

Edinburg Call

CU5417/96.21

Letters etc. from Sir Edward Schäfer, Edinburgh, relating to
Professorship., Feb. 26, 1900 - Mar. 27, 1900.

From Lord Lister. *to Prof. Schäfer*

12, Park Crescent,
Portland Place.

Feb. 26, '00.

My dear Schäfer,

Before I received your letter I had been applied to by two of the candidates for a testimonial: and I replied that, as the subject of the Practice of Physic was one with which I could not affect to be conversant, I considered it best for me not to give my testimony in favour of any one. Under these circumstances I feel rather precluded from taking any active part with regard to this appointment.

I am of course aware that Osler would be a great source of strength to the University, and I should be delighted to see him appointed. But I confess that I hardly see how it can be expected that the Curators would elect him without his making formal application. If he did so, though without sending in any testimonials, it would be open to you and Greenfield and anyone else to urge his claims upon the Curators.

But to ask them to invite him without his making application would seem to me to throw away any chance of his appointment.

There are, of course, very good candidates in the field; and it would, I suspect, be thought too great a slap in the face for them to offer the Chair to a stranger without his having applied for it.

Believe me,
very truly yours,
LISTER.