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re University of Manchester call

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Confidential.

The Reform Club.
July 6th 1907.

Dear Dr Osler,

You would perhaps be surprized to receive my telegram on Thursday evening. As I had to go up to London yesterday evening I hoped to have been able to arrange a visit to Oxford to-day. The subject upon which I was anxious to see you was our Chair of Medicine in Manchester University vacant by the death of Prof. Dreschfeld.

The Medical Committee of the Senate met on Thursday afternoon and a general feeling was expressed that we should try to secure the best possible Professor to hold the Chair irrespective of the questions of connection with the existing staff of the Infirmary and that you should be approached on the subject. We know of course that having regard to your position at Oxford you may not be prepared to consider the matter but there can be no harm in letting you know how it stands and in saying that if you did entertain the idea of coming to Manchester I believe that you would have a most hearty welcome, and that there is a great field for doing work of the highest value.

Under our agreement with the Royal Infirmary when the University conveyed the side on which the new buildings are being erected, our Professor of Medicine will have ex officio an equal number of beds with the other Seniors and be a member of the Infirmary Staff. The deaths of Dr Dreschfeld and of Dr Harris during the past year have made a great gap in the ranks of the consulting physicians of Manchester. The Medical School as you know is a large one and has many strong points. We have good arrangements both with the Infirmary and Special hospitals as to "affording facilities" and there is a vast amount of clinical "material". If our principal chairs are held by professors who command the confidence of the profession and the public, who would attract students and have the advancement of Science at heart the Medical School must have a great future before it. Our anxiety is to make it as strong as possible. The conviction that you could do this is the reason I write to put the position before you. I would gladly give any further particulars either by letter or would come up again to London to meet you. I return to Manchester this afternoon, for Committee meets again on Tuesday. Perhaps I ought to have begun my letter by re-introducing myself, you may perhaps remember our meeting a little time ago in Manchester when we were guests of Dr Dreschfeld at a Medical dinner there?

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

ALFRED HOPKINSON.