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Dr Welch tells me that Matthew Hay the pharmacologist was originally appointed at the same time that he was appointed, in 1884; also that Lauder Brunton was under consideration for the chair in Medicine. He thinks that their names ought to be in the University Circular of the period. Owing to the failure of the B. & O. stock, when there was some question of the hospital property being affected as well as the University property, the question of coming to a decision regarding a medical appointee was delayed, and Lauder Brunton dropped out of the list as a candidate. Meanwhile Hay had gone to Glasgow.

The John Billings story of his informal proposal to W.O. is incorrect. Welch had first met Osler at the Association of Physicians meeting in New York and had talked to him in 1888 at the Washington Congress, and felt that he would be tempted to accept.