

Bodleian Science Room

Bodley  
Surgery Office Sep. 19/19  
CUS417/3.15

*not used*

I feel that there is a great want in this county of proper <sup>w</sup>equipment for the Academic study of Medical History and allied studies. What is needed is an attempt to represent Medical knowledge in each age as the outcome of contemporary cultural equipment and to represent it as a continuous whole.

Five years ago the Bodleian accepted from <sup>Mr. Singer</sup> me £100 a year to buy a number of books on the History of Science - including Medicine. These are housed on open shelves in a separate alcove and are open to special students. This equipment has led to a considerable amount of work being done, and a number of memoirs have been published the "room" has six regular readers, two theses for degrees have already been prepared from the "Room" and others are in course of execution.

Nevertheless for the purposes of the History of Medicine as the subject is studied today this equipment is not fully adequate. No teaching or individual attention to a student's needs is possible in the "Room", books cannot be borrowed, the accommodation is inadequate even for the present number of readers, students cannot be freely admitted and it is impossible to store the collections of photographs and pictures that are so essential for the study of Medical History. What is needed is a small department equipped with all the reference books, bibliographies and text-books as

as well as photographs, retographs and facsimiles for the adequate study of specifically Medical History. The student must be freely admitted, the books freely accessible, in open shelves, and all arrangement made by which they can be freely borrowed. It is only in this way that the subject can make any serious impression.

Such a department would need a paid assistant to act as cataloguer and librarian, the part time services of an artist and photographer and a special fund for books and material. It should be open to all students interested in the subject and would need the supervision of some one who could help and advise them.

For a good many years I have devoted my time to the study of Medical History and would like to continued this work in Oxford but I feel that I should have a definite objective before me, which would involve the adequate recognition of a subject which is fully recognised in practically every county<sup>2</sup> where Universities are to be found. I am prepared to find in the first instance the current expenses of such an Institute. I have made a special study of similar Institutes on the Continent, and have had very considerable experience of the expenses involved in medico-historical work in this county, and am aware of the cost of such an undertaking.

It is obvious that it is impossible at this stage to promise complete permanence for an Institute which is of the nature of an experiment, but I am prepared to guarantee that my removal or death would not result in any charge on the University.