

## **Testimonials in favour of David MacLagan.**

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Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

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*Wm H Dr MacLagan, Esq*

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

**DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D. F.R.S.E.**

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

This Essay was submitted to the Tenth Anniversary of the duties allocated which led to the formation of the duties allocated

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE  
LORD PROVOST,

MAGISTRATES, AND COUNCIL

OF THE  
CITY OF EDINBURGH.

DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D.

My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I beg leave to offer myself as a candidate for the Professorship of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, now vacant by the death of Dr Duncan. In doing so, I may be permitted to state, that I have been engaged in the study and practice of my profession for above thirty years, and during that time have enjoyed extensive opportunities in Military service, and in Private and Dispensary Practice, of observing the Nature and Effects of the remedies employed in the Treatment of Diseases, under very varied circumstances; and that my attention has been more particularly directed to this department of medicine, from my having formed the design of giving lectures upon it. My duties also, as one of the Examinators of candidates for the Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, now for nine years, while they neces-



TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE  
**LORD PROVOST,**  
**MAGISTRATES, AND COUNCIL,**  
OF THE  
**CITY OF EDINBURGH.**

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EDINBURGH, May 24, 1832.

MY LORD, AND GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave to offer myself as a candidate for the Professorship of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, now vacant by the death of Dr Duncan. In doing so, I may be permitted to state, that I have been engaged in the study and practice of my profession for above thirty years, and during that time have enjoyed extensive opportunities in Military service, and in Private and Dispensary Practice, of observing the Nature and Effects of the remedies employed in the Treatment of Diseases, under very varied circumstances; and that my attention has been more particularly directed to this department of medicine, from my having formed the design of giving lectures upon it. My duties also, as one of the Examinators of candidates for the Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, now for nine years, while they neces-



sarily led me to study and acquire a knowledge of the progress of *Materia Medica*, and the collateral branches of Medical Science, have, at the same time, materially contributed to make me acquainted with the more useful and important objects in a Course of Lectures in this department of Medicine.

In a place where I am so well known, your enquiries as to my qualifications for the Professorship of *Materia Medica*, will probably guide your judgment more than any direct certificates I might offer ; but in compliance with custom, I have sent a few testimonials, received since the chair became vacant, from individuals in the profession, whose opinion I consider to be highly valuable ; and I have subjoined others, which, though relating chiefly to a different branch of Medicine, will show, that during the period in which I was engaged in the service of the army, my time was not spent idly or unprofitably.

I only add, that if I shall be so fortunate as to receive from the Patrons of the University the appointment of Professor of *Materia Medica*, it will ever be my most earnest endeavour to fulfil the duties of the office usefully to the Student and to the Profession, and creditably to the University, and to its Patrons.

I have the honour to be,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble servant,

DAVID MACLAGAN.



## TESTIMONIALS, &c.

*From DR THOMSON, Professor of General Pathology in the  
University of Edinburgh.*

80, George Street, 19th May, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE great pleasure in complying with your desire, that I should state my opinion of your qualifications to teach *Materia Medica*. I know that it is a branch of Medical Science, to the study of which your attention has been particularly directed; that you have diligently availed yourself of the great opportunities you have had in Medical practice, both abroad and at home, of observing the operation, and ascertaining the effects of Medicines, in all forms of diseases; and that you possess in a remarkable degree the talent of communicating the results of your experience in an easy, clear, and agreeable manner.

With these qualifications, and with the ardour which you are known by all your friends to carry into every undertaking in which you engage, I feel confident, that should you be appointed to the Chair of *Materia Medica*, now vacant in the University, you would fulfil in every respect the duties of that office with no less advantage to the public than credit to yourself. I remain,

With the sincerest regard and esteem,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN THOMSON, M.D.

Professor of General Pathology.

TO DR MACLAGAN, &c.



From DR DAVID HAY, *Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.*

7, Queen Street, 16th May, 1832.

DEAR MACLAGAN,

I AM happy to learn that you are a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of Materia Medica, and should truly rejoice that you succeeded in obtaining so honourable an appointment, because I am convinced that you are well qualified to discharge the duties of the Chair, from long experience in your profession, and in the practical application of the remedies, the properties and effects of which you would be called on to explain to others.

