

March 19, 1929

Dr. A. E. Guedel
506 N. Linden Drive.
Beverly Hills,
California.

Dear Art,

I think you are right, the white catheters are better than any we have had. If, as you suggest, they can be boiled without being hurt, they would be ideal. I haven't had courage to boil one of mine yet, because I only have two others. They are #10 and #11 mm., that is, DeCaux's idea was that 9, 10 and 11 would cover our wants, and I rather think he is right. I am writing McKesson asking him to send you a 10 and 11, and a 12 if he has it.

The balloon which you enclosed in your last letter looks like a dinger; I think you said I could keep it, at any rate I have it. You are certainly an artist at making the things. Bise and Woodbridge of the Lahey Clinic are very much interested in the idea and want some catheters and balloons as soon as they are available. Would you prefer not to have them available to them for awhile yet? They are pestering me for the name of the manufacturer, as is Lundy in Rochester. The trouble with Lundy is that he doesn't know how to insert an endotracheal catheter, drops the head over the end of the table and makes a major surgical procedure of it, finishing fifty percent of the time with the catheter in the esophagus. He won't come over and learn how.

I most forgot to tell you about your intention tremor. Kocher, the greatest German surgeon in the last generation, played a regular tattoo with his hemostats while he was working, and had the reputation of the world for his generation for a clever surgical technic. Solman, the pharmacologist at Western Reserve has a worse intention tremor a good deal than yours, and can put a cannula into a vein which no-one else can enter. One of the best barbers that ever shaved me waved the razor about before it hit my face in such a manner as to almost frighten me to death. You can make these little balloons by hand which nobody else can do as well. You just have a blue funk in regard to needles, that's all. Once you got started you would do the best blocks ever. Spinals, at least, are not hard to do, and the anesthesia of the future will include them. You must do it to protect anesthesia against poor work done by the surgeon himself. How many spinal punctures have you ever done? If none, say so, I must know about this because I'm thinking about it.

You are right about the ordinary work coming sooner or later. If you can get the special work coming first that's fine. How about the fees? Are they decent?

When your letter arrived the snow was four feet deep, but it has melted since and your suggestion of arbutus and so forth, together with the robin and meadow lark are now possibilities. Today is really like Spring.

About the cup and the carbon dioxide absorption. I think something was said about that being added to the inscription.

This answer to your letter has been delayed

Arthur E. Guedel

March 19, 1929

partially because my brother-in-law has been here in the hospital for some weeks and partially because I went barn-storming up to Duluth, Minnesota, last week. I have lots more to say but it will have to wait. Understand I am asking McKesson to send you #10, 11, and 12 if he has it of the white catheters. I don't think you need the 12, though.

and Shuman if you see him.

Kindest regards to the family,

Yours,

RMW:MMH