

Letter of application and testimonials of David Berry Hart ... candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen.

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With Dr. Berry Hart's Compliments

Letter of Application and Testimonials

OF

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Formerly Obstetric Physician to the Royal Maternity and Simpson
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Consulting Gynæcologist to Leith Hospital

Honorary Fellow of the American Gynæcological Society and of the
Berlin Obstetrical Society

Corresponding Fellow of the Leipzig Obstetrical Society

Formerly President of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society and of the
Royal Medical Society

Candidate

FOR THE

CHAIR OF MIDWIFERY

IN THE

University of Aberdeen

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LETTER OF APPLICATION

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THOMAS M'KINNON WOOD, Esq., M.P.,

HIS MAJESTY'S

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

SIR,—

I beg respectfully to apply for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Aberdeen, vacant by the resignation of Professor WILLIAM STEPHENSON.

I began the study of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh in 1872, graduating M.B. and C.M. in 1877. Immediately on graduation I was appointed Assistant to Professor SIMPSON, and was thus enabled to come into touch at once with the teaching of the subjects of Midwifery and Diseases of Women, and to adopt these ultimately for my professional career. I spent the autumn of 1877 in Vienna, and have since then, on several occasions, visited Continental and American schools to study some of the special developments of these subjects.

In 1880 I graduated M.D. and obtained a Gold Medal and the Syme Surgical Fellowship for my Thesis, on the subject of "The Structural Anatomy of the Female Pelvic Floor," in the preparation of which Thesis I was the first to employ the method of frozen sectional anatomy in Scotland.

In 1884 I was appointed Assistant Obstetric Physician to the Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital, and became full Physician in 1889. After serving fifteen years I ceased to hold my appointment there, in accordance with the rules of the Institution. In 1886 I was also appointed Assistant Gynæcologist to the Royal Infirmary, and in 1901 Gynæcologist to Ward 36 in the same Institution, in succession to Sir HALLIDAY CROOM. I also acted for some years as Gynæcologist to Leith Hospital, and am now consulting Gynæcologist there.

During this time I also engaged in practice, first in general medicine and then in special subjects.

In operative work I may claim to have been one of the pioneers in Scotland, as I performed, for the first time, and successfully, the operations of Cæsarean

section, for ruptured Fallopian tube gestation, and for advanced broad ligament gestation.

During the five years in which I acted as Professor SIMPSON's University Assistant I conducted the Tutorial instruction in Midwifery and Gynæcology of his large systematic classes ; and in connection with my Hospital appointments I have been, during many years, engaged in clinical teaching.

In 1883 I commenced systematic lecturing in the Extra-Mural School of Medicine, Edinburgh, giving courses first in summer, and afterwards in winter, qualifying for University graduation and for the licenses of the Royal Colleges. I have thus had under my tuition many hundreds of students ; and when a candidate for the Chair of Midwifery in the University of Glasgow, a requisition in my favour received upwards of a thousand signatures.

I have also, at much trouble and considerable cost, collected and organised a large Obstetrical and Gynæcological Museum, containing many unique and rare specimens. Much of it is of special value for teaching purposes, and has been largely utilised, not only by me in the lecture-room, but also by my students in their private work. It also contains the many specimens I have prepared in connection with my research work. Of these I may draw attention to the casts and models prepared from frozen sections and dissections, which have proved of great value in the teaching and illustration of operations.

I have thus devoted a very large portion of my time to teaching and to research.

This teaching and research work have led me to publish, not only systematic treatises for the student and general practitioner, but also several monographs and many papers, giving the results of my original work.

Of the first I may mention the *Manual of Gynæcology*, now in its sixth edition, written in conjunction with Dr. FREELAND BARBOUR, of which about 14,000 copies have been sold, and an *Atlas of Female Pelvic Anatomy*, dedicated, by permission, to Sir WILLIAM TURNER. Of the Manual, translations in French, Italian, and Spanish have appeared, and a large American edition was also published.

In the original papers I took up various anatomical and physiological questions connected with Midwifery and Gynæcology, and have been able to throw light on many points in Anatomy, Obstetric Physiology, Pathological Anatomy, and Embryology. In recognition of these I have been appointed an Honorary Fellow of the American Gynæcological Society, and of the Berlin Obstetrical Society, as well as a Corresponding Fellow of the Leipzig Obstetrical Society. I am also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. I have opened debates on important subjects, by request, at various International Medical Meetings, namely, at Brussels on "Placenta Prævia," at Ipswich on "The Notification of Puerperal Diseases," and at Manchester on "Prolapsus Uteri," and on "The

Morphology of the Urinogenital Tract." The last three were at the Meetings of the British Medical Association ; and in the last discussion it was considered a special honour that an Obstetrician should have been asked to open a debate before a purely Anatomical Section, on points raised by his recent embryological work.

