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CUS417/109.20 1/2
(Dr. Lewellys Barker)

Department of Medicine,
Oxford University.
Jan. 25th, 10.

Re Text Book

Dear Barker,

i. The position is as follows: -

No longer in active work, and rather in the rear-guard than in the van, I felt that it would be most important to have some one associated with me for the next two editions. My idea was to have it if possible kept up in connection with the medical department of the Johns Hopkins, and gradually hand it over completely. I thought to ask you; then you wrote about your diagnosis, and I felt it would be better in many ways for you to have an independent book. Of Thayer to whom I would naturally next have turned, I was really afraid, on account of the improbability of getting the material; so that in June I made a suggestion to MacCrae - merely a suggestion so far - to help me with the next edition, with the view of ultimately turning the Text-Book over to him - after two or three editions. My intention was to reconstruct the Text-Book, and rearrange it on other lines, so that the edition of 1912 would practically represent a new book.

ii. A new Text-Book under your editorship, on the model of von Mering would be a great success. The one which Pepper edited did remarkably well, but it never reached the second (3rd?) edition on account of difficulties with the publishers. For students the sections in composite books are apt to be unequal, and it is difficult to keep the revisions up to date. The two works of the kind in this country (Gibbons and Bains) have been great failures, but I am sure with you as editor the work would be successful. Of course I should not have the slightest feeling in the matter, but should you think that any people would (be) stupid enough to entertain such an idea, I could even write one of the minor sections. On the other hand, I do not feel that Appleton and Co. should undertake such a work as a rival to mine, or if they did they should throw up the copyright of my text-book for the U.S. I do not doubt they feel a little anxious for the future for the work, and would like to see their way clear ahead. I should be quite willing: -

iii. To hand over to you and Appletons all my rights in the Text-Book; that is to say, Osler's Practice would be withdrawn; the next edition, issued as Barker's, would be practically a new work, with which was incorporated as much or as little material of the old as you thought fit. The publishers would issue a circular to the teachers, saying that the business heretofore conducted by Osler, (Humpton) and Co. would be for the future carried on by Barker, (Humpton) and Co. at the old stand. Somewhere in the book, on the back of the last page, might be indicated the various editions - Osler's Practice, first edition 1892, etc. etc., and then Barker's Practice, first edition 1912. Of course if any such

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(Second page of letter of
Jan. 25th, 10.)

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plan were considered you and Appleton would have to share, I should say equally, the cost. I will find out from the financial man at the Clarendon Press what approximately the purchase money would be, based on the income of the past three or four years. Naturally I have a strong sentiment about the book, but I know quite well that the life and success of a work depends upon the life of the man, and it is to the interests of the publishers as well as my own, to make provision for a gradual or immediate transfer of editorial control.

I have been in bed the great part of the week with an attack of renal colic; I had one you may remember about eight years ago, in which Fitcher and Emerson determined the presence of a Quartz calculus. - This was pretty sharp while it lasted and rather obstinate, I did not know whether the surgeons would have to come in, but the offender passed comfortably yesterday morning.

Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

Greetings to Miss Humpton -
Tell her that R went off to Winchester
last Wednesday - Love to the family.