

## **Application of John M. Cowan, B.A., M.D., Cantab., D.Sc., Glasgow.**

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University of Glasgow.

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*CHAIR OF PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.*

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APPLICATION

OF

JOHN M. COWAN,

B.A., M.D., Cantab.; D.Sc., Glasgow,

Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons ;  
Professor of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College Medical School ;  
Physician to the Royal Infirmary ;  
Principal Medical Officer to the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.



14 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,  
GLASGOW, *February 15th, 1908.*

*THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN SINCLAIR, M.P.,  
HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR SCOTLAND.*

SIR,

The Regius Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow being now vacant, I have the honour to offer myself as a candidate for the appointment.

I graduated B.A. (Honours) in the Science Tripos at Cambridge in the summer of 1891, and in the autumn of that year returned to Glasgow, and continued my medical education at the University. I graduated M.B., B.C., Cantab. in 1895, and M.D. in 1902. I was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in 1898, and became D.Sc., Glasgow, in 1904.

After graduation I filled resident posts in the Western Infirmary (1895-96), Royal Hospital for Sick Children (1896), and City of Glasgow Fever Hospitals (1897-98), and in the summer of 1898 commenced practice in Glasgow.



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Since then I have devoted myself mainly to hospital work. I was appointed a member of the staffs of the Western Infirmary and of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in 1899, and continued to serve these institutions until the summer of 1906, when I was appointed one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary, a position which I now occupy.

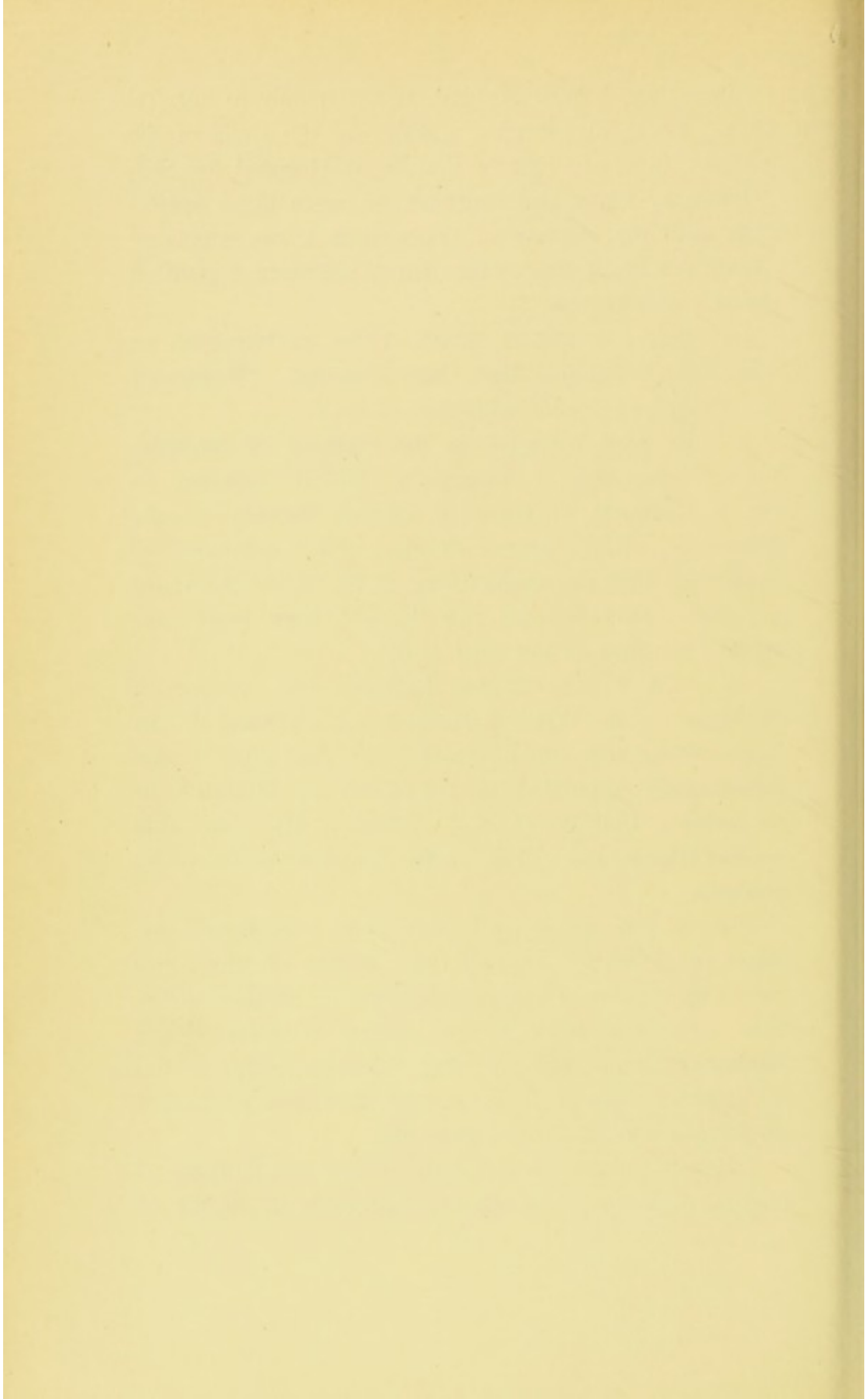
In 1900 I served in South Africa as Physician to the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital. (Mentioned in despatches; medal with two clasps.)