I have acted as Examiner in Midwifery and Diseases of Women in the University of Edinburgh (by election), and in the Universities of Oxford, Birmingham, and Liverpool (by request). I have also for many years been an Examiner in Obstetrics and Gynæcology in the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

Should you appoint me, no effort will be wanting on my part to maintain the reputation which this Chair in the University of Aberdeen has acquired throughout the civilised world.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID BERRY HART.

5 RANDOLPH CLIFF, EDINBURGH,
August 30, 1912.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS AND PAPERS

PUBLISHED WORKS

1. THE STRUCTURAL ANATOMY OF THE FEMALE PELVIC FLOOR (imp. 4to).
Maclachan & Stewart, Edinburgh, 1880.
2. MANUAL OF GYNÆCOLOGY (with Dr. FREELAND BARBOUR). (Demy 8vo.)
W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh and London, 1904. 6th Edition. Translated
into French, Italian, and Spanish.
3. THE RELATIONS OF THE ABDOMINAL AND PELVIC ORGANS IN THE
FEMALE (large folio Atlas). W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh and London.
4. ATLAS OF FEMALE PELVIC ANATOMY (imp. 4to, 37 plates, 89 pp. letterpress).
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5. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SECTIONAL ANATOMY OF THE FEMALE PELVIS
(imperial 4to Atlas). W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh and London.
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& A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh and London, 1893.
7. PHASES OF EVOLUTION AND HEREDITY (crown 8vo, 260 pages). Rebman
Limited, London, 1910.
8. GUIDE TO MIDWIFERY (demy 8vo, pp. xxiv+766, with four coloured plates and
268 diagrams.) Rebman Limited. [Just published.]

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9. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MECHANISM OF EVOLUTION, WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO MENDELISM, SEX, AND VARIATION.

PUBLISHED PAPERS

1. "ON SYMPATHETIC PAIN," *Practitioner*, 1879.
2. "A STUDY OF TWO VERTICAL MESIAL SECTIONS OF THE FEMALE PELVIC FLOOR IN
RELATION TO PROLAPSUS UTERI AND THE NORMAL SUPPORT OF THE UTERUS,"
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3. "ON A SOURCE OF ERROR IN THE CLINICAL ESTIMATION OF THE ELONGATION OF THE
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Journal*, 1880.
6. "ON THE SHAPE OF THE EMPTY FEMALE BLADDER," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1881.
7. "ON SOME OF THE PHENOMENA OF PARTURITION," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1881.
8. "ON SACRO-PUBIC HERNIA," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1881.
9. "ON THE ALLEGED SYNCLITIC MOVEMENT OF THE FETAL HEAD DURING LABOUR,"
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10. "ON THE CAUSATION OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE HEAD AT THE BRIM OF THE RICKETY
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11. "THE ANATOMY AND ETIOLOGY OF THE GENU-PECTORAL POSTURE," *American Journal
of Obstetrics*, 1881.
12. "ON SOME POINTS IN THE PHYSICS OF THE RECTUM AND BLADDER," *Edinburgh
Medical Journal*, 1882.

