

Chair of Institutes of Medicine in the University of Aberdeen : testimonials in favour of William James Fleming.

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Chair of Institutes of Medicine

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

WILLIAM JAMES FLEMING,

BACHELOR OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW ;

LICENTIATE AND FELLOW OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS ;

LECTURER ON PHYSIOLOGY GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ;

SURGEON TO THE DISPENSARY GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

FORMERLY

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN AND RESIDENT SURGEON GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY ;

RESIDENT SURGEON CLINICAL WARDS EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY ;

ASSISTANT TO THE PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY GLASGOW UNIVERSITY ;

SURGEON TO THE DISPENSARY WESTERN INFIRMARY GLASGOW.

GLASGOW :

Printed at the University Press,

BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE, 153 WEST NILE STREET.

1877.

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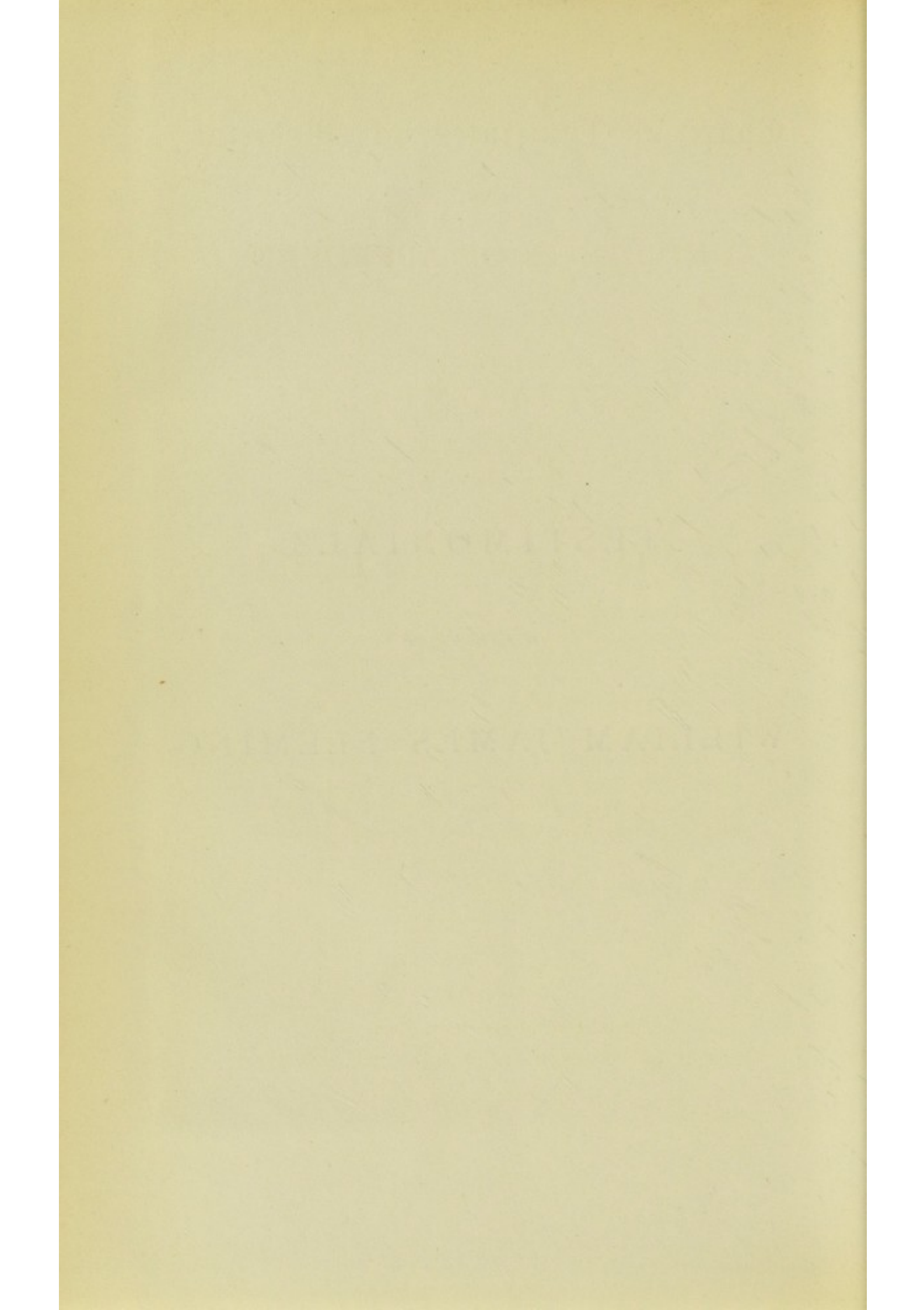
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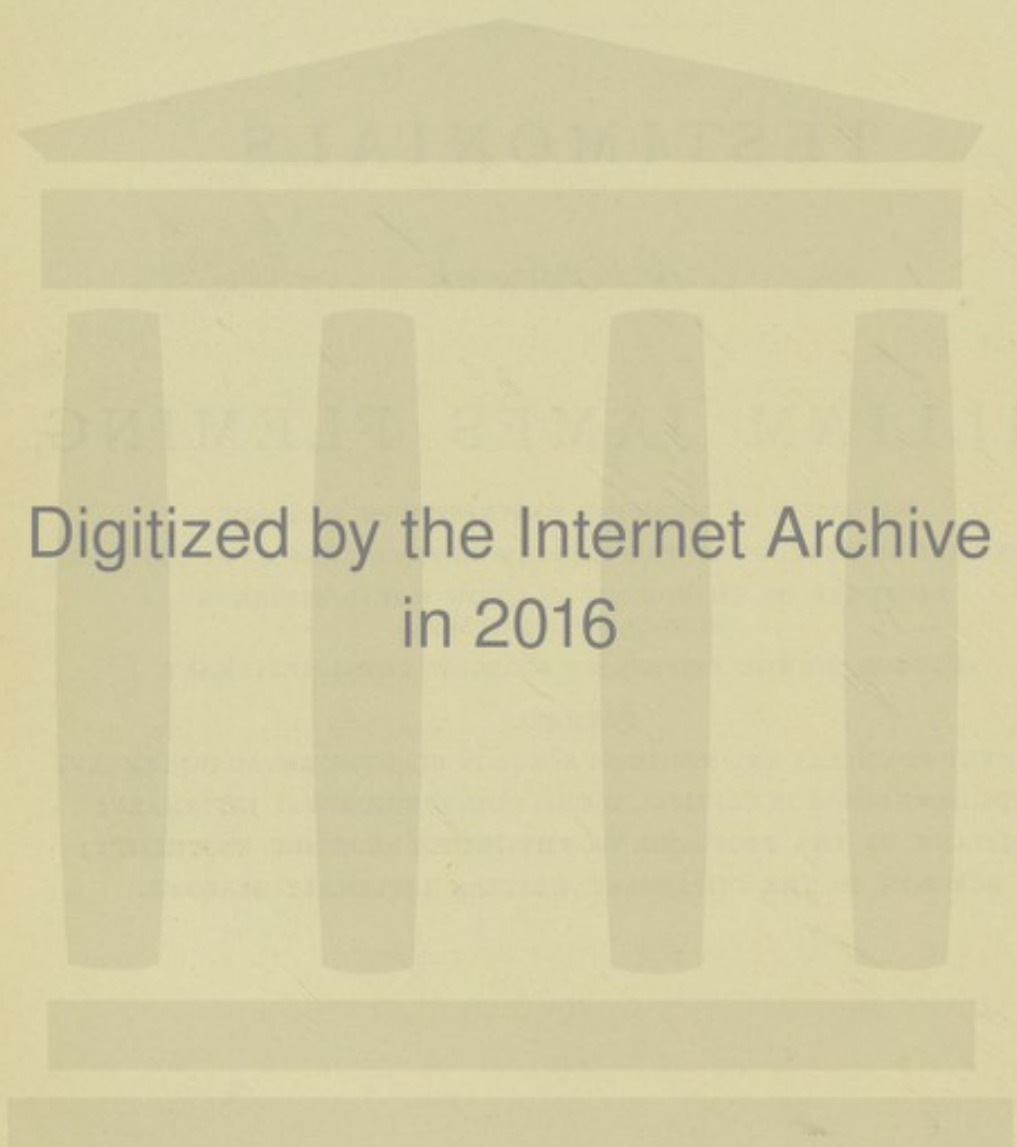
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155 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW, *July*, 1877.