The Chair of Materia Medica, treating of the nature and application of all those agents which may be brought into use for the prevention, alleviation, and cure of diseases, and including the subject of Dietetics, affords the materials of a course of instruction of the utmost importance to the student of medicine; and when this subject is treated by a practical physician, it cannot fail to leave an impression on the mind of the student which is not likely to be effaced, and which will often, in the after period of his life, when engaged in the duties of his profession, afford him assistance of the most essential kind.

The extent of the course of Materia Medica is very great, comprehending a vast variety of objects, not only the medicines from the different kingdoms of nature, with their pharmaceutical preparation, but all other agents which are capable of influencing the result of disease, as climate, locality, mineral waters, &c. One of the most important branches of instruction to be given, is that of informing the young practitioner in what diseases, and what stage of the disease, particular remedies are to be employed; and a full view of this department I regard as much more useful than occupying time, too short for the general purposes of the Course, with chemical details, which are taught more fully



both by the Professor of Chemistry, and by the lecturers giving instructions in Practical Chemistry,—a Course of which is now required at Surgeons' Hall, and in which Course all the Pharmaceutical processes are regularly exhibited.

I am fully aware that your attention was directed to this branch of Medical instruction many years ago. This circumstance, and the clearness and facility you possess of stating your views in public, will unquestionably render the Lectures delivered by you both sound and attractive.

I remain,

Dear Maclagan,

Yours sincerely,

DAVID HAY.

*From DR BEGBIE, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons,  
and one of the Examinators.*

124, George Street, May 16, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CAN have no hesitation in expressing my opinion of the manner in which the subject of *Materia Medica* is most likely to be taught with advantage, or of your qualifications as a teacher of that branch.

I am clearly of opinion, (and I believe I speak the sentiments of all practical men,) that it ought to be taught principally with a reference to the treatment of disease, and that he has the best prospect of proving a useful and successful teacher, who has enjoyed extensive opportunities of acquainting himself with the varied features of disease, and the effects of remedial agents in their alleviation or cure.

From the enviable opportunities you have had in the service of your country, and as a civil practitioner, of ad-



ministering and watching the effects of the different articles of the *Materia Medica*—from your acknowledged talents and acquirements, and from the qualifications you possess as a public speaker, I have no doubt that your success in the object of your ambition would give general satisfaction, and prove highly useful to the reputation of our Medical School.

I am, my dear Sir,  
Faithfully yours,

J. A. BEGBIE.

TO DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.

From DR RENTON, *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians,  
Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH, May 18th, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

KNOWING that you are a Candidate for the Chair of *Materia Medica*, vacant by the death of Dr Duncan, I have much pleasure in bearing my humble testimony in favour of your fitness for teaching that department of Medical Science. By a course of Lectures on *Materia Medica*, I understand the treating of the various articles of food, and of medicinal substances, and in teaching the effects which these agents produce upon the animal economy, in the cure or alleviation of disease. Other collateral subjects will, no doubt, require to be incidentally noticed; but I conceive that by far the most useful and important part of the course should consist, not in an enumeration of minute chemical changes, or in nice refinements in the classifying the substances included under the head of *Materia Medica*, but in



considering them principally as remedial means to be employed in the daily exercise of our profession in arresting the progress of disease.

The excellent opportunities which you have enjoyed while employed in a military, as well as in a civil capacity, of acquiring a practical knowledge of medicine, and the talent and zeal you have uniformly manifested in the cultivation of your profession, must afford the best security for your competency to teach with success the class of *Materia Medica*. The great facility with which you compose, and the readiness and clearness with which you convey instruction to others, would enable you to discharge the duties of the office, with credit to yourself, and profit to your hearers; while, allow me to add, the urbanity of your manner, and kindness of your disposition, would prove highly acceptable to your colleagues, as well as beneficial to your pupils, and will, I have no doubt, in addition to your other qualifications, exert their proper influence in assisting the honourable Patrons in their decision.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours truly,

(Signed) ROBERT RENTON.

TO DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.

From WILLIAM WOOD, Esq., F.R.S.E., Fellow of the Royal  
College of Surgeons.

