

~~1028/31/22~~

Washington, <sup>CWS417/81.22</sup>  
December 12, 1884

Dear Dr. Bowditch;

Yours of the  
7<sup>th</sup> inst. is received,  
for which I am oblig-  
ed. The section is, as  
you say, a new one  
for such a Congress.  
It is designed to bring  
in a number of things  
which are of special  
interest to the better  
class of medical men,

and especially <sup>2</sup> to teachers  
of Medicine, but for  
which there is no  
place in any other of  
the usual sections.

It will include such  
subjects for this coun-  
try as the expediency  
of Registration Laws  
for Physicians in  
the several states, and  
the best form of such  
laws, their actual  
working as in Illi-

nois, Alabama<sup>3</sup>, New  
York, etc. and the re-  
lations of such attempts  
at state control of  
the education of medi-  
cal practitioners to  
Medical associations  
and to medical Schools.  
It would also in-  
clude plans and de-  
scriptions of the more  
recent buildings in  
this Country and in  
Europe, which have

4  
been planned with  
special reference to  
medical instruction,  
and I should hope  
you would have  
some of the men  
from Leipzig, Halle,  
Berlin etc to explain  
the peculiarities of  
their buildings and  
the reasons therefore.  
The provision which

should be made in<sup>5</sup>  
hospitals for Clinical  
Instruction also comes  
to your section.

The best methods  
of teaching Physiology,  
Anatomy, Pathology,  
etc. etc. with demon-  
strations to a certain  
extent of the appa-  
tus employed, belongs  
also to your sections,  
and will undoubtedly

ly be the most interest-  
ing feature in the  
Congress. It seems  
to me that it will  
probably be expedi-  
ent for you to arrange  
for joint sessions  
with other sections at  
the time when you  
take up the subject  
of methods of teaching  
the specialities referred  
to in that section

that is to say, on one day there should be a joint session of your section with the section on Physiology to consider the methods of teaching Physiology; on another day with the section on Anatomy and so on.

You are selected to be Chairman of this

Section for<sup>8</sup> the reason  
that you are the  
Dean of the Harvard  
Medical School; that  
you have been interest-  
ed in the subject of  
buildings for Medical  
Schools, are well ac-  
quainted abroad with  
those who have been  
foremost with mak-  
ing improvements  
in the methods of



teaching,<sup>9</sup> and your  
school is taken at  
present as the Repre-  
sentative of advanced  
medical education in  
this country.

Your duties as Chair-  
man will be proba-  
bly the laying out  
of the work, and  
selecting the persons  
to open the discussions  
on the several questions,  
you

You<sup>10</sup>  
will have one or more  
Secretaries of the Section  
who will do the detail-  
ed work, and they  
will be appointed sub-  
ject to your wish.

At least one of them  
should be in Boston  
and a man upon  
whom you can de-  
pend. As to opening  
the section with an  
address that would  
be entirely at your

discretion," but in  
most of the sections  
I think the Chairman  
will give a short  
address of fifteen or  
twenty minutes at  
the opening of the  
section, briefly indi-  
cating the purpose  
of the programme  
and the conditions  
of affairs relating  
to it in this country

12  
I think you are emi-  
nently fitted to pre-  
side over this sec-  
tion and in fact  
I donat know of  
anyone else in this  
country who can  
do it.

You can have all  
the advice and  
suggestions that  
you want and I  
do not think that

your difficulty<sup>13</sup> will  
be a scarcity of material  
but rather a superabundance  
of it. The business of the Chair-  
man of a Section  
during the sessions  
is simply to see that  
the programme is ad-  
hered to and to keep  
the discussions with-  
in the proper limits.

Your position as  
Chairman of this Sec-

tion, which I think is  
the most important  
one of all, will bring  
you into contact with  
all the leading men  
from abroad, many  
of whom are old ac-  
quaintances, and your  
knowledge of German  
will be invaluable  
in this position.

Do not, I beg of you,  
hesitate a moment to

accept the <sup>15</sup> office. I will  
do all that I can to  
make the burden as  
light as possible for  
you.

I do not expect to  
be in Boston for  
several months as  
I have no special  
business there, and  
I can not afford to  
travel for pleasure,  
although it would be

16  
a very great pleasure  
for me to be able to  
visit Boston this  
Winter.

Yours Very Sincerely  
John S Millings  
Sery. Genl.

J H P Browlitch,

Dec 12/84  
Burlingame