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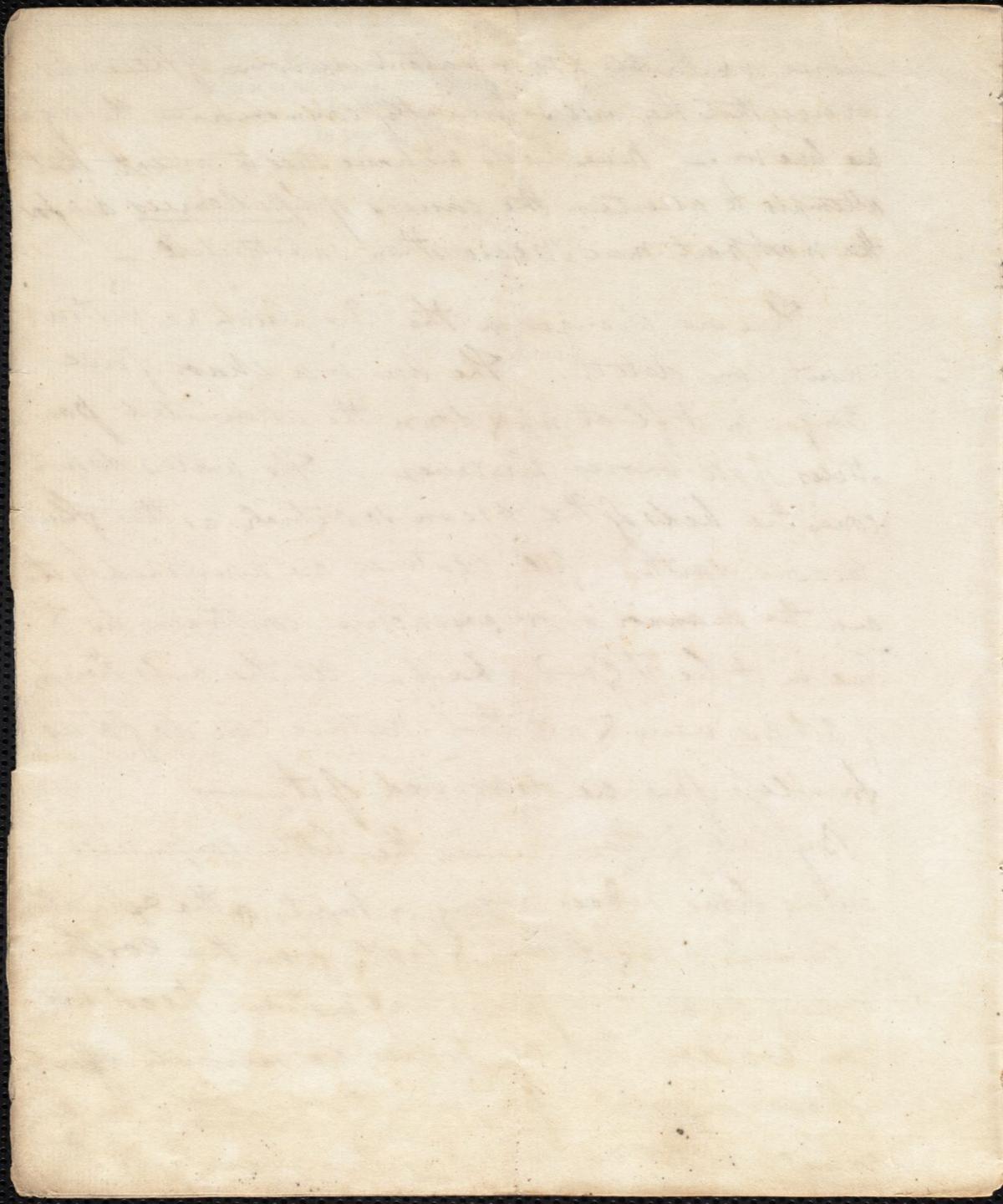
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
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Am. Acad. of Arts & Sciences.

1. Mh. 1783. W

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The European world regard us This; some with a Kind Sollicatude, and Some with envy to see In What order and degree those this positions and arts which characterise polished humanity anse among uson such arts as depend merely on a great thength of genius in an endur dune, The, without the aprintance of others, wholly by it were the let which dies with him. - Jany in Juch Kund of arts our West and Copelly have shown the world what americans can do if they exect themselves - But where a Science like that of b hysic, must grow up from a chem of dis coveries fesperiments, handed down from ge. heration to generation, any individual however warmly he may be disposed to promote the ritility can do but little unless he has the united observations . of others to aforth him -Teast

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Corrected according to the photostat copy of the article as printed in Continental Journal."