I have been engaged in the teaching of medicine since 1899, when I became a Clinical Assistant to Dr. S. Gemmell, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University, in his hospital clinique, and I continued to assist him until my appointment to the Royal Infirmary in 1906. For the past two years I have been constantly teaching in my own wards.

In 1900 I was elected Lecturer on Practice of Medicine in the Western Medical School, where I had large classes and remained until last year when I was unanimously appointed to the Chair of Medicine in Anderson's College Medical School. My class this session is large, and almost wholly composed of University students.

For the last ten years I have been continuously engaged in Scientific Research, the results of which are shown in the list of my contributions to medical literature. For this work I was elected in 1903 Foulis Memorial Scholar, and in 1904 Research Fellow of the University; while in the same year the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon me.

I beg to submit to you a list of my contributions to medical literature, and some testimonials in favour of



my application. Should I have the honour of being appointed to the Chair, I shall spare no effort to perform its duties efficiently, and to promote the welfare of the University.

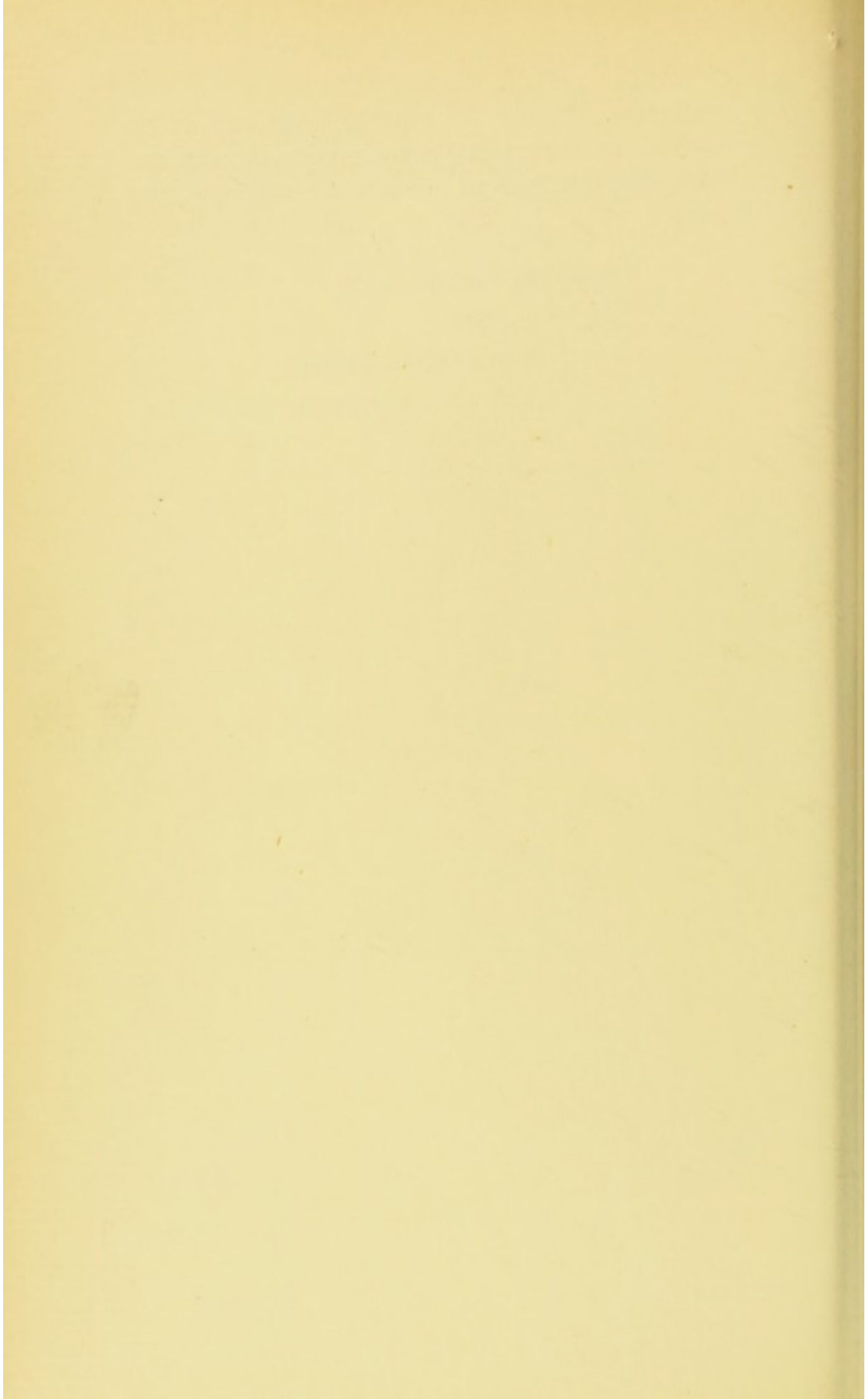
I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M. COWAN.