13. "NOTE ON A UNIQUE CAUSE OF DELAY IN THE THIRD STAGE OF LABOUR," *Medical Press and Circular*, 1882.
14. "NOTE ON THE NAKED EYE ANATOMY OF THE FEMALE EXTERNAL GENITALS," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1882.
15. "A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ANATOMY AND ETIOLOGY OF RUPTURE OF THE PERITONEAL PORTION OF THE VAGINA DURING LABOUR," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1883.
16. "A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PATHOLOGY OF THE LYMPHATICS OF THE FEMALE PELVIS," *Edinburgh Clinical and Pathological Journal*, 1883.
17. "A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRUCTURAL ANATOMY OF THE FEMALE PELVIC FLOOR," *Edinburgh Clinical and Pathological Journal*, 1883.
18. "A CRITICAL CONSIDERATION OF THE METHODS OF ANATOMICAL RESEARCH," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1885.
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28. "IMPROVED METHOD OF MANAGING THE THIRD STAGE OF LABOUR," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, October 1888.
29. "A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PATHOLOGY, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT OF ADHERENT PLACENTA," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1889.
30. "NOTE ON SOME ANOMALOUS CASES OF SEPARATION AND EXPULSION OF PLACENTA BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1889.
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35. "THE INCONSISTENCIES OF THE PRESENT NOMENCLATURE FOR POSITIONS," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1891.
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39. "ON THE ALLEGED GROWTH OF THE PLACENTA IN EXTRAUTERINE GESTATION AFTER THE DEATH OF THE FÆTUS," *American Journal of Obstetrics*, vol. xxv., 1892.
40. "ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN PLACENTA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ORIGIN OF THE DECIDUA REFLEXA," *Transactions of Edinburgh Obstetrical Society*, vol. xvii.; and *Laboratory Reports of Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh*, vol. iv.
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53. "OBSTETRICS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: AN ATTEMPT AT AN APPRECIATION," *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynæcology of the British Empire*, vol. i.
54. "THE NATURE OF THE TUBEROSE FLESHY MOLE," *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynæcology of the British Empire*, vol. i.
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57. "A CONTRIBUTION TO THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE HUMAN URINOGENITAL TRACT," *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, 1901.
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60. "ON PROLAPSUS UTERI": Being the Introduction to a Discussion on that subject, at the Meeting of the British Medical Association at Manchester, 1902.
61. "ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMNION AND CORD." Read before the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society.
62. "THE MICROSCOPICAL ANATOMY OF THE GENITAL TRACT IN THE RAT KANGAROO (FEMALE)," *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, London, 1908, vol. xlii.
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64. "MENDELIAN ACTION ON DIFFERENTIATED SEX," *Edinburgh Obstetrical Transactions*, 1908-09; and in Abstract, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, July 1909.
65. "THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS IN THE FREE-MARTIN, WITH A THEORY OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ABNORMALITY," *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, vol. xxx. p. 230.
66. "THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL DESCENT OF THE TESTES," *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, London, 1908, vol. xliii.
67. "THE PHYSIOLOGICAL DESCENT OF THE OVARIES IN THE HUMAN FÆTUS," 1909-10, vol. xliv.
68. "THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PORRO UTERUS IN RELATION TO THE THIRD STAGE OF LABOUR," *Edinburgh Obstetrical Transactions*, 1908 and 1909; and *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1909, vol. ii.
69. "A CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEORY OF ENZYGOTIC, MONOCHORIONIC, TWINS," *Edinburgh Obstetrical Transactions*, 1910-11; and *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1911, vol. vii.
70. "ADENOMA VAGINÆ DIFFUSUM (ADENOMATOSIS VAGINÆ), WITH A CRITICAL DISCUSSION OF PRESENT VIEWS OF VAGINAL AND HYMENEAL DEVELOPMENT," *Edinburgh Obstetrical Transactions*, 1910-11; and *Edinburgh Medical Journal*.
71. "NUMAN, THE VETERINARIAN AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMIST OF UTRECHT: A FORGOTTEN OBSERVER ON THE FREE-MARTIN," *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1912, vol. viii.

IN PREPARATION.

72. "THE DURATION AND ALLEGED PROLONGATION OF HUMAN AND BOVINE PREGNANCY, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BIOMETRICS."

TESTIMONIALS

I.

From Sir ALEXANDER RUSSELL SIMPSON, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of Midwifery and ex-Dean of the Medical Faculty in the University of Edinburgh.

52 QUEEN STREET, EDINBURGH,
June 13, 1912.

THE eminent services Dr. BERRY HART has rendered to Midwifery and Gynæcology give him the highest possible claims for election to the vacant Chair in the University of Aberdeen.

When he came to assist me in the work of the corresponding Chair in Edinburgh, he brought with him a wide general culture, a keen scientific spirit, a catching enthusiasm, and an unwearied industry, the stimulus of which began speedily to tell for good through the whole obstetric school, and was felt also in other departments of medicine in our city.

I always remember with a great sense of thankfulness and satisfaction the able assistance I received from him, not only in the teaching of the systematic class, but also in the conducting of the Midwifery work in the Maternity and in the Gynæcological operations and tuition in the Royal Infirmary. And in private practice I learned to lean with the utmost confidence on his judgment, his skill, and his self-sacrificing devotion to the well-being of our patients.

It is difficult, without seeming to exaggerate, to speak of the value of his many and varied contributions to the literature of his chosen field of interest. It is not only in his famous Atlases, with their fresh observations and illustrations, in the widely-appreciated *Manual of Gynæcology*, published in collaboration with his friend and colleague, Dr. BARBOUR, and other volumes which he has produced, but in a large number of separate essays in the medical journals, and papers read before the Royal, the Obstetrical, the Pathological, and other Societies, that the wide range of his knowledge and his remarkable original power of thought and investigation have been manifested. All this has led to his having become a recognised authority by many of his foreign colleagues in their text-books, and to his being placed on the lists of Honorary Fellows of their Associations.

