

**Chair of Materia Medica in the University of Glasgow : additional testimonials in favour of James Finlayson, M.D.**

**Contributors**

Finlayson, James, 1840-1906.  
University of Glasgow. Library

**Publication/Creation**

Glasgow : Printed at the University Press by Robert MacLehose, 1880.

**Persistent URL**

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# CHAIR OF MATERIA MEDICA

IN THE

University of Glasgow.

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## ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS

*IN FAVOUR OF*

JAMES FINLAYSON, M.D.,


Physician and Lecturer on Clinical Medicine in the Glasgow Western Infirmary; Honorary Librarian and Examiner in Clinical Medicine to the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; Secretary of the Glasgow Pathological and Clinical Society; formerly House Surgeon to the Clinical Hospital, Manchester, etc.

GLASGOW:

Printed at the University Press,

BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE, 153 WEST NILE STREET.

1880.



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## ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS.

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*From W. T. GAIRDNER, ESQ., M.D., Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow; Physician to the Queen in Scotland, &c.*

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY,  
March 18th, 1880.

MY DEAR FINLAYSON,—Within the last two days a sense of duty has compelled me to depart from the position of reserve, if not of neutrality, which I had imposed upon myself at an earlier stage of the contest for the Materia Medica chair; and having had occasion to write in your favour as one among several candidates, I am unwilling that it should be supposed that in doing so I have been guided by mere personal preference, or by any considerations other than a belief that your election would be, in the highest sense of the word, in the interests of the University in which I hold office as Professor of Medicine.

Most of the candidates are my intimate and highly esteemed friends, and it is not without some difficulty that I can even for a moment place myself in apparent opposition to them; but while I cheerfully recognise the claims of others, the eminent services you have rendered to this school, and to medical science in general, are perhaps better known to me than to most others.

The Testimonials you have published, along with the list of your writings, show that in every part of the kingdom, and in America, you are already recognized by first-class authorities

as having made solid additions to the literature of medicine, and especially to the means and facilities for the exact study of disease at the bedside.

No one of your own standing, certainly no one in the West of Scotland, has, in my opinion, done nearly so much as you have, of late years, in the way both of original investigation, and of the clear and precise statement of the methods of clinical research.

In one department of Therapeutics, and that one of the most difficult and liable to abuse, the application of electricity and galvanism, you are well known as having pursued, in a thoroughly scientific and successful manner, a mode of practice which is only to be regarded as safe when it is founded on large and accurate knowledge of medicine in general.

You have also been much in contact with students of medicine, both independently as a clinical teacher in the Western Infirmary, and at an earlier period, as a practical instructor of the Clinical Classes under my own superintendence; and I can most truly affirm that your services rendered in these positions have been such as to entitle you to the most entire confidence, in any such promotion as that to which you now aspire. Such, very briefly stated, are my reasons for heartily desiring your success.—I am, yours very truly,

W. T. GAIRDNER.

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*From W. R. SANDERS, ESQ., M.D., Professor of Pathology and Clinical Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.*

30 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,  
EDINBURGH, 12th March, 1880.

DR. JAMES FINLAYSON early acquired a reputation by his researches and papers in various departments of Clinical Medicine. This reputation he has greatly extended and confirmed by the publication of his "Clinical Manual for the study of Medical Cases." DR. FINLAYSON has shown that



he possesses the high qualities of a scientific observer, and of an efficient and accomplished instructor. The excellent work he has done, both in original investigation and in teaching, the accurate and philosophical character of his mind, and the valuable experience he has had as a Hospital Physician and Clinical Lecturer, render him a very eligible candidate for the Chair of Materia Medica now vacant in Glasgow University.

W. R. SANDERS, M.D.

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*From J. B. RUSSELL, ESQ., M.D., Medical Officer of Health  
for the City of Glasgow.*

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,  
GLASGOW, 9th March, 1880.

