

W. Osler.

Letter from Dr. C. B. Heberden² of Brasenose College⁵. COS417/3.8

at Bonchurch Hotel,
Bonchurch,
Isle of Wight.

March 31, 1911.

Dear Dr. Osler,

I understood that you would probably be returning to Oxford about this time, so I am writing to you as I was asked to do by the Bodleian Curators, about Nicholson. His state of health has made things very difficult at the Bodleian throughout last term, as indeed it has done for many months, and the Curators had a long discussion on the subject at a special Meeting held at the end of last term. It was however decided to take no steps in the matter before we could have your advice after your return. As you know, the Librarian has been very little at the Library for a long time past, but he seems to be under the illusion that when he comes, even for an hour or two, he can do all that is required:

(Over)

T-a

(Continued from other side).

whereas I believe that even when he is there he does not devote himself to the ordinary routine of the Librarian's work. He does not appear to realize how the work of the Library suffers. The question is whether there is any prospect of his recovering sufficiently to do the necessary work. If not, something must be done. If he continues in the same state, the best thing would be if he would resign with a pension, and though he has not quite completed the thirty years of service which would entitle him to the highest pension, the difficulty might be got over by a Decree. But I do not think that he will voluntarily resign, because he does not realize how much the Library is suffering from his prolonged incapacity to do his work. , though he is so loyal to the Library that he probably might resign if he did realize it. The Curators hoped that you would take an opportunity of seeing him, and would advise them early next term as to the chances of his recovery. Last term he had I believe a touch of pleurisy, but was getting over that when I last heard.

I am here till the end of next week, when I go probably to Devonshire for a short time: I am due back in Oxford on Easter Monday.

Yours sincerely,

C. B. HEBERDEN.

From the same to W.O.

CUS417/3.9
Brasenose College,