## Contributions to Medical Literature.

ON THE PRESYSTOLIC MURMUR.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1898, vol. i., pp. 166-171. 2 Figs.

NOTES ON EMPYEMATA IN CHILDHOOD.—*Glasgow Hospital Reports*, 1900, pp. 314-327.

KROONSTAD. MAY-SEPTEMBER, 1900.—*Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1901, pp. 21-29.

ON OBSTRUCTION OF THE CORONARY ARTERIES.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1902, vol. ix., pp. 49-63. 2 Figs.

FATTY DEGENERATION OF THE MYOCARDIUM.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1902, vol. viii., pp. 177-199. 12 Figs.

THE HEART IN ACUTE DISEASE.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1903, vol. ix., pp. 87-110. 19 Figs.

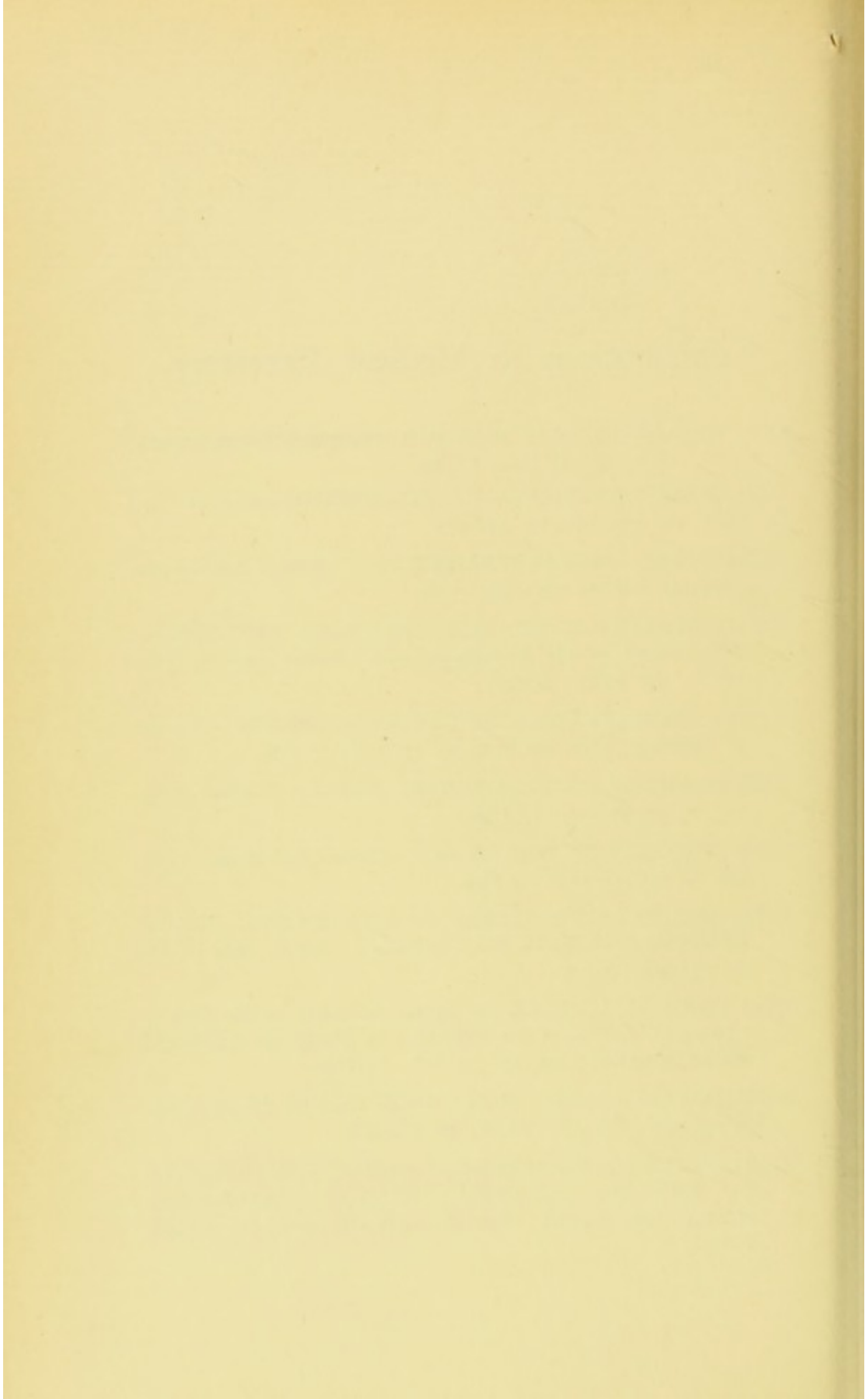
THE FIBROSES OF THE HEART.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1903, vol. ix., pp. 209-224. 12 Figs.

FIVE ILLUSTRATIVE CASES OF CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (with Dr. A. R. FERGUSON). *Lancet*, 1903, vol. ii., pp. 952-956. 3 Figs.

THE CARDIAC MUSCLE (A lecture delivered to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the University of Glasgow).—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1904, pp. 127-136. 10 Figs.

A REVIEW OF RECENT WORK UPON BLOOD PRESSURE.—*Practitioner*, 1904, vol. lxxiii., pp. 218-238.

THE CURRENT THEORIES REGARDING THE CAUSATION OF ARTERIO-SCLEROSIS.—*Practitioner*. Part I., 1905, vol. lxxv., pp. 203-216. Part II., 1906, vol. lxxvi., pp. 317-331. 8 Figs.



