

Evergreen

Cedar Bayou P. C.

Oct. 4 " 1885

My dear Doctor,

How I long for a personal time with you instead of the slow and most incomplete intercourse by writing.

How is it with you in regard to the French language? — I have a good many French books, chiefly on medical subjects. I would be glad to send you a box of them, unless living in the interior you have had a final adieu to French, that is to every thing in the French language.

There is a subject on which I much wish to hear from you — it

is the Dengue, now so widely prevailing. I was in the City of Austin a short time ago. The Dengue was universal, ~~more~~ absolutely universal than any ailment I ever knew or read of. Not a single family which I knew or which I heard of escaped without one or more cases. I was so absorbed in University business that I had not time to see a single case. I learn from the newspapers that it prevails elsewhere.

Now, I beg you to write to me about it.

1. Is it the Dengue which we know many years ago, and which we thought had some not clearly defined relations with Yellow Fever?
2. Does it appear in the country districts more or less remote from cities?
3. Is it contagious, or, infectious? &c.

the same individual subject to more than one attack of it?

4 Have we ever had before a wide spread epidemic of it in Texas.

5 Is an individual who has had Yellow Fever subject to Dengue?

6 What is the best treatment of Dengue? Is there any known prophylactic?

7 It appears to be a sort of nervous fever—what is its true pathology?

The arrangement of these questions is not methodical; for I jotted them down hastily as they occurred to me.

If Dengue has occurred in Columbus, you can give me better information than any other person whom I know.

There is another matter which I hope you will not neglect. It is a list of the Yellow Fever epidemics

of Texas. Dr Heard to whom I
confided your paper, did not get
an opportunity to present a paper of
his own on this subject, or indeed any
paper whatever. So he returned your
account to me. I still have it. I
know no one competent to draw up
such an account except yourself. Do
not omit to do so.

I am now eighty - an octogenarian.
I had a life of active work, mentally;
with all agriculture I have made my
peace. - I ride and get about well,
but soon tire physically. My mind
is active, its chief failure as it seems
to me is of the memory.

Write to me at your earliest convenience
Tell me all about yourself and about
yours.

Affectionately your old friend
Ashbel Smith