The Right Hon. RICHARD ASSHETON CROSS, M.P.,
Secretary of State, etc., etc.

SIR,

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the Chair of INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE in the University of Aberdeen, vacant by the retirement of the present Professor.

My professional education was received in the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, in the former of which I graduated.

During the latter part of my Curriculum and after obtaining my Degree, I acted as Resident-Physician and Surgeon in the Royal Infirmarys of Glasgow and Edinburgh for a period of eighteen months. Subsequently I studied in London, devoting myself specially to Practical Physiology in the Brown Institution there. A session in Vienna afterwards afforded me opportunities of continuing my studies on this branch and of observing the German methods of Physiological Instruction.

On returning to Glasgow I was appointed Surgeon to the Dispensary of the Western Infirmary, and soon after Assistant to the Professor of Institutes of Medicine in the University, a position which I held for two years, until the resignation of the incumbent of the chair. On the institution of the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine I was

appointed Lecturer on Physiology, and soon after Surgeon to the Dispensary.

It will thus be seen that, while devoting much attention to the study and teaching of Physiology, in which direction my tastes have always inclined, I have had ample opportunities of acquiring a practical knowledge of my profession, a circumstance which must conduce to the efficient teaching of students destined to become practitioners. Besides this, I have had considerable experience in teaching—first as Assistant to the Professor of Physiology in our University, in which capacity I conducted all the Histological and practical instruction and taught the Summer Practical Class;—and since as Lecturer at the Infirmary School, where I have given both Systematic and Practical courses. The amount of work which has thus devolved upon me has prevented the publication of much original research, but I have made some contributions to Periodical Scientific Literature, and devised several instruments for Physiological purposes.

I have the honour to append some Testimonials in support of my application.

If elected I will devote myself entirely to the duties of the Chair.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WM. JAS. FLEMING.

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TESTIMONIALS.

*From T. M'CALL ANDERSON, M.D., F.F.P.S., Professor of Clinical
Medicine University of Glasgow; Physician Glasgow Western
Infirmary; etc.*

14 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, 7th July, 1877.

I HAVE great pleasure in stating that MR. WM. JAS. FLEMING was Resident Physician in connection with my Wards in the Royal Infirmary, during which time he was most earnest in the discharge of his duties, and most assiduous in his efforts to become practically familiar with disease in all its forms—a most important qualification in the case of one who aspires to teach the science of Physiology to those who are afterwards to engage in the practice of their profession.

I am aware that, for a considerable period of time, he has devoted great attention to Physiology, the fruits of which are seen in his recent papers on “The behaviour of Carbolised Catgut inserted into the living tissues,” and “On the Motions of the Brain, with illustrative graphic tracings.”

The Managers of the Royal Infirmary have recently shown their appreciation of his labours by appointing him Lecturer on Physiology; and while we who have known him so long, and esteem him so highly, would regret the severance of his connection with the Glasgow Medical School, we shall be well pleased to see his merits recognized in his appointment to the Chair of Physiology in the University of Aberdeen.

T. M'CALL ANDERSON.

From ANDREW BUCHANAN, M.D., F.F.P.S., *Emeritus Professor of
Physiology Glasgow University, etc.*

4 ATHOLL PLACE,
GLASGOW, 9th July, 1877.

MR. WILLIAM JAMES FLEMING was my Assistant as Professor of Physiology in the University of Glasgow during two winter sessions, and performed his duties in that capacity to my full satisfaction. He has been all along devoted to the study of Physiology, and will I have no doubt, show himself an able and energetic teacher of it.

A. BUCHANAN.

From GEORGE BUCHANAN, M.D., F.F.P.S., *Professor of Clinical Surgery University of Glasgow; Surgeon Western Infirmary Glasgow; formerly Lecturer on Anatomy Anderson's College, etc.*

193 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW, 6th July, 1877.

I HAVE much pleasure in expressing the high opinion I have of MR. W. J. FLEMING's qualifications for the Chair of Physiology in the University of Aberdeen.