EDINBURGH, 19th May, 1832.

MY DEAR MACLAGAN,

BEING aware that you are a Candidate for the Professor-



ship of Materia Medica, vacant by the lamented death of Dr Duncan, I have much pleasure in offering my testimony in your favour, because I consider you eminently qualified to be a useful and successful teacher of that important branch of Medical Science.

You have enjoyed the best opportunities of becoming practically acquainted with the effects on the human body of the numerous substances which have from time to time been recommended as remedies for disease, under the various modifications produced by climate, state of the constitution, &c., both during the long time you were usefully and honourably employed in the medical department of the army, and, since your retirement from that service, while actively engaged in the discharge of your professional duties amongst all classes of the community in this your native city. These opportunities, I have the satisfaction to know, have been turned by you to the best account; and, with the knowledge I have of your excellent talents and extensive and varied acquirements, both general and professional, I feel assured that, by the appointment of a person so qualified, the Patrons would confer a favour on our University, by affording to the students of medicine an opportunity of acquiring, through your extensive practical knowledge, the means of fairly appreciating the value of the numerous substances which have been used in the cure of disease. I know it to be the opinion of many of our ablest practitioners, in which I most cordially agree, that while due attention is paid, in teaching the class of Materia Medica, to the chemical qualities of the various substances used as medicines, and to the mode of preparing them for use, which you are well qualified to describe and illustrate, the lecturer should enter more fully into the consideration of their practical effects, a subject in the teaching of which your long and extensive experience must prove eminently useful. Fortu-



nately, a large proportion of the teacher's time may be directed to this truly important object, as the chemical composition of medicines, and the principles on which they are prepared, are taught in the courses of lectures on Chemistry and Pharmacy; and are also practically explained and illustrated in the courses of Practical Chemistry and Pharmacy conducted in this School of Medicine.

I sincerely wish you success in your present application, because I feel that your appointment would be useful in promoting Medical Science, and in diffusing sound practical information, and because it would afford me much pleasure to see one whom I have so long valued and esteemed as a friend, placed in so honourable a situation.

I ever remain,

My dear Maclagan,

Most sincerely yours,

WILLIAM WOOD.

TO DR MACLAGAN.

From JOHN M'FARLAN, Esq., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and one of the Examinators.

Castle Street, 19th May, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me very great pleasure to learn that you are a candidate for the Chair of Materia Medica, now vacant in the University.

That Chair, in my opinion, will be best filled by one who, to the well-laid foundation of a familiar acquaintance with Chemistry, Pharmacy, and the external qualities and



appearance of drugs, adds a minute, thorough, and practical knowledge of the application of those remedies in disease.

That such a happy admixture of the requisites for filling that Chair, with credit to yourself and advantage to the student, is possessed by you in no ordinary degree, I have the best access to know. Sitting, as I have done, for so many years at the same Board of Examinators of the Royal College of Surgeons, and witnessing the extent and variety of information bearing directly on the subjects of *Materia Medica*, which you have thereshown; and when I further consider the perspicuity and precision of your language, and that happy art of communicating your ideas and your information in an agreeable form, I cannot help congratulating the Patrons and the Profession, and especially the young men about to enter the profession, on their good fortune in having, as a candidate for that Chair, an individual so eminently qualified to fill it.

Allow me, then, to wish you every success in your canvass; and ever believe me yours, very sincerely,

JOHN M'FARLAN.

TO DR MACLAGAN.

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From WILLIAM NEWBIGGING, *Esq., F.R.S.E., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. &c.*

Edinburgh, 18, St Andrew Square, 21st May, 1832.

I HAVE had the pleasure of being acquainted with Dr MacLagan for many years, during which I have had ample opportunity of judging of his professional attainments, and of his zeal in the pursuit of Medical Science. Of these, I have formed a high opinion; and, from the knowledge I have of the interest he has always taken in promoting the improvement of Medical Education, and of the extent of



his practical experience in his profession, I feel convinced that, in selecting him to fill the Chair of Materia Medica, the University will secure a most able and efficient teacher, and one who, in the discharge of his duties, will reflect honour on himself, and the Institution with which he may be connected.

