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Dr. Alberto Hurtado
P.O. Box 1116
Lima, Peru

Dear Dr. Hurtado:

Greetings from Boston!

I have not yet seen any notice of the publication of your new book. Perhaps I have not been looking in the proper places. If the data about which you spoke a couple of years ago in Boston has been published I would appreciate knowing where I could find it.

As you perhaps know, we have been interested in the phenomenon of Cheyne-Stokes breathing and have observed some thirty cases. I have thought a good deal about the effect of altitude predisposing to Cheyne-Stokes breathing and have wondered as to whether the Italian physiologist, Mosso, was not right in ascribing this phenomenon to lack of carbon dioxide in the inspired air rather than to a lack of oxygen as Haldane contended. In order to study this phenomenon at altitude I have been toying with the possibility of spending a few weeks some place where normal individuals and perhaps patients with Cheyne-Stokes breathing could be observed at sea level and at 12,000 to 14,000 feet altitude. I, of course, immediately thought of Lima and your laboratory.

I would appreciate a note from you as to whether in your opinion it might be possible to work out some arrangement whereby such studies could be done with the thought in mind of learning more about breathing in general, particularly Cheyne-Stokes breathing. Perhaps work of this nature has already been done, but if it has, I have missed seeing it. I am afraid the work of Haldane and Henderson on Pike's Peak is not very valid since observations were done on each other rather than on persons who did not know what was anticipated. I am not certain that I can raise the money to finance this endeavor, either privately or perhaps from the United States Air Force, but thought I would write to you first to see whether you thought it might be feasible and worthwhile.

With my best regards and thanking you in advance for your trouble.

Sincerely yours,

James Currens

JHC/ren