

re Edinburgh Call.

Letter from E. A. Schafer.

To W. O.

CUS417/96.23

(Script).

Private. University Edinburgh,

March 2, 1900.

My dear Osler,

I yesterday saw Greenfield who communicated to me the gist of a letter he had received from you, and who also asked me as I was coming to London to see Turner (who is in town on Medical Council business). Greenfield will himself have informed you of the practical unanimity of the members of the Medical Faculty in your candidature: all with whom I have spoken have greeted the possibility of your coming forward most cordially. This may certainly definitely resolve any doubts you may have formed on that head. And Sir Wm. Turner, who is by far the most influential person in the University, and who is in close touch with several of the Curators, told me today that he has no doubt whatever that if you intimate your intention of applying in good time you are practically sure to be unanimously elected. He asked me however, to urge upon you the necessity of not delaying such intimation and he added "you know I would not say this unless it were really a matter of importance".

Greenfield tells me that you would want a guarantee that you should be supplied with a proper clinical laboratory and assistants and should have a free hand in the manner in which you would teach your subject. But as he will have told you, no formal guarantee can be given regarding anything, because the electors are altogether outside the University and have no function but to elect. There is however, not the slightest doubt that everything will be done that the resources of the University admit of to meet your requirements: in fact the University is bound by statute to provide everything that is necessary for the teaching of a subject. I had myself no guarantee that anything would be done for me but it was clearly understood that I should make very considerable demands, as regards requisenda (?) and alterations in the mode of teaching and all my demands have been met. Turner said to me today "You can tell Osler that the University Court will not only be willing but anxious to provide him with anything that he may require to carry out teaching or research: we are always ready to meet the wishes of a new man and more especially if he comes to us from a distance and with new ideas". Of course this does not mean that they will then and there be able to build a complete Institute, but it does mean that they will do all they immediately can to meet your demands. You must know that Turner is the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and actually manages the finances of the University, which he has at his fingers' ends, and if he says a thing is likely to be done, no better guarantee can be had. He believes that there is already space available for a clinical laboratory especially since the public health people are soon to vacate their rooms and take possession of a new Institute which is being erected for them.

P.T.O.

Letter from E. A. Schafer
To W. O.

(Script)

I went to Croxley today and had a search for the list of your papers but I could not find it. I may have destroyed it after I had made a selection for the R.S. list. I am going again on Sunday and will have another look.

Everybody here in London is most cordially supporting you in absentia: many of course may have already given testimonials to local candidates but those are of no real value, for when the givers are applied to by individual curators to state their opinion as to the relative merits of the claims of those applying for the post it is certain that it will be unanimously given in your favour.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Schafer.

You must quite understand that the Infirmary does not belong to the University: although the Professor of Medicine is ex officio a clinical Professor there and has wards. The Medical Faculty, as such, has also no status in the Infirmary the whole control of which is vested in the Board of Managers.

We have been wild with excitement this week at the news of the surrender of Cronje and the relief of Ladysmith. I never before saw such public manifestations of jubilation. I suppose it shows how depressed people had been feeling although they pretended not to be.