THE INFLUENCE OF THE ACUTE INFECTIONS UPON THE ARTERIES.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1906, vol. lxvi., p. 88.

A NOTE ON THE SIZE OF THE SPLEEN IN RICKETS (with Dr. J. CAMPBELL M'CLURE). *British Journal of Children's Diseases*, August, 1906.

CARDIAC COMPLICATIONS OF INFLUENZA.—*Practitioner*. Special Influenza Number, 1907, vol. lxxviii., p. 67.

THE MYOGENIC THEORY.—*Practitioner*, 1907, vol. lxxviii., pp. 453-469.

ON ANÆMIA WITH ENLARGEMENT OF THE SPLEEN.—*Quarterly Journal of Medicine*, 1907, vol. i., pp. 11-23.

SECTION: "DIET IN DISEASES OF THE BLOOD AND BLOOD-FORMING ORGANS," in *A System of Diet and Dietetics*, edited by Dr. G. A. SUTHERLAND; Oxford University Press. (*In preparation.*)

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A NOTE BOOK OF MEDICINE. Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons, 1905. Third edition.

NOTES ON URINARY ANALYSIS (with Dr. ARCHIBALD W. HARRINGTON). Glasgow: Alex. Macdougall, 1907.

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A CASE OF CREOSOTE POISONING IN A CHILD.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1897, vol. i., pp. 145-147.

A CASE OF ACUTE ENDOCARDITIS.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1899, vol. vii., pp. 237-239.

A SPECIMEN OF A RARE FORM OF AORTIC INCOMPETENCE.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1902, vol. ix., pp. 88-90. 2 Figs.



