

**Testimonials in support of the application of John B. Cowan, M.D. ... :
candidate for the Chair of Materia Medica in the University of Glasgow.**

Contributors

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TESTIMONIALS

IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF

JOHN B. COWAN, M.D.,

FELLOW OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW;
LECTURER ON THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, ANDERSON'S UNIVERSITY;
FORMERLY PHYSICIAN TO THE GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY, AND LECTURER ON
FORENSIC MEDICINE; MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF
ATHENS, AND OF THE PARISIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY; FORMERLY CIVIL
PHYSICIAN TO THE ARMY IN THE EAST;

*CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF MATERIA MEDICA IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.*



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TESTIMONIALS.

From ANDREW ANDERSON, M.D., *Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow; formerly Lecturer on the Practice of Physic in Anderson's University.*

2 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, November 16, 1865.

MY DEAR DR. COWAN,—As I understand that you are a Candidate for the vacant Chair of *Materia Medica* in the University of Glasgow, I have no hesitation in offering my opinion that you would, if appointed, fill that Professorship with credit to the Medical School of Glasgow and with advantage to the Students.

Our intimate acquaintance as colleagues for a number of years in the Andersonian Medical School enables me to make this statement both with authority and confidence, because, independently of my general knowledge of your professional ability and standing, I can testify to the fact of your being a practised and successful Medical Lecturer, thoroughly efficient and popular with the Students, whose approbation is probably the best test of a Teacher.

The subject of Medical Jurisprudence, and that of Practice of Physic, which you have successfully taught, are of course very closely connected with that of

Materia Medica; and thus your study of them must have furnished you richly for the practical department of that course.

I think the choice of a Professor will be a good one if it fall on you.

Believe me, very truly yours,

ANDREW ANDERSON.

J. B. COWAN, Esq., M.D.

From GEORGE BUCHANAN, M.A., M.D., *Lecturer on Anatomy in Anderson's University, Glasgow, Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.*

117 DOUGLAS STREET,
GLASGOW, 16th November, 1865.

I have much pleasure in urging the claims of DR. JOHN COWAN for the Chair of *Materia Medica* in the University of Glasgow, now vacant by the lamented death of Dr. Easton. I know of no one who could more worthily fill that important office. DR. COWAN had the advantage of an extended University education, has a highly cultivated mind, and is well known for his literary abilities. His medical education was unusually complete, having studied in Dublin, Edinburgh, and Paris, after finishing his curriculum in Glasgow. Since obtaining the degree of M.D., in 1851, he has been engaged in practice as a Physician, and has had several public appointments, which have extended his knowledge and reputation.

He was early known among his compeers for his

fluency as a public speaker; and his language was always distinguished for elegance and clearness.

Since 1855 he has been constantly engaged as a Lecturer on Medical Science: for some years as Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, and recently on Practice of Medicine—both branches closely allied to *Materia Medica*, and including frequent reference to the subjects treated of in that study. He is deservedly popular as a Teacher and Lecturer; and few men possess to such an extent that quiet and gentlemanlike demeanour which always secures the respect and admiration of Students. If he is appointed to the vacant Chair, I am confident that he will perform its duties to the satisfaction of all who are interested in the welfare of the University of Glasgow.

GEORGE BUCHANAN.

From GEO. H. B. MACLEOD, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., *Lecturer on Surgery, and Surgeon, Royal Infirmary.*

10 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, *November 15, 1865.*

DR. JOHN B. COWAN has been intimately known to me for very many years, and I have had the best possible opportunities, both at home and abroad, of judging of his professional and private character. I but feebly express the opinion I, in common with all who have enjoyed the privilege of DR. COWAN's acquaintance and friendship, have formed of him, when I say that I entertain the very highest estimate of his talents, his

professional and general knowledge, his honourable and upright bearing, and his personal worth. DR. COWAN is now a Candidate for the Chair of *Materia Medica* in the University where he was himself reared, and where his father taught; and I feel perfectly convinced, apart altogether from my personal regard, that no Candidate will be found more eligible. To talents of the highest order, DR. COWAN adds much judgment and tact, great zeal in his profession, accuracy of observation, literary taste, and extensive reading; and from the very considerable experience he has had as a Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Practice of Medicine (both subjects closely allied to that considered in a Course of Lectures on *Materia Medica*), and the leisure and resources which he can command, I cannot hesitate to predict the utmost success for him if appointed to the vacant Chair.

I will only add, that though I will most sincerely regret losing DR. COWAN as a colleague in the Andersonian Medical School, yet I would rejoice to think that my "Alma Mater" had acquired so admirable a Teacher; and that, if it were possible for me to employ stronger language than I have done, to express my opinion of DR. COWAN'S perfect fitness for the Office which he seeks, I would not hesitate to use it, knowing how completely he deserves every commendation I can bestow.

