

*Applied Unit, USAF  
Volunteer Unit B.S.  
Harvard Unit No 2* CUS 417/119.95  
(To Pres. Lowell, Cambridge, Mass.)

(Typewritten)

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD.

3 April, 1915.

Dear Lowell:

You doubtless know that several Universities have sent members of their surgical staff to the French hospitals. So you think Harvard University would offer to staff a British war hospital for 1040 beds for work either in France or in England. This means a personnel which I enclose on the paper A. We do not ask them to bring equipment, though doubtless surgeons would prefer to bring their own surgical instruments. We will pay them their salaries if they wish this. The rates which we pay are enclosed on B. We cannot give the personnel commissions, though I am not quite so certain of that, though I do not suppose they care. The status is the same whether they have commissions or not. I cannot for the moment say whether they would work in England or in France. So much depends upon future military events . . . . If the offer be made, we shall have to get the consent of the enemy. (See Article XI of the Geneva Convention).  
*Indist. Unit.*

*Please show that  
you.*

This quotation is from a private letter of the Director General, and should, of course, not be printed, but I thought it best to give the statement in his own words as you see by it exactly what is wanted. I know how difficult the position is in America, and particularly for public bodies such as universities, and the Faculty might feel that it was not quite a friendly act on the part of a neutral. On the other hand, the medical work is strictly humanitarian.

If the suggestion meets with your approval, talk the matter over privately please with one or two of your chief surgeons, for whom, of course, it would be a great opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

Principal Lowell,  
Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Two enclosures.