

6 Naledi Street,
Galeshewe Village,
Kimberley.
15th March, 1971.

My dear Benjie,

I am writing this letter at home and for once, therefore, do not have a copy of a letter I've written to you.

This time I've really been very ill; and in a humiliating sort of way.

Some time in late January, a week or two after Veronica's return from Johannesburg, I experienced intense pain in the bladder accompanied by frequency and burning urination.

The very following day we consulted Dr Wookey, an Indian doctor and friend of mine. He diagnosed inflammation of the bladder accompanied by infection. As I am allergic to Pennicilin he gave me Bactrim tablets which are supposed to be the latest in the cleaning of infection. There appeared to be some improvement and I went back to work taking the tablets as prescribed together with what they term Mist Pot Cit in medical Journal, a kind cleanser of the bladder.

A week, thereafter, I was in tw^on with our office clerk when I felt an excruciating pain in the testes, broke out in sweat and felt faint. I went back to the doctor again. He sent me to bed, gave me a pain killer but expressed himself as puzzled because he felt the infection should have cleared by then.

He called for a second opinion and his colleague thought the Renal glands were affected and decided that both Veronica and I should be put on a week's similar treatment.

All this/2.....

All this time it was the right testicle that was tender: but it was not swollen. Then about three weeks ago, the same symptoms manifested themselves. The right testicle was all right but the left was not only tender but swollen. It was then he sent me to the Kimberley Hospital to see their Urologist there. They took specimens of my urine and had X-rays taken. The results read as follows:

URINE

(a) Microscopic Examination showed Pus Cells: †

CULTURE

NO GROWTH

Reaction: Acid

Sugar: Absent

Albumin: Absent

X-Ray: INTRAVENOUS PYELOGRAM

- a) The kidneys are functioning satisfactorily
- b) There is some fulness of the calyces on both sides
- c) The Ureters and bladder appear normal
- d) Good voiding of the bladder took place.

The only African doctor at the hospital - and the best of the lot if you ask me - racial prejudice aside, felt it was impossible for me to contract Epidydemis (or something similar, meaning swelling of the testes) since I had had a prostetectomy (removal of the prostate gland). He felt that the T.B. germ had descended to the neither regions and hence the trouble.

He instructed that for three successive days I submit 24 hour specimens of my urine. I am told the results will be known in three weeks' time. They call the test A.F.B.

I am still waiting for those results but since the trouble started my temperature has risen sharply during the night to 102.4°F and I have had rigors. For the past two days it has not gone beyond 99°F.

They have given me a dozen and one tablets in the meantime which I am taking dutifully.

I have been tempted to call in one of our own boys - the bone-throwers - but I did not want the whites to claim the cure which he would undoubtedly have dramatically effected.

It appears then I'll be home for a further fortnight at least, since this left testicle is the size of a hen's egg and is hard. The right one is absolutely normal.

Veronica has been marvellous, employing her skill and of course happy to have me all to herself.

Incidentally when this African doctor asked for my X-Ray plates so that he could examine them himself he was informed they could not be located.

My lectures have arrived and the first assignment is due on the 28th March.

I would have preferred seeing a specialist in Joh'burg, but you know that is out of the question. In the meantime can you send me some light reading material - Zed, & some of Melamud's stuff.

We're keeping our fingers crossed because we really do not want to see you in the dock again. These boys are after your blood, Benjie. And how!

I'll phone/4...

I'll phone you as soon as I get back to the office. In fact I have been seriously considering installing a phone at 6 Naledi, but with the sort of BAD we have here which after three months has not yet repaired a sewage pipe from our outside lavatory, our application of that nature would be an exercise in futility. Talk of Kafška, these were his characters.

About the Exit Permit I am writing to Raymond to congratulate him on his achievements. What Pelser decides won't bother me: you know that.

Look after yourself. But remember these boys are human. They can break the body as any thing can. But

I am the master of my fate

I am the captain of my soul.

Love to Anne and the kids.

And love from both of us.

Affectionately,

Bob.

P.S. You know, of course, I am always available as a witness!

Bob.

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