

Alfred E. Cohn Papers  
Burden of Diseases -  
University of Chicago Press file.

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Avery ↓

March 23, 1948

Dear Mac,

There are also other reasons for writing to you but the object of this letter is to speak about our work, Miss Lingg's and mine, on "The Burden of Diseases."

We have put another year and a half of work in on the book. We are at the stage now of notes, references and captions. I think it is better, perhaps much better, than it was. Avery has read the infectious disease aspects. He tells me he thinks it is correct. He also said that he knows nothing about "statistics" but he had no idea this kind of interpretation of the bare census facts was possible. He is much interested. He is now reading it a second time. Naturally, we are very much bucked up.

I hope the University of Chicago Press is still interested in publishing the book. You may prefer not to be consulted or concerned with the negotiations but would prefer my sending the manuscript directly to Mr Hemans. In any case, is there something that can be done to avoid the misunderstandings and delays which occurred when he had it before? Although we think the text is as it should be, there is no point at which we would not welcome discussion.

The text is ready for the printer. The curves are designed for a book 9" x 12". All of them either fit or can be reduced to these dimensions. There are left only four colored charts, three to be folded and put in a pocket at the back of the book. The number is reduced from 72 charts to approximately 35. If the material contained in the figures meets with approval, the charts must naturally be redrawn for printing. We did not wish to go to this expense until it is certain that the book is to be published. The material is now as we wish it to appear. Owing to the H C of L we cannot make a contribution toward the cost of manufacture.

Finally, in the same way that I have asked Avery about the manuscript on infectious diseases, I have been trying to think whom to consult about the chronic ones. I care what you think, but I cannot put my fingers on anybody else whose judgment I respect. Will you read it again? Avery may be correct - we have hit not so much on a new way of thinking but on a new way of presenting this material. This is only another way of saying that it is new and perhaps, we hope certainly, valuable.

Ever your,

Alfred E Cohn, M D

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