With unabated zeal he has just been busy bringing out a *Guide to Midwifery*, which I expect will take a leading place among British text-books, and this confirms me in the belief that he will not only bring to the Chair for which he is a candidate a world-wide reputation, but an energy and experience that will enhance the efficiency of the department and bring additional renown to the University.

A. R. SIMPSON.

II.

From F. H. CHAMPNEYS, M.D., F.R.C.P., Obstetric Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

42 UPPER BROOK STREET, W.,
July 11, 1912.

DR. BERRY HART asks me to write a testimonial for the post of Professor at Aberdeen, rendered vacant by the resignation of Professor STEPHENSON, and I have pleasure in doing so.

Dr. HART's writings have established his reputation all over the world, and his clinical experience is of course very large and varied.

He has lectured for many years, and is fully conversant with the duties of such a Professorship.

I believe that the University of Aberdeen would fully maintain its high reputation if Dr. HART were selected for the vacant post.

FRANCIS H. CHAMPNEYS.

III.

From H. FEHLING, M.D., Professor of Gynæcology, Privy Councillor in Medicine, and Director of the Royal University Hospital for Women's Diseases, Strassburg.

STRASSBURG I. E.,
July 30, 1905.

DR. BERRY HART is well known in Germany since the commencement of his scientific work. The basis of the great value of his numerous papers and larger handbooks is a profound knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the human body, especially that of the female. His microscopic examinations of the placenta, the ovulum, the fleshy mole and hydatid mole in reference to deciduoma malignum, his examinations of extrauterine pregnancy, of different tumours of the ovaries and the womb, show that he is alike master of morbid anatomy and the normal.

So we understand, that he was very well able to write the *Selected Papers in Obstetrics and Gynæcology* and the famous *Manual of Gynæcology*, the latter together with Dr. BARBOUR, whose numerous editions show best the great value of this handbook.

Of great merit I consider his studies on the physiology of labour, especially the third stage ; to which difficult subject his contribution is remarkable.

His later work shows how Dr. HART understands to keep up with the most recent progress in Obstetrics and Gynæcology ; he was the first in Scotland to do hebotomy ; numerous cœliotomies show that he is master both of Obstetrics and Gynæcology.

Although I hear with great regret that Professor ALEXANDER SIMPSON has resolved to resign the Chair of Midwifery in the Edinburgh University, I think there is no man more fit to succeed him in the Chair of the great Sir JAMES SIMPSON than Dr. BERRY HART.

I am sure he will follow in the steps of these two excellent men and become an excellent teacher for the students in the famous Edinburgh University, and will help to increase the glory of the Chair of Midwifery.

PROFESSOR FEHLING.

[*With Professor FEHLING's permission.*]

IV.

From A. MARTIN, M.D., LL.D.(Edin.), Director of the Imperial University Clinique for Women, Greifswald.

GREIFSWALD, July 22, 1905.

DAVID BERRY HART has been known to me from the earliest period of his literary activity. I made his acquaintance in Edinburgh itself, and at Scientific Congresses in England and on the Continent. I have also had opportunities of listening to his lectures and of noting his personality as a teacher.

Dr. BERRY HART has proved himself by his scientific work a very eminent investigator. His contributions to the Morphology of the Uro-genital Tract, as well as his description of the Anatomy of the Uterus, to mention only these, have become permanent additions to our knowledge. His minor contributions on Extra-uterine Pregnancy and Placenta Prævia, for example, show their author also as an excellent clinical observer and a sound Therapeutist and Operator.

From many of the younger medical men who have been his pupils in Edinburgh I have heard much praise of his talent as a practical and theoretical teacher. These reports confirm what I have myself observed while listening to his Congress papers—that he is an excellent teacher.

As investigator, teacher, and practitioner, Dr. BERRY HART is eminently fitted to occupy the Chair from which Sir JAMES SIMPSON taught the world Midwifery and Gynæcology, and which his successor, ALEXANDER RUSSELL SIMPSON, now retiring, has for so many years adorned.

A. MARTIN.

[With Professor MARTIN's permission.]

V.

From J. WHITRIDGE WILLIAMS, Professor of Obstetrics and Dean of the Medical Department of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

PAWCATUCK COVES,
P.O. WESTERLY, R.I.,
August 9, 1912.

I HAVE just heard that Dr. D. BERRY HART is applying for appointment as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynæcology in the University of Aberdeen.

It gives me great pleasure to endorse his application, as I know that he would fill the post most acceptably. Dr. HART is one of the best exponents of the Edinburgh school, and his published work is well known and authoritative throughout the world.

J. WHITRIDGE WILLIAMS.

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