I have had excellent opportunities of knowing his acquirements; for, after completing his ordinary medical education in Glasgow and Edinburgh, he acted as House Surgeon in the wards to which I was Surgeon in the Infirmary. There I had daily intercourse with him, and formed a very high estimate of him. He was most careful and attentive both to the patients and to his surgical duties, and I always found him most anxious to assist me to carry out any details of treatment which required ingenuity and thought.

After taking his degree he continued his studies abroad, and directed his attention specially to Physiology. He has also had considerable experience in teaching, having been Assistant to Professor Andrew Buchanan in the University of Glasgow till his resignation last year; and since the beginning of last session he has conducted an independent course of Lectures and Demonstrations in Physiology.

GEORGE BUCHANAN.

From JOHN B. COWAN, M.D., F.F.P.S., Professor of Materia Medica, and Member of the University Court University of Glasgow.

159 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW, 9th July, 1877.

I HAVE very great pleasure in expressing my opinion of the high qualifications of MR. WILLIAM J. FLEMING, M.B., for the vacant Chair of Physiology in the University of Aberdeen.

MR. FLEMING'S professional education was conducted under the most favourable auspices, and he was well known to me as one of those students whose special attention was given from an early period to Physiological research. After passing to his degree, MR. FLEMING devoted himself almost exclusively to the pursuit of Physiology, availing himself of all the opportunities presented in the Medical Schools of London and the Continent for making himself acquainted with the most recent methods of research and instruction. More recently MR. FLEMING has been engaged in teaching in the University and Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, and I believe has worked indefatigably, and inspired his students with much of his own enthusiasm.

Considering the whole bent of his education and his tastes—the experience he has had as a teacher and experimenter—and the resources he has at his command, I believe that MR. FLEMING'S appointment to the vacant Chair would advance the study of Physiology, and increase the high reputation of the Medical School of the University of Aberdeen.

JOHN B. COWAN.

*From WILLIAM T. GAIRDNER, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Edin.,
Professor of Practice of Physic University of Glasgow;
Physician Western Infirmary Glasgow; formerly Physician
and Pathologist Royal Infirmary Edinburgh.*

225 ST. VINCENT STREET,
GLASGOW, 2nd July, 1877.

HAVING been informed that MR. WILLIAM J. FLEMING is a candidate for the Chair of Physiology in Aberdeen University, I think it due to him to declare that I am greatly impressed by the enthusiasm and success with which he has devoted himself to the cultivation of Scientific Physiology according to the most modern methods. His ingenuity in devising new forms of apparatus, and his evidently practical appreciation of the value and importance of Laboratory work, are quite in accordance with the most advanced ideas of what a teacher of Physiology should be and should do; and although my personal knowledge does not enable me to bear witness to his actual capabilities as a lecturer, yet I am informed that in the Royal Infirmary Medical School he has already had a very decided success.

I believe that among the rising teachers of Physiology MR. FLEMING takes a very high place, and I can accordingly recommend him conscientiously to the patrons of the Chair at Aberdeen.

W. T. GAIRDNER.

From E. KLEIN, M.D., F.R.S., Assistant Professor at the Laboratory of the Brown Institution; Lecturer on Histology at the Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THE BROWN INSTITUTION,
WANDSWORTH ROAD, S.W., 2nd July, 1877.

MY DEAR MR. FLEMING,—It is a great pleasure to me to be able to say that I think you have a real and just claim to a Professorship of Physiology. During the time you worked here with me I was in a position to appreciate your great accomplishments, not only in practical Histology, but also in Physiology in general. I know that for the last two years you have been very successfully engaged in organising Laboratories and in teaching Systematic and Practical Physiology at the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine in Glasgow. I know also that you have done, and are at present engaged in, valuable original work in Physiology. All these facts confirm me in the belief that you will be successful as teacher and worker at Physiology at the University of Aberdeen, if you should be elected to that post, which I sincerely hope you will.—Believe me very faithfully yours,

E. KLEIN.

From WILLIAM LEISHMAN, M.D., L.R.C.S. Edin.; Fell. Obst. Soc. Lond.; Regius Professor of Midwifery University of Glasgow; Physician Gynæcological Wards Western Infirmary.