Jame 5, 1783. Borrowed from Dr. Viets.

P. C. Holt OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES

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Printed at the University Press

# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

16, SEP 1942

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#### OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES

By Benjn Waterhouse M.D.

Great pains have been taken of late to discover by means of instruments, that condition, and those changes of the air, which produce a general state of health or disease; so valuable & so important are some of these discoveries, that they will sufficiently commemorate the age we live in. — Nevertheless, we have still to lament that attempts to ascertain the causes of Epidemics are for the most part more specious than substantial.

There are changes in the Air which no instrument can detect. The Air is a chaos of all things; in it float up a down, the attenuated particles of all bodies whatever. The waters do not cover the beds of the ocean so entirely as this fluid does our earth. All creatures are nourished by it, and the manner of our existence constrains us to live in it be it good or bad. All the aids therefore of Art are vain, at all that Mature can do for want us fruitless, if we are deprived of it.

By heat & other causes the little corpuscles arising from bodies rotting, or burnt; the exhalations of animals or vegetables, & lastly from the earth herself are kept in perpetual motion. Need we then wonder that our bodies are variously affected by these different changes in the quality of the air, as well as the variations in the gravity of this fluid destined to nourish us.? It is matter of admiration we are affected so little.

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As we now posses, Reace, Liberty, and Independence, we may allow ourselves to think a little of personal safety. Our Commonwealth has thought so, a has founded a Medical School at Cambridge for the express purpose of encouraging, and diffusing the knowledge of the Healing Art, a exciting that spirit of free enquiry, without which it will never encrease beyond the pityfull bounds of a trade.

A Military spark first struck out in this City burst into
a flame, & spread throughout the Continent; thus illumn'd, this, till then benighted part of the world,
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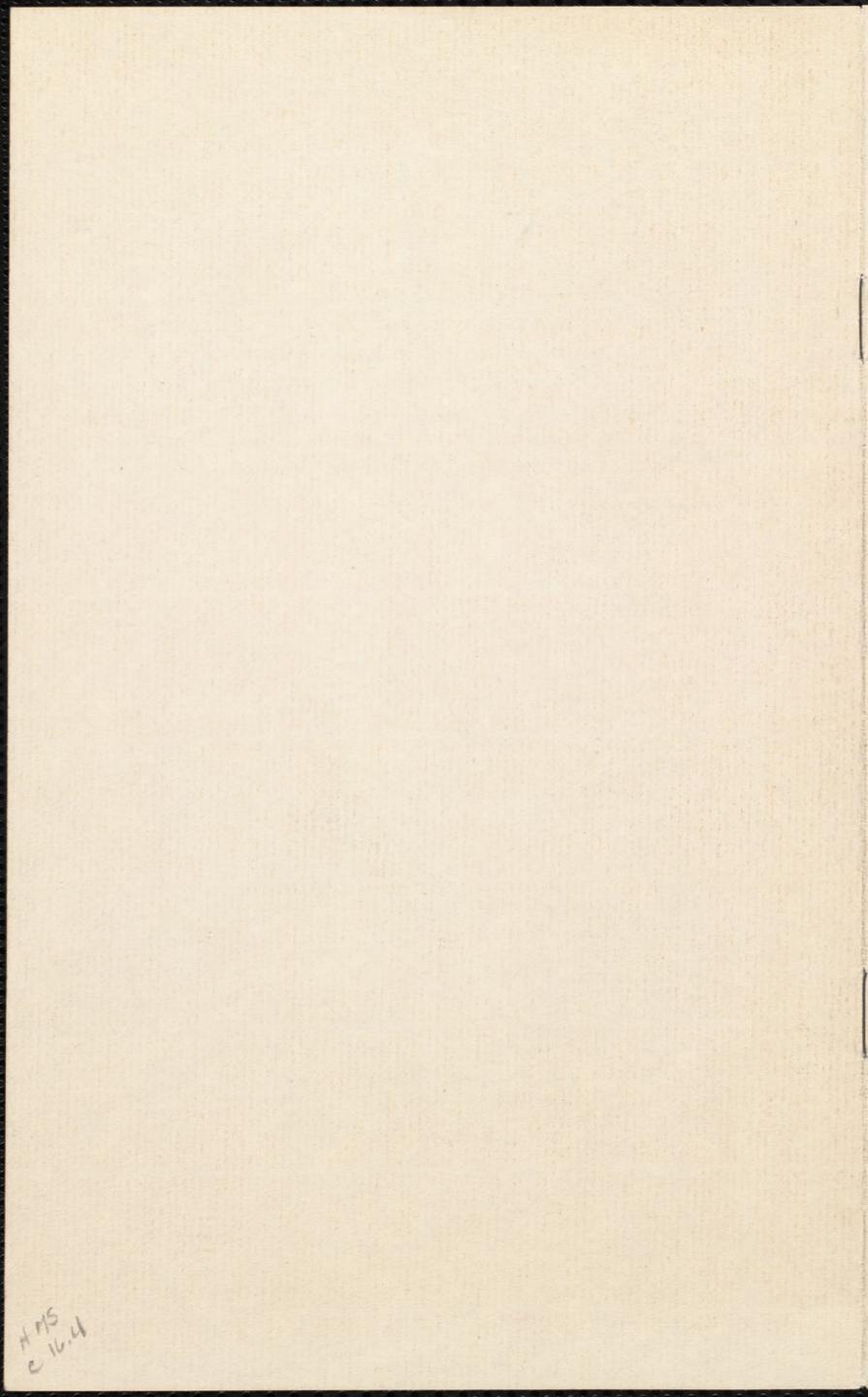
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Boston May 26th. 1783.



### OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES

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A Proposal to collect the History
Of all the Epidemics of our Country
In order, as they arise, or an attempt towards
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By Benj<sup>n</sup> Waterhouse M.D. Professor of the Theory & Practice of Physic in the University of Cambridge—

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Printed at the University Press

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16 SEP 1942 #3 in 1.Mh.1783. W

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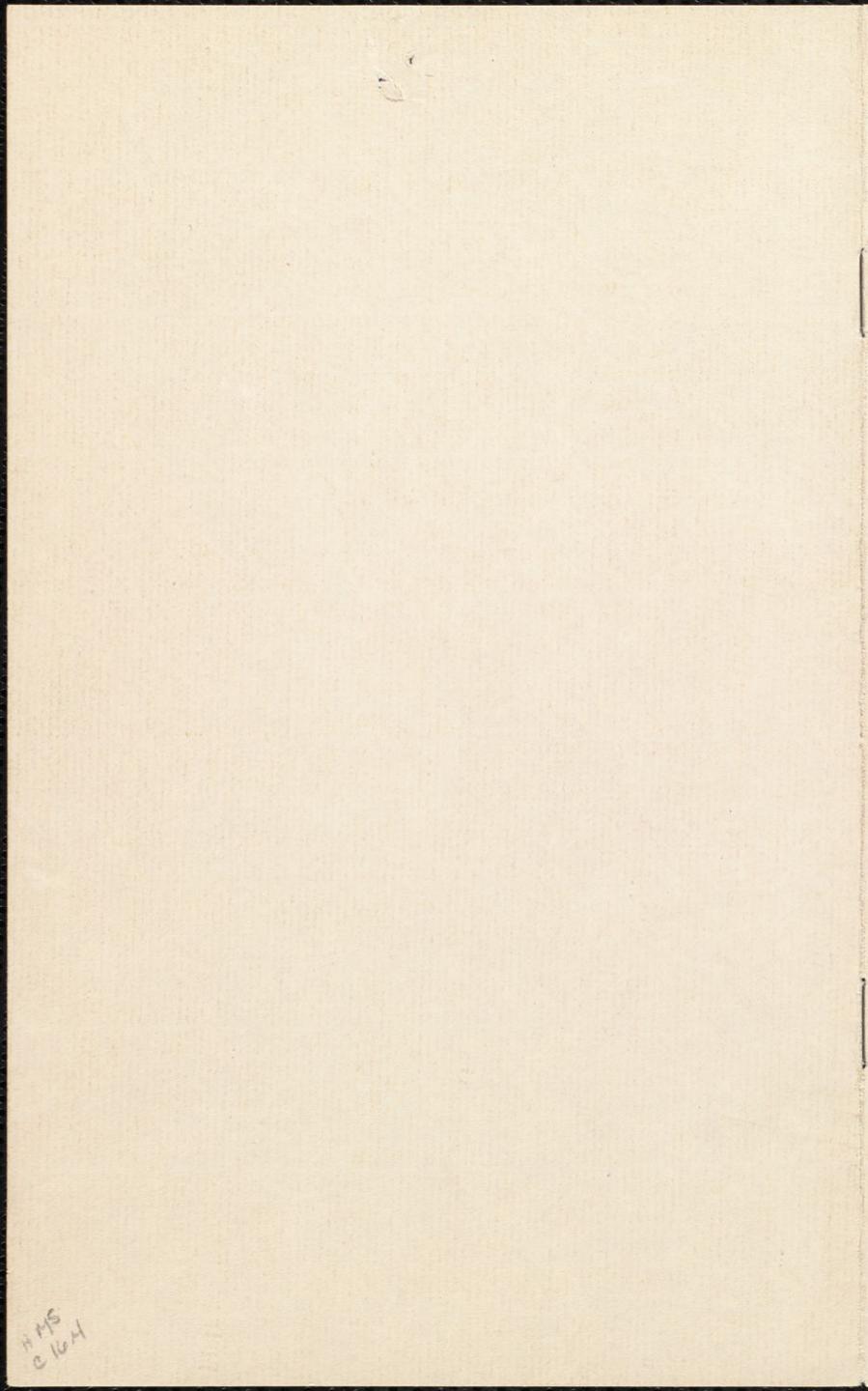
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Boston May 26th. 1783.