*From* SIR T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, K.C.B., M.D., LL.D.,  
F.R.S., etc., *Regius Professor of Physic in the Uni-*  
*versity of Cambridge.*

ST. RADIGUND'S,  
CAMBRIDGE, 8th February, 1908.

I CAN cordially recommend the merits of DR. COWAN of King's College, Cambridge, now of Glasgow, for the Chair of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. Dr. Cowan left behind him here a high reputation for serious application to work, abilities considerably above the average, and the agreeable personal qualities which enhance these higher merits, and conduce to the pleasant and efficient co-operation with colleagues.

Perhaps I cannot better illustrate what I have said than by copying the following entry from my book of theses for the degree of M.D. Under Dr. Cowan's name : Dec. 4, 02, "The Heart in Acute Disease." "Act kept with a thesis embodying an elaborate histological investigation, which, when correlated with clinical data, will be very valuable. Many fine drawings were produced." Dr. Cowan has devoted much of his time to researches into the functions and diseases of the circulation ; and, as one who has worked in the same field, I am able gratefully to acknowledge much use of his papers, and much valuable instruction from them.

It is difficult to conceive any training more thorough for efficiency in medicine and for the development of the faculties than such intimate and methodical investigations, the only sure foundation for the science and practice of medicine.

I believe that Dr. Cowan is in a position to show that he has added to his scientific training a varied and extensive experience in clinical practice and teaching. It is thus with unusual confidence that I desire to urge Dr. Cowan's claims to a Chair which indeed is a dignified and responsible one, but one which, nevertheless, I consider him able to fill with distinction.

CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.



*From* GILBERT A. BANNATYNE, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Physician  
to the Royal Mineral Water and Royal United  
Hospitals, Bath.*

21 CIRCUS,  
BATH, 9th February, 1908.

IT affords me much pleasure to support the candidature of DR. JOHN COWAN for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. I have known Dr. Cowan for many years, and have formed the highest opinion of his ability, both as a clinician and as a teacher, and his record in both departments fully bears out my view. He has written largely on scientific matters from the physician's standpoint, and his writings have shown not only his powers of original research, but his literary and scientific attainments. As a teacher he has been in all ways extremely successful.

From what I know of him I feel sure that he is a most suitable candidate, and that, should he have the honour to be appointed, he will fulfil all the expectations of his warmest supporters.

GILBERT A. BANNATYNE.





*From* JOHN BROWNLEE, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., D.P.H.,  
*Physician Superintendent to the City of Glasgow  
Fever Hospitals.*

BELVIDERE, 8th February, 1908.

DR. JOHN COWAN has informed me that he is a candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