WILL. NEWBIGGING.

From WILLIAM BROWN, Esq., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and one of the Examinators.

25, Dublin Street, 21st May, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE length of time during which I have known you, as a Medical Officer of the New Town Dispensary, as an Examiner at Surgeons' Hall, and as a practitioner in Edinburgh, has given me ample opportunities of estimating your qualifications for the honourable office to which you aspire. Your intimate acquaintance with every part of professional knowledge, (including the properties, mode of preparation, and mode of application of remedies,) your happy manner of expressing yourself to all kinds of hearers, and the zeal which you have shown in the cultivation of professional science, fully entitle you to apply for the Chair of Materia Medica, and will ensure your success in it, should you be appointed.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM BROWN.

To DR MACLAGAN,

&c. &c.



From WILLIAM CUMIN, M. D., Surgeon to the Glasgow  
Asylum for Lunatics, and to the Lock Hospital.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE learned with great pleasure that you are a candidate for the vacant chair of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh; for I am well convinced, that, should you obtain the office, its duties will be ably and conscientiously discharged. Nearly twenty-seven years have now elapsed since I had the pleasure of forming your acquaintance, while a fellow student at the same medical school in London; and the intimacy which has subsisted from that time, has only tended to raise my opinion of your character and abilities. To the advantage of excellent natural talents, you have added those of extensive opportunities of observation and practice, both abroad and at home, and of continued professional study even in the midst of business.

I remain, my dear Sir,

With every wish for your success,

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM CUMIN, M. D.

TO DAVID MACLAGAN,

M. D. &c.

From JOHN W. TURNER, Esq., Professor of Surgery in the  
University of Edinburgh.

23, Castle Street, 21st May, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT doubt that the knowledge possessed by the



Patrons of the University of your talents and character, and of the zeal with which you prosecute every undertaking in which you engage, must go far to satisfy them, in considering your application as a candidate for the Professorship of Materia Medica, that you would ably and conscientiously discharge the duties of any office which you may regard yourself as competent to fill. If, however, you may think the expression of my opinion can have any effect on the present occasion, I can have no hesitation in stating my conviction, that from your knowledge and acquirements in the different departments of Medicine, and in the branches of Natural and Physical Science connected with them, your extensive and matured practical experience, and the power you are known to possess, and have already evinced, in lecturing, of delivering yourself in a perspicuous, easy, and impressive manner, you are well qualified to fulfil the duties of the Chair to which you seek to be appointed. The long continued and intimate intercourse with you, which I have had the happiness to enjoy in the practice of our profession, enables me also to bear testimony that you possess a soundness of judgment and discrimination, in the employment of remedies, in observing their effects on the system, and in appreciating their virtues in the treatment of disease, which I am disposed to regard as among the most essential requisites for teaching successfully the class of Materia Medica.

Believing, therefore, if you were appointed Professor of this branch of Medical science, that you would perform the important duties of the office most usefully and advantageously to those engaged in the study of Medicine, and consequently to the character of the University, you have my best wishes for your success in obtaining it, and

I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

JOHN W. TURNER.

TO DR D. MACLAGAN.



*Letter from* SIR JAMES M'GRIGOR, *Bart., F.R.S.L. & E.,*  
*Director-General of the Army Medical Department, &c.*

London, 21st May, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just received your letter, communicating the death of my respected friend Dr Duncan, and your intention of starting for the Chair of Materia Medica. I earnestly wish, that any thing from so humble an individual as I could in any degree avail in attaining your object. I have known you intimately for many years, and few of your friends can think more highly of your talents, professional acquirements, and private virtues, than I do. I think I first knew you intimately in Walcheren, where, unfortunately, the chief duty of the army was the attendance and care of the sick, and where you were overwhelmed with the number of sick soldiers, women, and children, of the 91st regiment. Without tracing you throughout your military career, I will only say, that few of your brethren of the medical office had a wider field of experience, and none acquitted themselves with more credit than you did throughout the Peninsular campaign, and that you repeatedly shared the warm expression of public [thanks of the illustrious Commander-in-Chief, which it was my pleasing duty to convey. Wishing you every success,

I remain,

My dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. M'GRIGOR.

