

CUS 417/101.124

J. George Adami to W.O.
Nov. 28th, 1904.

(typewritten)

My dear Osler,

Very many thanks for your last note. When I wrote to you I had not consulted Miss Abbot and now I find that the plan I sketched out to you is one that she very vigorously, and I think very stupidly, resents. That plan was the outcome of my opinion that a catalogue on this scale would be, to all intents and purposes, a text-book in gross pathology and special anatomy for our students. As such, it seemed to me self-evident that, as I am in charge of this part of the teaching, what we might term the didactic portion of the work, should be in my hands. This seems never to have struck Miss Abbot and, instead of realizing the wisdom of it, the thought that the work should not be wholly hers evidently so worries her and is so resented, that I see very clearly that for me to insist upon it would be to ruin the work and that, you can understand, is very far from being my desire. She went so far the other day as to speak of the descriptive work as drudgery. Still I cannot allow her the free hand that she evidently has so far imagined is her due; I must have the supervision of the didactic portion. So I am letting her know that, while I am wholly willing that the work should appear in her name, it must be with this proviso.

I am sorry to bother you with such a storm in the tea-cup but still I thought you should be informed how things are proceeding and if, when you write, you could put the matter in such a form that she is made to see the wisdom of the course, I shall be grateful. She is very easily upset and very difficult to reason with. Heaven knows I do not want to take away her enthusiasm for the work so I shall be grateful to you if you can show her that these things must be.

Your little note of surprise that we are still managing our own financial affairs came very apropos. As a matter of fact, Saturday saw the last of a series of three special meetings of the Faculty at which I had a series of motions; first that, from a purely academic point of view, the five years course was a matter of urgent necessity and, secondly, that, from a practical point of view, our financial position made it impossible for us to enter upon it and, therefore, we had to consider our financial position. So it was that, on Saturday last, after a vigorous, full-dress debate, the Faculty agreed, nemine contradiscente, that it would be for the welfare of the Faculty and to the interest of medical education here, that we gained full (financial) union with the University, and a committee be nominated to approach the Governors conveying to them this opinion and to discuss the terms under which a union could be accomplished. We feel, that is, that, to a certain extent, we must safeguard our power over appointments and gain certain assurances about the status of certain of our professors. So I am glad to say that we are going on the right line, but it was a fight, Shepherd and Ruttan being strongly against the proposal and the Dean taking no hand save attempting to delay the decision.