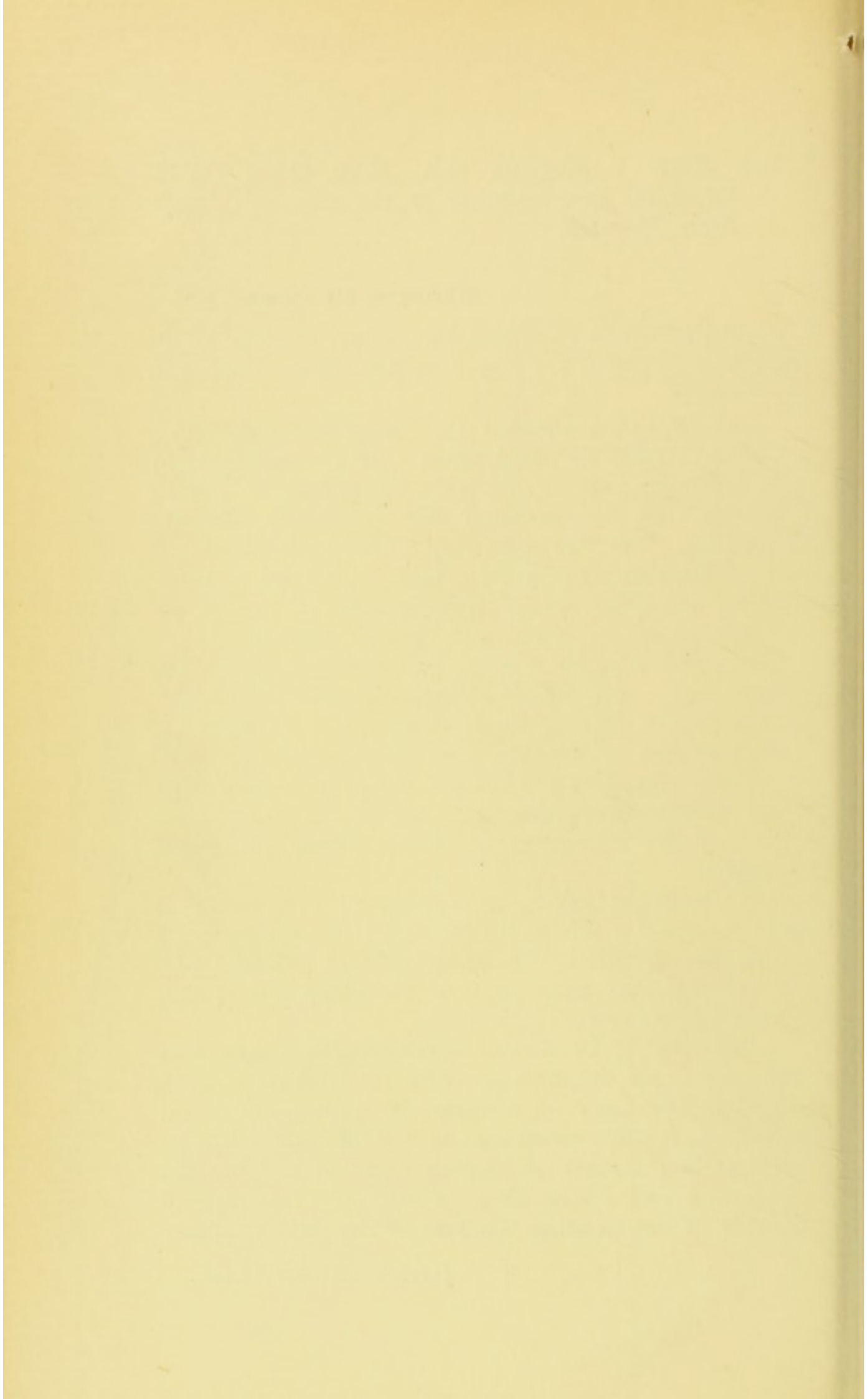
For such an appointment Dr. Cowan has endeavoured to equip himself for many years. He has realized from the beginning that an adequate knowledge of modern medicine must be associated with an equally adequate knowledge of modern pathology. His clinical work and his pathological investigations have gone hand in hand, and he has given special demonstration of this in his valuable papers on cardiac and vascular degenerations.

In addition to his training in general hospitals, Dr. Cowan had a considerable experience, while on the staff of the City of Glasgow Fever Hospitals, in the diagnosis, treatment and pathology of the infectious diseases; and, in consequence, is able to teach these subjects from first-hand knowledge, a qualification rare at the present time owing to the segregation of these diseases in special hospitals.

Of Dr. Cowan's ability as a teacher I have no direct experience, but a number of my staff have been members of his classes, both systematic and clinical, and they have all spoken in the highest terms of his ability as a teacher, and of his enthusiasm in his work.

I think that, if Dr. Cowan be selected, his appointment will ensure that the medical school in Glasgow is represented in the Chair of Medicine by a physician whose knowledge is wide, whose outlook is sufficiently searching to keep him abreast of modern scientific and medical discoveries, and whose ideas of teaching are even in advance of the exacting standard of the present time.

JOHN BROWNLEE.



*From* ALEC R. FERGUSON, M.D., *Professor of Pathology*  
*in the Egyptian Government School of Medicine.*

PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,  
CAIRO, 4th February, 1908.

THE name of DR. JOHN M. COWAN has been by this time associated, in University circles and the West of Scotland generally, with the successful teaching of medicine for a sufficient length of time to make any statement of the fact superfluous.