11 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, 5th July, 1877.

HAVING known MR. FLEMING since his boyhood, and being cognisant of every step in his professional career, I can speak with some confidence as to his attainments and to his qualification for a Chair of Physiology.

MR. FLEMING commenced the study of Medicine at an age when he was able to bring matured powers to the study of its more scientific branches, and to these he all along devoted particular attention, which was rewarded by unusual success. As Assistant to the late Professor of Physiology in the University here, and as the Lecturer on the same subject in the newly-established Medical School of the Royal Infirmary, he has enjoyed opportunities subsequent to his graduation of which he has availed himself with constant zeal and enthusiasm.

I have reason to know that his teaching has been attended with marked success, and for the Chair now vacant in Aberdeen I know of no candidate whose qualifications are so high.

WILLIAM LEISHMAN, M.D.

From JOHN G. M'KENDRICK, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin., F.R.S.E.,
Professor of Institutes of Medicine University of Glasgow; etc.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,
 18th July, 1877.

MR. WILLIAM JAMES FLEMING has for several years devoted much time and attention to the study of Physiology. I have had many opportunities of ascertaining that he has a wide and accurate knowledge of the science. The bent of his mind is principally towards Experimental Physiology, and he has made himself thoroughly conversant with modern apparatus of demonstration and research. He has also devised several pieces of apparatus of his own, showing great ingenuity and mechanical skill. I consider it right also to mention that, as Assistant to my predecessor in the Chair of Physiology in the University of Glasgow, he had the principal share in arranging the Physiological Laboratory, and that this was done with great care, and with a full appreciation of the requirements of such an establishment.

MR. FLEMING has also devoted much time to the practical departments of his profession, and thus has acquired that knowledge of disease and of remedies which cannot fail in being useful to a teacher of Physiology.

For these reasons I consider that he has good claims for such a chair as that of Physiology in Aberdeen, for which he is a candidate, and I feel sure that if he were placed in such a position he would be an efficient teacher, and would also do good work in the line of Experimental Physiology.

JOHN G. M'KENDRICK.

From GEORGE H. B. MACLEOD, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin., F.F.P.S.,
F.R.S.E., *Professor of Surgery University of Glasgow; Surgeon and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery Western Infirmary Glasgow; etc.*

10 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, *July*, 1877.

MR. W. J. FLEMING, M.B., has shown an example well worthy of imitation and of praise in devoting himself to the study of a special department (Physiology) of Medical Science, and declining the inducements of general practice. He has had the best professional education, and every advantage in preparing himself for the work he has set before him. Of late MR. FLEMING has taught Physiology, and I understand he has given much satisfaction to those who have attended his course. I have little doubt but that, with Mr. Fleming's ability, energy, and devotion to his work, he would fill the Chair of Physiology, now vacant in Aberdeen, with credit and success.

GEO. H. B. MACLEOD.

From ALLEN THOMSON, LL.D., M.D., F.R.S., Member of the General Medical Council; Professor of Anatomy University of Glasgow; President of the British Association; formerly Professor of Anatomy Marischal College Aberdeen, and Professor of Institutes of Medicine University of Edinburgh.

UNIVERSITY, GLASGOW,
3rd July, 1877.

HAVING known MR. WILLIAM JAMES FLEMING intimately for a number of years, I willingly bear testimony to his ability and knowledge of Physiology, and to his capacity for teaching that branch of Medical Science.

I am aware that during the two years in which MR. FLEMING acted as Assistant to Professor Buchanan in the Physiology Class of this University, he delivered occasional Public Lectures, and had the whole management of the Demonstrations, Experiments, and Practical Classes. He has since then conducted a full course of Lectures and Practical Instruction in Physiology on his own account in connection with the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow.

From my frequent intercourse with MR. FLEMING, and my knowledge of his experience of teaching before referred to, and of the attention he has given to Physiology and the allied sciences, as well as from my high opinion of his intelligence, cultivated tastes, and honourable character, I beg leave to say that I consider him as being well qualified to fill a Chair of Physiology in one of our Universities.

ALLEN THOMSON, M.D.



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