TO DR MACLAGAN,  
 Assistant Inspector of Hospitals.



*From DR JAMES HAMILTON, Jun., Professor of Midwifery,  
and Diseases of Women and Children, in the University of  
Edinburgh.*

Edinburgh, 23, St Andrew Square, May, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAD hoped that your talents were so universally acknowledged, that it would have been very unnecessary for you to present Testimonials to the Patrons of the University; but, in compliance with the present custom, I have great pleasure in adding my feeble evidence in your favour.

It has always appeared to me, that Lectures on the *Materia Medica*, in order to be useful in the present state of knowledge, ought to relate principally to the ascertained effects of remedies in the cure of diseases, taking care, at the same time, that the Pupils of the Class should be made acquainted with the appearance and physical properties of drugs. In short, what the Pupil expects from the Professor of *Materia Medica*, and what the Public have a right to demand chiefly, is information respecting the efficacy of the various articles employed in the cure of disease, and the circumstances respecting age, sex, constitution, and the progress of the symptoms in which certain remedies may be administered safely and beneficially.

This is obviously a task which requires *experience* as well as knowledge, and I certainly pay you no compliment when I say, that in my opinion you possess superior advantages in both respects.

Permit me to add, that my sentiments upon the duties of the Professor of *Materia Medica* are supported by the high authority and example of the great Dr Cullen, whose Lectures on *Materia Medica* were conducted upon this very principle; and although the substance of those Lectures was



published in the latter years of his long life, the work remains, as a Practical Treatise, unrivalled to this day. The well-known popularity of the Lectures of the present Dr Home, when Professor of Materia Medica, is to be attributed to his having adopted the same views, and affords a further illustration of this opinion.

With every wish for your success, believing seriously that you will do honour to the appointment, in every sense of the word,

I remain,

My dear Sir,

Yours most cordially,

JAMES HAMILTON, Jun.

To DR MACLAGAN,

&c. &c.

*From WILLIAM MONCREIFF, M. D., F. S. A. S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Librarian, and one of the Physicians of the Royal Public Dispensary.*

Edinburgh, 25th May, 1832.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,

It gave me great pleasure to learn that you had come forward as a candidate for the Professorship of Materia Medica, &c., vacant by the lamented death of my much respected and talented friend, Dr Duncan. Although I am well aware that you already possess Testimonials of a high order, and that my opinion of your eligibility for the situation may be of little avail, yet I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass, without expressing to you my feelings of respect and esteem on the occasion.

My intimacy with you commenced, as you know, in



1817, when we were colleagues at the New Town Dispensary, and since that time, I have had ample opportunities of witnessing and appreciating your professional abilities, both in public and private practice.

In my estimation, *Materia Medica*, in order to render it useful as well as attractive to the student, ought always to be taught with reference to *Practical Medicine*, and in that view, you stand on high vantage-ground with regard to qualifications. The situation you have held for a long period of time, as one of the Examinators of Candidates for Diplomas from the Royal College of Surgeons, must have tended in no small degree to qualify you for teaching this important branch of Medical science. Your long experience also in the public service, and for many years past, as a Practical Physician in civil life, conjoined with profound professional and general erudition, and gentlemanly and polite manners, render you peculiarly fitted for the honourable situation to which you aspire. With best wishes, I remain,

My dear Doctor,

Yours most sincerely,

WILLIAM MONCREIFF.

TO DAVID MACLAGAN, Esq., M. D.

&c. &c. &c.

From JOHN BOGGIE, M.D. Surgeon to the Forces, &c. &c.

Edinburgh, May 25th, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

It affords me great pleasure to hear that you have offered yourself as a candidate for the vacant Chair of the Professor of *Materia Medica*, in this University, being perfectly convinced of your abilities to fulfil, with credit to yourself, and great advantage to the public, the important duties of the office to which you aspire.



This opinion is formed from the very high reputation you justly acquired many years ago in the Military Service, in which you soon attained the rank of Physician to the Forces; and which you have since maintained, even with increasing renown, through a long course of extensive Private and Dispensary practice.

