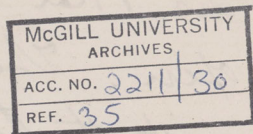


George
Gay 7/

London.
Decr 22 /70



Dear Papa

In your last-letter you enclosed an advertisement of Browne about his "Plea for Reflectors" you did not say anything about it but supposing you wanted it, I have got a copy & sent it by this mail; together with a copy of Brady's notice, sent for you. William will find in it a comparatively very simple receipt for silvering mirrors. I should not think, even from what Browne says, that a reflector would be a very handy instrument, especially for Canada. For it seems that the temperature of

The observatory should not exceed by more than 10° that of the external air, & that all outside should be open. This would not be pleasant with the thermometer below zero. And it is often at these low temperatures that the clearest nights occur.

The Cephalaspis has been returned, together with a few other fossils, which seem to be remains of smaller fishes.

I received quite safely by last mail Williams P.O. order for £4. I also your bundle of copies of Education speech, & letters to Dallas &c. All have been sent to their destinations.

You ask what use Huxley & myself make of models & specimens.

Huxley has shown us a good many skeletons, in illustration of the part of the subject he has hitherto been on,

It also has a good many of those
french papier-mache models of the
circulation etc, & many good diagrams.

I believe when he gets to classification
he brings out a great many specimens.
He has finished development now &
will offer a mass by in classification.

Smythe, has some very good models
of crystals, especially skeleton models,
coloured, & made of pretty strong wire.

The derived forms being enclosed
within the primary. He has also some
large glass models, formed of separate
frames attached together at the edges by
strips of coloured cloth. The primary
enclosing the secondary in the same
way.

Huxley said something the other day
about having some papers he wished
to send you, but had no time
at present - on account of the
school board.

A fellow called Herman, who has now been working at the Laboratory for about three years, has lately obtained some very beautiful phosphorous crystals. They were formed, with certain precautions, by the spontaneous sublimation of phosphorous in glass tubes, rendered vacuous by Sprengel's air pump. The tubes being kept in the dark. The crystals so obtained are, some of them as large as small peas, are perfectly transparent, & have an adamantine lustre as good as that of the diamond.

They are very perfect crystals, but very complicated, they belong to the cubical system, & have the greater part of its tesseral forms often present in one crystal, many of them having several hundred perfect-faces.

It is the first-time that such perfect crystals have been obtained, & they have been submitted to Maschke (? spelling) of the British Museum to determine the angles. &c.

Believe me your obedient
son
Geo. H. Danson