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7 Henriot Row

Mar. 1. 1900.

My dear Osler,

Yours of the 14 ult. arrived today, and I am anxious to answer it by this mail, so excuse a hasty typed letter. I have had a heavy day's work, and find it easier to use two hands than one.

Your position is what I expected. And I feared that you would not see your way to leave, but Schafer was more confident. However, I still have some hopes, but will try to state the position as it is, that you may not be misled.

1. So far as I have had opportunities of consulting them, the Med. Fac. will be strongly in your favour, or rather, enthusiastic for you. The only man of importance I have not seen is Fraser, he is ill, has been very ill, and I have not yet talked to him fully. But when I saw him before his more severe illness, he was, so far as I could judge, desirous that you should come. I have not spoken to anyone about it for the last week or two, as I wanted to hear from you first. The possibility of getting you has been seriously discussed ever since Stewart's death, and most of the talk about you was done, so far as I am concerned, during the week or two after.

I may add that amongst the younger and more active men the feeling is very strong that we should get you if we can. Even the present candidates, with one exception, would welcome you enthusiastically.

2. The question of equipment and staff. Upon this point I cannot speak with authority, indeed no one can except Turner, whom Schafer will see in London. I thought I might let Schafer know your views generally, as he has been in comm. with you, and will use his knowledge discreetly. So far I have been less strict than usual with a letter marked private. I may say that S. was so convinced that you were willing to come, that he, and not I, is responsible for the use of your name, though I am credited with the report or rumour. Perhaps I should say that it was really through Stewart that

the hope of getting you arose.

~~3-~~ I have no doubt that the Univ. Court, will, if you come, do what it can to give you the necessary laborat. <sup>l</sup> "accomm." and assistants. Not to the extent to which you have been accustomed, officially, but I believe you would find no lack of young and able men to work under you. There are many about, who have the time and the ability, and would gladly do it. I do not think there is any doubt that you would succeed in getting all you want, but- you would undoubtedly have the work of getting and organising it yourself, and it would not all fall ready-made into your mouth. And perhaps, having made three med. <sup>l</sup> schools, you don't want to make a fourth. But it would be a noble work. You might do for us in medicine what Lister did in Surgery.

~~4.~~ As to Clin. Laboratory. There is a part of ~~the~~ Univ. buildings wh. will soon be vacant, wh would do well. I shall try in any case to get it used for the purpose.

One great difficulty here is that Medicine has been looked upon as a means to lucrative practice chiefly. And that the Managers of the Infirmary are not only independent of, but mostly opposed to, the University. So that they will not, if they can help it, lift a finger to advance our teaching. But I think there are signs that they are improving, and will be open to suggestions, especially in the case of a man who is likely to infuse new life into the medical world. They have shewn their appreciation of surgical advance, and spent much in new operating theatres, equipment, &c.

But so long as men use their position as Physicians simply to increase their practice, they see no reason why they should worry about giving them <sup>more work for the</sup> ~~benefit~~ staff are only enlarged general practitioners, and do not excite enthusiasm. I am pretty sure that you would get all you want, after a time spent in making them realise their duties.

And, in any case, you would ~~have~~ have a fine body of students, from all parts of the world, who would most enthusiastically welcome you, and who are worth helping. And their number would be even greater than it is now. We have plenty of men of great ability who are willing to devote two or three years to any work we can give them, with little or no remuneration. Many graduates come back for special work before taking their M.D. and they also would help.

A word or two about other matters.

Finances. The official salary of the chair is nine hundred pounds. Three clinical fees amount to about ~~f~~250 or ~~t~~300 in addition. They would increase with you.

Of the other possibilities, without serious work, Insurance companies are the best, you would probably soon get one, with salary of ~~f~~300 to ~~f~~500.

Then before long, you would have consulting work which would pay, how much is of course uncertain, but you know how fees run here. Probably you would get, as I might have done, if I had been free to do it, the best kind, distant journeys at high fees. But you know all about this. Probably you would be largely free from the more petty home affairs, at least for some time.

I dare say you are better up in these matters than I.

But I want you to know the state of affairs fully, so far as possible.

Vacations, &c. You would be practically free for 2½ months in autumn, and for five weeks in spring. Simpson usually takes nearly six. I expect you could arrange more. And the work in summer would not tie you close. I am tied by my laboratory work, practical classes &c. But then I am a rather slow dull fellow, a cripple, as you know, and much worn out.

I think that is nearly all. Only I may add that from various communications I know that your coming would be most enthusiastically welcomed by the profession in Great Britain, that the leading men are exceedingly anxious to get you on this side of the herring-pond, and that if you are not treated well here, you will be free to choose the best that Great Britain can offer. And that will, of itself, be a guarantee for your treatment here.

I do not know if I have made matters clear. I may have put the worst side, but I don't want you to come on false pretences. But I do think that you would make it a great position, and that it would be a worthy crown to your career.

I have spoken from the point of view of one who is a mere drudge,, not capable of rising to heights.

There is only one thing I would ask, viz, that you would let me know as soon as possible what you decide. A cable would be very acceptable. The time in which anything can be done is very short. The session ends on March 23. and after that everyone will be away. The appointment will be about April 20. But any influence must be brought to bear as soon as possible.

I think I said before that there is no possibility of any invitation of a formal kind being given, that applications must be sent in. The constitution of the electoral body prevents any other course. Nor can there be any formal guarantee of treatment of various questions.

So do please let me know as soon as you can.

I shall still hope that you may be induced to come.

Excuse errors. I am heavily pressed just now, and shall be till some of my colleagues return to work.

*Yours sincerely*  
*L. S. Greenfield*