GEO. H. B. MACLEOD.

From WILLIAM LEISHMAN, M.D., Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.

7 BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE,
GLASGOW, November 18, 1865.

I have much pleasure in bearing my feeble testimony to the eminent qualifications, as a Lecturer and Teacher, of DR. JOHN B. COWAN, now a Candidate for the Chair of *Materia Medica* in the University of Glasgow.

Having had the pleasure of an intimate acquaintance with him for many years, and having been associated with him as a colleague in the Medical School of Anderson's University, I have no hesitation in saying that he possesses qualifications for the Office which few are likely to equal—none to excel. DR. COWAN possesses not only the scholastic attainments which are essential to a proper performance of the duties of such a Chair, but, what is scarcely less important, that gentlemanly demeanour which adds dignity to such an office, and which has always earned for him the affection and esteem both of his Colleagues and of the many Students to whose interests he has so warmly devoted himself.

WILLIAM LEISHMAN.

From JOHN G. FLEMING, M.D., President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Member of the General Medical Council, &c., &c.

20th November, 1865.

I have been intimately acquainted with DR. JOHN B. COWAN for many years, and have much pleasure in

expressing the high opinion I entertain of his acquirements—both professional and literary—and of his excellent talents, which he has cultivated by close and well-regulated application.

DR. COWAN has been engaged for several years in the active practice of his profession, and also in teaching two of its most important branches—Medical Jurisprudence and Practice of Medicine. His powers of communicating knowledge have thus been most amply and successfully tested. This circumstance, taken in combination with his extensive and accurate knowledge of all the branches of his profession, his studious habits, and his sound judgment, qualify him, in my opinion, in the highest degree, for performing the duties which devolve on the Professor of *Materia Medica*, and to maintain and extend the reputation of the Medical School of our University.

J. G. FLEMING, M.D.

From WILLIAM STOKES, M.D., D.C.L., OXON., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, and Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin.

* 5 MERRION SQUARE,
DUBLIN, November 15, 1865.

I beg to offer my testimony as to the scientific attainments of Dr. JOHN BLACK COWAN, and to the fitness of his appointment to the Chair of *Materia Medica* in the University of Glasgow. For the Professorship in question Dr. COWAN, in my judgment, possesses qualifications of great weight. Of these not

the least important is, that he has already proved himself a successful public Teacher in a branch of Medical education in which *Materia Medica* forms an essential part. As the Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology in the Andersonian Institution of Glasgow, he has for years commanded the respect of large classes of Students, as well as the full confidence of his colleagues.

But further, he has this great advantage as a successful teacher of *Materia Medica*, namely, that he is a practical and practising Physician of large experience. He is not only intimate with the whole of the *Materia Medica* in its chemical and botanical aspects, but can bring his Medical knowledge of disease and its treatment to bear on Therapeutics—the main end and object of the Professorship.

It is this combination of theoretic with practical knowledge which has shed such a lustre on the Chair of *Materia Medica* in Edinburgh, so long and so ably filled by Professor Christison.

WILLIAM STOKES.

From A. DUNLOP ANDERSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.L., Fellow, and formerly President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow.

159 ST. VINCENT STREET,
GLASGOW, 17th November, 1865.

It is my opinion that DR. J. B. COWAN is possessed in an eminent degree of the qualifications necessary to teach with success any branch of the Medical

Profession to which he may be called upon to apply himself.

His general, as well as his professional education have been extensive and liberal. He has travelled under peculiar advantages, and studied in the best schools both on the Continent and at home.

His knowledge of his profession has been tested and matured by his experience in the Crimea, and as Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary; and his ability to convey that knowledge to others has been proved by his success as a Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and on the Practice of Medicine, in Anderson's University.

Both of these branches being intimately connected with *Materia Medica*, I feel confident that the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Professor Easton could not be better supplied than by the election of DR. COWAN.

A. DUNLOP ANDERSON.

From CHARLES RITCHIE, M.D., *Fellow, and lately President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.*

12 BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE,
GLASGOW, 17th November, 1865.

I have had the pleasure of knowing DR. JOHN B. COWAN for many years. His early antecedents were eminently favourable whether to his receiving a general education of the highest order, or to moulding him into habits of accurate observation and systematic

arrangement; and his professional tuition was prosecuted with all the practical wisdom for which his respected father, Professor Cowan, was remarkable.

I had the privilege of having DR. COWAN for my assistant in the Medical Wards of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and I have also had other varied opportunities of intercourse with him since, and I can safely say, that, looking at his extensive scholarship in several departments of Medicine, the facility and clearness of his public speaking, his amiable disposition and gentlemanlike manners, he does commend himself to my judgment as being well fitted to give increased respectability and usefulness to any Medical Chair to which he may be appointed.

CHAS. RITCHIE.

