

(script)

From James Ritchie.
re Regius Professorship

CVS 417/101.74

Aug. 12. 1904.
28 , Beaumont Street,
OXFORD.

Dear Professor Osler,

Many thanks for your kind note regarding the Regius Professorship. I can truly say I am delighted that the Oxford Medical School is to have such a strong and distinguished head and I feel sure that all those of us who are teachers will work loyally and harmoniously under your leadership for the good of medical education in this University. As my name was mentioned in connection with the Professorship I should like to take this opportunity of making my position perfectly plain to you. I made it clear from the outset that I did not wish the appointment for its own sake and I consented to the Oxford teachers putting my name forward entirely because they were convinced that the association of the Regius Professorship with the Readership in Pathology (which I hold) was the only way open at the time for making the salary of the head of the Pathological Dept. approach that of the heads of the other Departments. This, I understand, Sir J. B. Sanderson, Professors Gotch and Thomson have for some time held to be a desideratum. You will therefore see that my feelings are very different from what they might have been if I had been eager for the position of head of the School which certainly I never was.

I fear it will be rather a wrench for you in some ways to leave the University with which you have been so long associated but I hope the heartiness of the welcome which I feel certain you will have in Oxford will in some measure be a compensation.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES RITCHIE.