Mr. Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. President:

At a meeting of the Academy held on May 27th

1783, there was read a paper by Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, "A

Proposal to collect the History of all the Epidemics of our

Country in order as they arise, or an attempt towards filling

up that capital desideratum so earnestly recommended by Sydenham",

I believe this paper to be the first paper on a medical topic to be presented before any scientific assembly by any member of the Hervard Medical School Faculty. On this account the paper is of interest to medical historians. I can find no evidence that it has ever been published.

Recently the Medical School Library has acquired an interesting collection of Waterhouse material: dieries, letters from President Jefferson regarding veccination and from other distinguished persons, notes of lectures and even the announcement, deted May 21, 1795, of his due and proper election to membership in the Academy. It is an unusual collection which some day may be of great value to anyone with sufficient temerity to undertake an appropriate biography of a figure adding much color to the background of the Hervard Medical School.

Twrite you on behalf of Dr. Waterhouse asking for permission new to publish this paper. My thought is to send it to one of the journals interested in medical history: or better

18 SEP 1942

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still, if only I can find the necessary money, to have it
printed as a supplement to the Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin,
set up in form and type as would have been used in 1783.

Vaterhouse said in a letter to Mr. Bowdoin, "As this Paper on Reidemics was written for the present times, does the laying of it before the Academy prevent my making it public as I first intended for reasons obvious in the perusal?" Evidently, therefore, Dr. Waterhouse hoped at some time to have the paper appear before a wider audience than the Academy. The Academy was agreeable to this plan for the Record states, "It was agreed that in case Dr. Waterhouse should desire to publish the aforementioned Observations, he have liberty so to do, advertising the Public that it has been read before the Academy".

Academy Record concludes in regard to this manuscript, "The original still to continue the property of the Academy! Would the Academy, while still owning the original, be willing to deposit it in the Medical School Librery to be added to our Faculty Collection? This we are trying to make as complete as possible and to include all medical writings of faculty members. Naturally the manuscript of the paper which began the collection would be a very significant addition.

I end my bogging in a manner that I am sure Dr. Waterhouse would consider proper:

With every sentiment of respect

R.F. Regwold Tity M.D.

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## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES 28 NEWBURY STREET BOSTON

Jan. 18. 1942 Dr. Regineer Fitz. The Herrard medical School, Den Dr. Fitz: The Council will be Letty to have you fraced with the fubication of De befor by Dr. Weenhouse. 9t was also wated that the John. be defented in the Library of the Herrard medical Sekarl with the Johns of Dr. Waterhouse, and that sutable chrowledget of the courtery I ske acedany be mede of the mg. is exhibited.

Sincerely yours, about Rugan Waher HARVARD UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
LIBRARY

18 SEP 1942

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