Your thorough knowledge of every branch of Medical Science, together with your superior talent of public speaking, eminently qualify you, in my opinion, to lecture, so as to give additional celebrity to our already high-famed University.

With every good wish for your success,  
I remain,

My dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

J. BOGGIE.

To Dr MACLAGAN.



# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D.

PHYSICIAN TO THE FORCES, &c. &c.

1822.

No. 1.—*Letter from B. GENERAL STUBBS, commanding the  
9th Portuguese Brigade.*

Camp of Lesaca, 16th August, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,

As it is not unlikely that I may in a few days be called to another command, I should think myself deficient in the obligations I owe you for your unremitting attention and care of the whole brigade, during the two last active campaigns, wherein our brigade has been so constantly employed and engaged with the enemy, if I did not give you a proof of how much the service is indebted to you for your very active exertions on all occasions to provide for the wounded and sick; as also for your professional skill, which among us all has been carried to the highest pitch of admiration. Indeed, myself and the whole brigade feel ourselves greatly indebted to you, and I have the pleasure of conveying to you an acknowledgment from the brigade of the sense entertained of your professional skill and ability on all occasions. I beg leave to add my personal regard and esteem for you, and do assure you that I remain,

Most faithfully yours,

(Signed)

J. W. STUBBS.

B. General.

TO DR MACLAGAN.



No. 2.—*Extract from the Order of the Day, addressed by MARSHAL BERESFORD to the Portuguese Army, after the Assault of the French Works on the 11th November, 1813.*

London Gazette of Friday, December 28th, 1813.

“THE Marshal praises the activity and good dispositions of Dr Maclagan, Surgeon Major of the 9th Brigade, manifested in the promptitude and zeal displayed in his care of all the wounded, in having them accommodated and attended to, and their cases treated on the spot.”

No. 3.—*Copy of a Letter from GENERAL D. URBAN, Quarter Master-General of the Portuguese Army.*

Lisbon, 29th September, 1814.

As the duties for which I was under the necessity of demanding your assistance, during the march of the Portuguese army from France to this country, necessarily detained you with it after you were appointed Physician to the Forces, it may perhaps be right that I should state, for the information of the Medical Board, that the hospital arrangements of the army so imperiously required your presence, and your services, that I could not dispense with them, and was in consequence obliged to make a point of your remaining. That you did so, has been of the most important utility, and I request you to accept my thanks for this last exertion of that well-known professional ability and active zeal by which this service has so long benefited.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,

(Signed) B. D. URBAN.

Q.-Master-General, Portuguese army.

D. MACLAGAN, Esq.

&c.



No. 4.—*Certificate from* SIR JAMES M'GRIGOR, *Director-General, Army Medical Department.*

Army Medical Board Office, 27th September, 1822.

I hereby certify that Dr Maclagan has served as a medical officer in the army since 1806, with the greatest credit. In the expedition to Walcheren, and during the campaigns in Portugal, Spain, and France, I had personal knowledge of the merits and talents of Dr Maclagan as a surgeon, and consider them to be of the first order. I beg to add, that I know no individual better qualified to teach Military Surgery than Dr Maclagan, who has strong claims on the public from his zeal and exertions on many trying occasions.

(Signed) J. M'GRIGOR.

Director-General, Army Medical Department.

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No. 5.—*Copy of a Letter from* DR WILLIAM FERGUSON, *Inspector of Hospitals.*

Windsor, 16th July, 1821.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am glad to hear of your intention to offer yourself as a Candidate for the Chair of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, being satisfied, from my personal and particular knowledge of your professional acquirements, ability, and conduct, while acting under my orders as Inspector-General of the Medical department of the Portuguese army, that you are highly qualified for the office.

In giving this testimony, I feel that I am doing no more than speaking the general sentiments of the combined army, Portuguese and British, respecting your merits during the



latter campaigns of the Peninsular War, as the brigade and general orders of that time will testify, if referred to. I wish you success with all my heart, and remain,

Dear Sir, with the warmest regard,

Ever yours truly,

(Signed) WM. FERGUSON

To DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.

Inspector of Hospitals.

