

Pembroke House,  
133 Oxford Street, W.1.

CUS 417/127. 203 1/2  
J. George Adami to W.O.  
April 1st, 1919.

Dear Sir William,

It was very good of you to let me see the enclosed and, as I said in my previous letter, I see little to suggest regarding the same.

There is, however, a point that perhaps should be inserted, namely there might be included a suggestion as to your desires regarding books upon the history of medicine and science, and those works already presented by you to the library, and works in the library of dates say prior to 1700. Would you wish these, or any of them, to be incorporated - even if on separate shelves - in the B.O.?

Birkett probably will be writing to you. I had a talk with him yesterday; he made the point regarding the three members constituting a quorum, namely that the Dean, the Principal and the Professor of Medicine, being on the spot and constituting a quorum, would in all probability (a) be in a majority at most of the meetings, and (b) might at a meeting at which no other curator was present, take action which would not be approved by the external curators. The question is how to get over this difficulty. Would it not be well -

(1) To lay down that there should be an annual meeting upon some fixed date, i.e. the Saturday nearest to say the 1st February, at which the librarian should present an Annual Report; (2) to nominate either

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the Professor of Medicine or the Librarian as Secretary to the curators, and (3) to lay down that the minutes of each meeting be forwarded to all curators who are absent within a week after the holding of the meeting.

If the librarian were appointed Secretary there should be a regulation to the effect that he should have no vote. It strikes me that possibly it would be wiser to nominate the Professor of Medicine as ex-officio Secretary: this would give the curators greater freedom in supervising and criticizing the work of the librarian.

On the other hand, if you wish to exalt the position of the Osler librarian and to have a first-class scholar holding the post, the conditions of tenure would be pleasanter if he were brought intimately into contact with the curators at these meetings, and if he did not feel that he was purely the servant of the curators.

I give you these thoughts for what they are worth.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. I have just finished dictating this letter when Birkett and Martin came up to see me on the same subject. I read it out to them and they asked me to say that they agreed with what is therein written.