My dear Albert,

Thank you for your letter of Sept.16 including your report. I cannot find any errors in it. For the sake of completeness, however, I should just like to summarize: Students of all faculties have to pass the examination in philosophy after one year. The medical study has 3 examinations: 1) The preliminary examination (Physics, Chemistry) 1-1½ year after matriculation, 2) "First Part Examination" (Anatomy, Physiology & Biochemistry) after 3½-4 years' study and 3) "Second Part Examination", which is divided into 2 parts. "Part A" (Hygiene, Pathological Anatomy, General Pathology, Pharmacology), which is passed after 6-7 years' study, and "Part B" (all clinical disciplines, legal Medicine), which must be passed one year after Part A. The indoctrination in clinical disciplines starts just after "First Part Examination". The study lasts mostly 8 years. After the final examination, i.e. "Second Part B", the student obtains the degree of Candidatus medicinae & chirurgiae. Full Certificate requires hereafter: residency in obstetrics + internship for one year. The designation "Læge" means "physician" and is no University degree.

So you see that a Candidatus here corresponds to your M.D. - Our degree: Doctor medicinae is as I told you an entirely scientific degree, which is rare. It requires a dissertation to be published at the expense of the author. The manuscript must beforehand be "accepted" by the faculty. Moreover it has to be "defended" publicly at a "Disputation" against the censors, i.e. 2 "Opponents ex officio" (professors of the faculty), but at the "disputation" any "academical citizen" may if they have any objections serve as "Opponents ex auditorio". Sometimes there will be 3 or 4 of them. If the dissertation has been "accepted" for "verbal defence" and the "Doctorand" has properly proved his results verbally at the defence the degree of Doctor will be conferred upon him. The ceremonial promotion of all doctors of the year takes place at the anniversary of the University in November in the name of the King, who is present and shakes hands with the new doctors. The degree of doctor entitles the carrier to lecture at the University and to use the auditoria for this purpose. The "verbal defence" is a very strenuous thing, which may last for 3-6 hours (!) and fierce fighting is usually going on between the "doctorand" and the "Opponents". Very seldom it happens that the former is "rejected" at this occasion, but it is not seldom that a dissertation is "not accepted", which means that many years' work has been done in vain. This system is a very old-fashioned one and has been kept up for centuries. It has always been difficult for me to make American colleagues understand that a candidatus medicinae & chirurgiae is in possession of a full medical education. The Swedish designation "licentiat" is better. In Norway and Sweden they have the same kind of medical study and the same curriculum as we have here also concerning the M.D. degree. All graduates from the University are "candidati" (candidatus magisterii, juris, theologiae, politieae).

This is the system we have here.

From here is nothing interesting to report. We are all doing well and I hope you are the same.

Lots of kind regards,  
sincerely yours

P.S. I have just now received your cigarettes, and, Oh, Boy, how I enjoy them. Thanks to you, dear Albert, for your thoughtfulness!!!