

CUS417/100.22

Arthur Thomson to Mr. Provost

Dec 10 '03

Museum,
Decto.

Dear Mr. Provost,

Thanks for your letter. You have put your fingers on the weak spot, but I have carefully considered this aspect of the question whom could we have? Church and Payne are the names that first occur to one. The former I believe would not accept the office and about the latter, no one waxes enthusiastic. The men in town with whom I have discussed this matter confess that they do not regard him as a representative man. I ascertained, however, that there was a feeling abroad that a young man should get the appointment. A man who might throw some energy into his work, and I heard Dr. Fred Andrews' name mentioned. Dr. Andrews is the pathologist at Bartes, were he appointed, there would at once be a clashing of interests here with the Pathological Department and it is questionable if the emoluments of the Chair £400 would tempt him. Since the appointment of a younger man would appear to be acceptable to a certain section of the Oxford Graduates, it naturally occurred to us that we should suggest the appointment of Ritchie, the man who has done the work here and whose scientific claims are certainly stronger than those of Andrews. That is how the case stands at present.

Yours very truly,
Arthur Thomson.