I have known DR. JAMES FINLAYSON during the greater part of his life. He distinguished himself among his compeers by taking his degree with honours. No one can look over the list of his contributions to medical literature without recognizing that his "honours" in the profession have accumulated year by year. Beginning in the year following his graduation, and maintained without interruption since, those papers are not mere compilations, but are each substantial and laborious contributions to scientific information regarding disease. The "Clinical Manual for the Study of Medical Cases," which he edited, and of a great part of which he was also author, exhibits for the instruction of others the philosophic and painstaking method of observation and research which has enabled him to do such excellent work. While this able and useful book, as well as those papers, ranging over almost all departments of medical practice, would seem more especially to point to a Chair of Practice of Medicine or of Clinical Medicine as the object of his ambition, they also constitute a claim for the Chair which is presently vacant, viz., that of Materia Medica, which cannot be overlooked.



DR. FINLAYSON'S clinical experience of treatment in hospitals has been all but continuous throughout his professional life, and no better basis could be got than this for the systematic knowledge of the *Materia Medica*, and the due allocation of the instruments of treatment to their place in the practice of the physician. I may add that DR. FINLAYSON'S experience as a clinical lecturer in the Western Infirmary has cultivated that facility in the communication of knowledge which does not always accompany knowledge, but yet is indispensable to science as a teacher.

J. B. RUSSELL, M.D.

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*From ALLEN THOMSON, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S., formerly Professor  
of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow.*

LONDON, 9th March, 1880.

MY DEAR DR. FINLAYSON,—Although I have already given a testimonial to Dr. Tennent as a Candidate for the *Materia Medica* Chair in the University of Glasgow, I am still very ready to express the high opinion which I have formed of your ability and knowledge as a scientific physician of the best type, and of your special qualifications as an interesting and successful teacher. To this I will only add that from what I have so well known of your whole career since you were a student under my observation, and from the character of your published writings, I have been led to look upon you as well deserving of promotion to a Medical Chair, in one of our Universities, and I feel well assured that both by your estimable personal qualities and by your scientific attainments, your instructions will prove most valuable to the students under your charge and most creditable to the institution with which you may be connected.

ALLEN THOMSON.

*From* DAVID DRUMMOND, ESQ., M.A., M.D., *Lecturer on Physiology, Durham University College of Medicine; and Physician to the Infirmary, and to the Children's Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

11 ELLISON PLACE,  
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, *March, 1880.*

It would be impossible to entertain too high an opinion of DR. JAMES FINLAYSON as a contributor to medical science. His character as a zealous observer, and a truthful recorder is widely known. DR. FINLAYSON has shown himself to belong to that important school, but scantily represented, of scientific physicians, a class of men upon whose energies depends the progress of medical science properly so called, and in whose ranks he occupies a prominent position.

A perusal of the "Clinical Manual" edited by DR. FINLAYSON, at once stamps him as a teacher in whom students might well repose their utmost confidence, and feel assured that their interests will be well sustained at his hands.

DAVID DRUMMOND.

*From* D. J. LEECH, ESQ., M.D. (Lond.), *Professor of Materia Medica in Owen's College, and Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Manchester.*

76 MOSLEY STREET,  
MANCHESTER, *March 13th, 1880.*

DR. FINLAYSON has established a high reputation as an able physician, and wherever medical science is cultivated his name is known as one foremost in its advancement. His



numerous and most valuable contributions to medical literature give proof of his industry and ability. He is an acute thinker, a clear writer, and an able teacher. His "Clinical Manual," which deals with the practical teaching of medical subjects, is by far the best work of the kind which has yet been brought forth.

If DR. FINLAYSON be elected to the office which he seeks, I am sure he will maintain and even add to the high reputation of the Materia Medica Chair in Glasgow. He possesses just the powers which are required for therapeutic research, and I am sure his appointment will be looked upon with the greatest satisfaction by those who are interested in the progress of therapeutic knowledge.

D. J. LEECH.