

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE - METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL

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Rheumatic Fever Prevention Program

Executive
68-111

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
ALVIN F. COBURN, M.D.

December 19, 1959 TRafalgar 6-4333

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Sir William Osler used to tell his students at Johns Hopkins, "The flighty purpose n'er is o'ertook unless the deed go with it." Not having learned this advice thoroughly, I have delayed in writing this letter from November 23rd until today.

As one of the "Consultants" to whom you spoke at dinner on Sunday evening, November 22nd, I want to thank you. You sensed, I trust, how much we enjoyed and appreciated your giving us so generously of your time and knowledge. Just prior to the dinner, when the elbows were being lifted, I told two of your Princeton followers, Dr. George Finney and Dr. Ridgeway Trimble, that in my books the war in the Pacific was won for the Navy Medical Corps by a man in Switzerland who later also helped us win (?) the peace. Then I told George and Ridge about my war-time association with materials supplied to us, according to the scuttlebutt, by a gentleman named Allen Dulles. They were fascinated and told me that I should write this account out for you. When, during the dinner, you mentioned that you had been one of Bill Donovan's men in Switzerland during the early part of World War II, George Finney, who was sitting next to me at dinner, looked up. I whispered to him, "Maybe the scuttlebutt was right!" If by any chance you are interested in the high regard we had for the activities of Mr. Allen W. Dulles in 1942-43, I shall be delighted to summarize your exploits briefly even though this may shock your "modesty"! I hope that this letter will not seem disrespectful. At least it will convey the appreciation of one in your audience.

With all good wishes in the critical work that you are doing for our country and with deep respect,

Sincerely,

Alvin F. Coburn, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

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CC: Dr. George Finney

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