which you may have to offer as a result of your observations will be happily received.

Very sincerely yours,
DeWitt Stetten, M.D.
Chairman, Board of Medical Control

Copies to: John Beattie, M.D.
Director, British Army Transfusion Service

A. N. Drury, M. D.
Chairman, Com. on Traumatic Shock

Typed letter from DeWitt Stetten to Edward Mellanby (October 26, 1940). Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBCB>

DREW, CHARLES—"Charlie"

"You can do anything you think you can."

Ambitious, popular, athletic, sturdy.

Pres. Class '21; Pres., Athletic Association '21; Pres. Rex Club,
'22; Capt. Baseball Team '22; Champion High Jumper; Capt.
Co. F; Holder of two Walker Memorial Medals.

To be an Electrical Engineer.



Charles Drew's entry in 1922 Dunbar High School yearbook. [1922] Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBGQ>.

Am delighted to know that you are doing a biography of Charlie Drew. You have a splendid subject. I do not know where among my papers to begin to look for clippings and documentations on Drew's records and achievements at Amherst. About all that I can do is to give you my story from memory of my friendship and association with him. I was his football coach at Amherst for all four years and his coach in the field events in track - high jump and shot put - during the same period.

It just so happens that Ellsworth "Red" Richardson, who played center during Charlie's last two years at Amherst, is the athletic director at Amherst and I know that he will go overboard to cooperate with you and obtain for your use any material and records that are in the college archives.

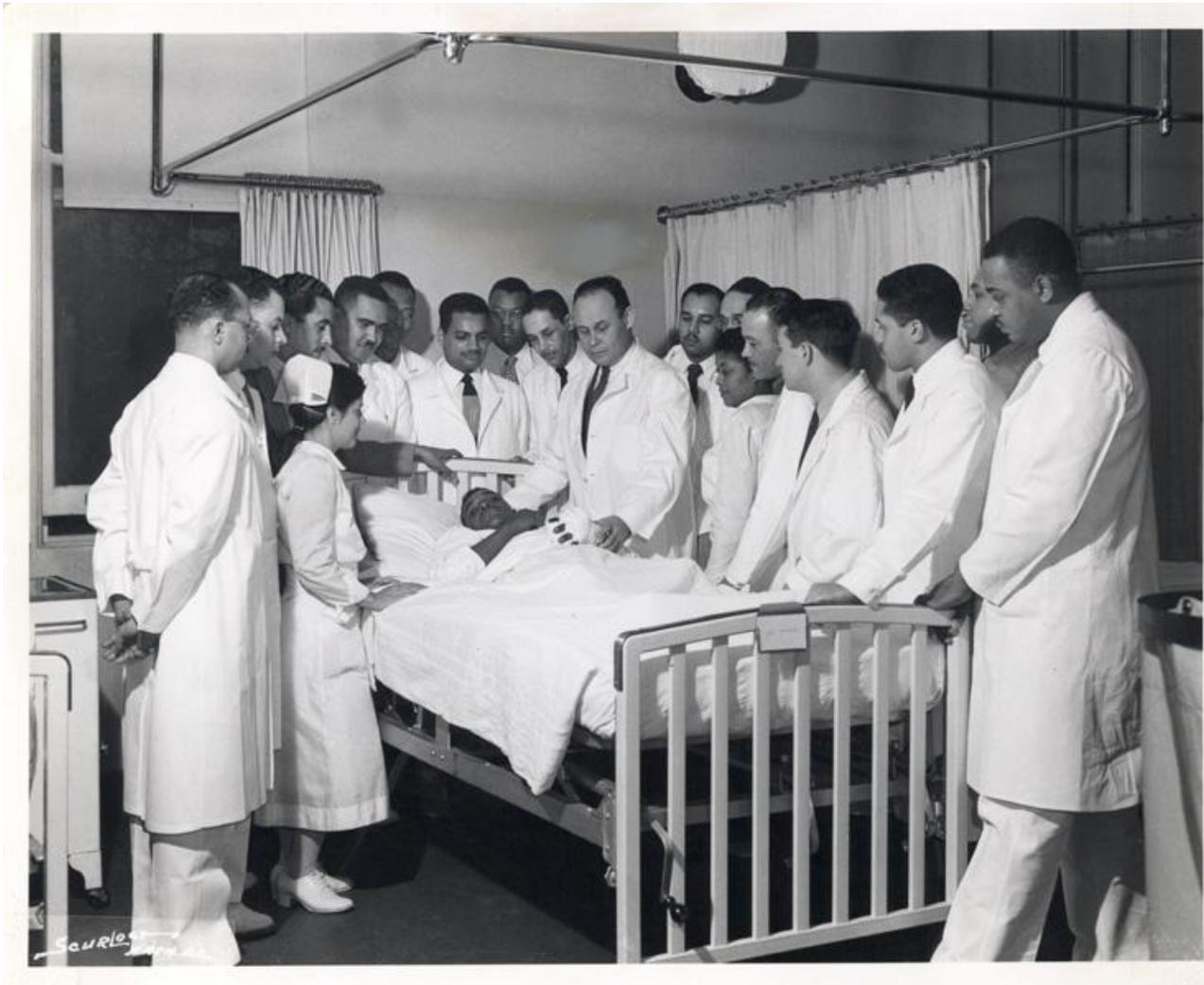
You say in your letter that you have visited Howard University, talked with Charlie's wife and others of his family. I hope that you contacted Dr. Montague Cobb who heads the Anatomy Department at Howard Medical. He and Charlie were close friends at Amherst - maybe room mates - and on the track team together.

As a football player, Drew was great. He could have played regular on any team in the country, both in his era, and any time since. I am qualified to say this because I coached in the East-West Shrine Game four years, the Chicago All Star Game and twice in the one in New York, and when I was not coaching, saw these games as a spectator. Each year the players included the very best of the previous season. Charlie was a halfback of tremendous speed and quick reactions, a great second effort, a splendid passer. He could hit a bull's eye with the old ball at any distance up to 50 yards. Furthermore, he was a tiger on defense. When he tackled, the runner went down as though he were shot. His playing weight was 190-195 and his height was six feet plus. His physique and walking carriage were superb.

In track he was good enough to win four first places in many dual meets in the shot, high jump, and both hurdles. I believe the high hurdles were his best event. He was captain of the McGill University track team when he was there in medical school several years later.

Charlie graduated with distinction from Amherst in 1926 and then spent a year or two teaching and coaching to pay off his debts and augment his resources.

Partial image of the letter from D. O. McLaughry (Dr. Drew's football coach at Amherst College) to Richard Hardwick (August 17, 1966). Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBJN>.



Dr. Charles Drew teaching interns and residents during rounds at Freedmen's Hospital, ca. 1947. Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Available on line at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/retrieve/ResourceMetadata/BGBBFQ>.