

CUS417/100.35

117a, Harley Street,
W.

W. Cecil Bosanquet to Professor Thomson.
January 11th 1904.

Dear Professor Thomson,

Forgive me for troubling you with a letter on the subject of the prevailing topic in our medical world. I am rather sad about it all, as I fear that harm is bound to result now in any case. I believe that I quite appreciate what there is to say on your side of the question. I admit the need for further endowment of pathology and for its being if possible represented by a Professor. I should be glad to see Ritchie in that Chair. I believe that you probably appreciate equally our position in Town. We object to having the only Professorial representative of the whole of the second part of the M.B. abolished, and the care of the interests of students doing practical work entrusted, as a subsidiary detail, to a representative of a special science. I can assure you that it is not a plot in London to run in a candidate of our own and keep the Regius Professorship in the family. As far as I have seen, we are all, young and old, absolutely united as to the merits of the case. (I ought perhaps to except Dr. Pembrey and Dr. Boycott whose position I do not quite understand). In face of this universal feeling, are you so sure of the correctness of your view in Oxford that you think it worth while to create the very sharp schism in the Oxford school that seems bound to follow the success of your policy? I am bound to admit that as far as I can see you are likely to prevail, owing to Sir J. Burdon Sanderson's influence. Is it worth the price to be paid? We may be wrong, but we are the majority of the Oxford graduates. You should convert us first, and not thrust this scheme down our throats. I do not suppose it is really any good appealing to you to reconsider the matter now that we are so far committed on both sides, and now that unfortunately so much bitterness has been developed. But I think the appeal ought to be made. Personally I have no motive other than a wish for the prosperity of the school, and I believe that you are in the same position. Is there no possible compromise?

I write in great haste, so please forgive errors of typing.
Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. Cecil Bosanquet.