No. 6.—*Letter from MR GUTHRIE, Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, author of the Treatise on Gunshot Wounds, and of other Surgical Works, and Lecturer on Surgery in London.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM very glad to learn that you intend to become a candidate for the Chair of Military Surgery, vacated by Dr Thomson. The attainment of it must be an object of importance to you as the senior medical officer practising Surgery in Edinburgh; and I do hope that the ability and talent displayed by you on many occasions during the Peninsular War, under circumstances of unexampled difficulty and danger, will not on this occasion be overlooked. I not only wish you success on your own account, but from the satisfaction I shall derive in knowing that the place will be filled with advantage to the public, and that your appointment to it would be an incitement to industry in others for the future.

I am, my dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

(Signed)

G. J. GUTHRIE.

To DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.



*No. 7.—Letter from DR THEODORE GORDON, Army Medical Department.*

September 28, 1822.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE great pleasure in complying with your request for my testimony as to your qualifications to fill the Chair of Regius Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. These I know, from long and intimate acquaintance in our services together in the course of the Peninsular war, to be of the highest order; and I can truly add, that the opportunities thus enjoyed have not been neglected by you. Let me assure you, my dear Sir, that I most sincerely and anxiously wish you success in your present application, which I feel would redound as much to your own honour as to the advantage of those who have the benefit of your instructions.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir,

Most truly yours,

(Signed)

THEODORE GORDON,

Licentiate of the College of Physicians of London;

Professional Assistant Army Medical Board.

TO DR MACLAGAN,

&c. &c.

*No. 8.—Letter from MR J. W. TURNER, Professor of Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.*

Edinburgh, 6th October, 1822.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me much pleasure to know that you are a can-



didate for the Professorship of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, because I am satisfied that your education, talents, professional acquirements, and particularly your experience as an army surgeon during your service in the late war, eminently qualify you to discharge the duties of the office with credit to yourself, and with advantage to the University, and to the Medical department of the army.

You already possess testimonials with regard to your merits entitled to more weight than any I could give ; but I am happy to have it in my power to state, from my own knowledge, that the opinions expressed in them of your qualifications to teach Military Surgery, have been fully justified by the Lectures you delivered on this subject during last winter. It must be agreeable to you to learn, and I conceive useful to you at present, that I should state, that in my intercourse with many of my pupils who attended your lectures, several of whom, from their experience in the service of the army and navy, must be regarded as very competent judges of the matter, they have uniformly expressed their high opinion of the excellence of these Lectures, and of the information and instruction they derived from them.

I can assure you of my best wishes for your success in your application, and that I am

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN W. TURNER,

Professor of Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

To DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.



No. 9.—*Letter from WILLIAM WOOD, Esq., President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.*

Edinburgh, 7th October, 1822.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me much pleasure to learn that you are a candidate for the situation of Regius Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, because I know no person better qualified than you are to discharge the duties of the situation with credit to yourself, and with advantage to the service to which you have so long been attached, and in which, from your merits, you have been promoted to so high a rank.

It would be presumptuous in me to give any opinion as to your qualifications as a Military Surgeon, knowing that you have obtained on that point the most honourable testimonials from men of the first eminence in our profession, who hold the highest ranks in the Medical department of the army, as well as from the military officers, under whom you have served. I trust, however, that I may be allowed to state, that during your long course of study at our University, when we were fellow-apprentices under my late father, I had daily opportunity of witnessing the great extent of your talents, and the zeal and assiduity with which you cultivated Medicine and Surgery, as well as general science. Since your return from service, during the six years that we have been fellow-members of the Royal College of Surgeons, I have had constant opportunity of witnessing the same talent, and the same zeal and assiduity, which I had so much admired in you as a student, called into action in the practice of the different branches of the Medical profession.

I most sincerely wish that you may be successful in obtaining the present honourable object of your ambition, to



which your services, and your rank in the army, and your standing in the Royal College of Surgeons, appear to me to give you so strong a claim.

Your sincere and affectionate friend,

(Signed)

WILLIAM WOOD.

DR MACLAGAN,

Physician to the Forces, &c. &c.

To DR MACLAGAN,

&c. &c.

