

Letter from Charles R. Cox to Alexander Graham Bell, October 15, 1905

Volta Bureau, October 15, 1905. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, Beinn Breagh, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada. Dear Dr. Bell:-

I am in receipt of your welcome letter of October 7th, together with cheque for one hundred dollars, which I thank you for very much.

I have carefully gone over all proceedings of the A. A. S. from the years 1878 to 1888, and can find only an Abstract of your work upon the subject of "A Proposed Method Of Producing Artificial Respiration by Means of a Vacuum Jacket", which reads as follows:-
"I propose to surround the waist of the unconscious patient by a rigid jacket, or drum somewhat larger in diameter than his body. The apparatus can be rendered practically air-tight by a rubber band round the thorax, and another round the loins, Upon exhausting the air inside the drum a partial vacuum is produced around the abdomen. Under such circumstances, the pressure of the atmosphere forces air through the mouth and nose into the thorax, causing the depression of the diaphragm and consequent expansion of the abdomen.

The alternate rarefaction and condensation of the air confined around the abdomen thus cause alternate in inspiration and expiration."

2

This article appeared in the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at their thirty-first meeting, held in Montreal, Canada, August 1, 1882.

Library of Congress

I have noticed your request to keep your name out of the letter to the Editor of The Scientific American, and will act accordingly. I expect to come across the whole of this article before completing my work, and will make note of where it is to be found.

I never thought it possible for one man to write in so short a time, as you have, so many interesting and beneficial articles for the scientific world at large. They are most interesting to me, and I regret very much not being able to thoroughly read every paper before indexing it. It will really take months and months to complete this work, as there is no end to the amount of matter collected at the Volta Bureau, All your works, perhaps shall never be known, as you have covered an enormous field, in a short time.

I was more than pleased to hear that your health was improving, and sincerely hope you will return to Washington healthy and strong. I will write Mrs. Bell concerning typewriter tomorrow.

Sincerely yours, Charles R. Cox Secretary (Protem)