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No. 10.—*Copy of a letter from DR W. P. ALISON, F.R.S.E. Professor of the Theory of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM truly happy to see that you have received so strong testimonials of your services in the army, and of your professional character, from men of the first rank in their profession, who have had ample opportunities of knowing your merits, and who must be allowed to be the best judges, that can any where be found, of the qualifications of a teacher of Military Surgery. These recommendations, and the facts on which they are founded, cannot fail to make a due impression in your favour as candidate for a Chair from which so large a proportion of the future Medical Officers of the British army and navy are to be instructed in so material a part of the practice of their profession.

Any opinion that I can give of your qualifications must be of no weight, in comparison with those I have mentioned; but I am most happy to be able to comply with your wishes, by saying, that from all I have seen of your talents, professional information, zeal, and industry, during the six years that we have been on terms of intimate and confidential intercourse as colleagues in the New Town Dispensary, I am fully convinced of the truth of the opi-



nion which has been expressed of you by much abler judges, and sincerely wish you success for the sake of the University, and of the profession, as well as for your own.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Ever yours, most faithfully,

(Signed) W. P. ALISON.

TO DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.

No. 11.—*Copy of a Letter from ROBERT GRAHAM, M.D.,  
Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Professor  
of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.*

62, Great King Street,  
22d October, 1822.

MY DEAR MACLAGAN,

I most readily comply with your wishes expressed in the application to me for a testimonial of your professional abilities.

Our friendship began while fellow-apprentices with the late Mr Andrew Wood, and the high opinion which I then formed of the industry, intelligence, and zeal, with which you studied your profession, taught me confidently to expect that you would in after life seek for, and profit by, opportunities of distinguishing yourself. That friendship has made me always interest myself in your success, and it was with pleasure that I found your Medical career in the Army realizing all my expectations.

I feel quite assured that your activity and talent are far more than competent to discharge the duties of Professor of Military Surgery in this University; and I am persuaded that the long period during which you were attached to the army while on service, in circumstances endlessly



varied, could not have passed before a mind so very capable of reflection, without suggesting many topics of prelection, which another teacher, who had been less actively employed, might never think of.

Believe me,

My dear Maclagan,

Your very sincere friend,

(Signed)

ROBERT GRAHAM.

TO DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.

No. 12.—*Letter from ALEXANDER GILLESPIE, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Consulting Surgeon to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.*

Edinburgh, Nov. 6, 1822.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT will give me much pleasure to learn that you are the successful candidate for the Chair of Military Surgery, and I should be truly happy if any testimonial of mine could in the least assist your pretensions.

A long acquaintance, and the testimony of many others who have witnessed your professional duties in the army, have convinced me that you are highly qualified for the office to which you aspire; and if great professional acquirements, address, eloquence, and perspicuity, are of use to the professor of any science, I am satisfied that you possess them all in an eminent degree.

Wishing you the success to which your merits entitle you,

I am ever,

My dear Sir,

Yours most truly,

A. GILLESPIE, M.D.

TO DR MACLAGAN,  
&c. &c.



varied, could not have passed before a mind so very capable  
of reflection, without suggesting many topics of reflection,  
which another teacher, who had been less actively em-  
ployed, might never think of.

Believe me,  
My dear MacLagan,  
Your very sincere friend,  
(Signed)  
ROBERT GRAHAM.

To Dr MACLAGAN,  
Esq.

No. 18.—Letter from ALEXANDER GILLESPIE, M.D., Fel-  
low of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Consulting  
Surgeon to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.  
Edinburgh, Nov. 6, 1832.

My dear Sir,  
It will give me much pleasure to learn that you are the  
successful candidate for the Chair of Military Surgery, and  
I should be truly happy if my testimonial of mine could in  
the least assist your pretensions.  
A long acquaintance, and the testimony of many others  
who have witnessed your professional duties in the army,  
have convinced me that you are highly qualified for the  
office to which you aspire; and if great professional acquire-  
ments, address, eloquence, and popularity, are of use to  
the professor of any science, I am satisfied that you possess  
them all in an eminent degree.  
Wishing you the success to which your merits entitle

you,

I am ever,  
My dear Sir,  
Yours most truly,  
A. GILLESPIE, M.D.

To Dr MACLAGAN,  
Esq.



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