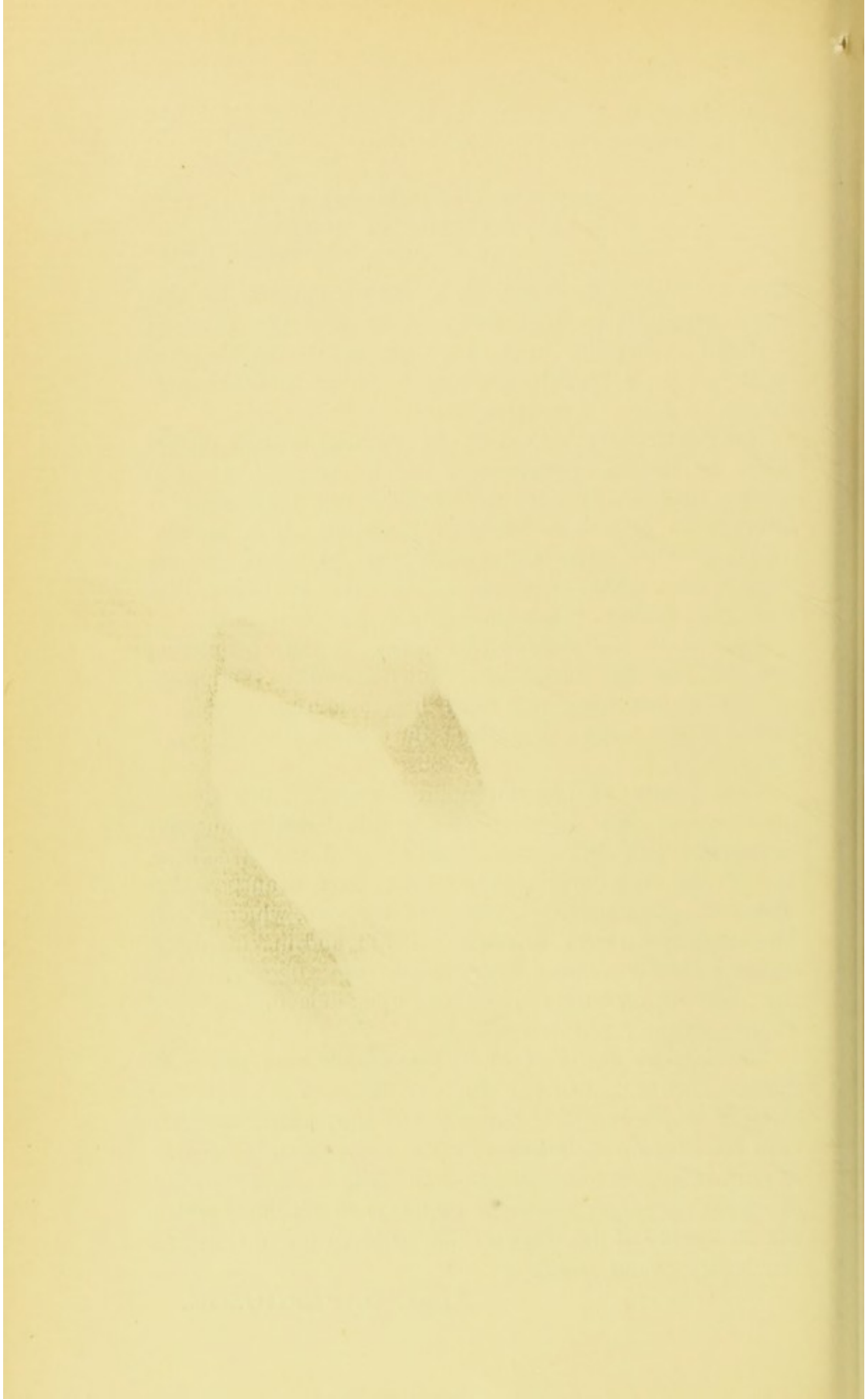
But the thorough nature of the preparatory work undertaken by him in furtherance of his chosen career—well known to his associates in Hospital and Laboratory—deserves to be known in a wider circle. It is as one of those who knew and appreciated his work in the Pathological Laboratory of the Western Infirmary that I am glad to have this opportunity of testifying to it.

Dr. Cowan has consistently worked on the conviction that the ultimate success of a physician, either as teacher or practitioner, must rest upon a correct appreciation of pathological truths, acquired by practical work and observation.

The results of his studies in diseased states of the myocardium and arteries, already published, involved systematic and minute examination of these structures, and I am well aware, as we frequently observed and discussed phenomena together, of the care with which his conclusions were reached. These habits of careful observation Dr. Cowan also carried into other parts of the field of pathology, especially those having a more direct clinical relationship.

Dr. Cowan's methods of teaching have won the confidence and regard of his students during the successive sessions of his teaching career; and this, taken together with his genuine enthusiasm for the study of the problems of pure medicine, constitutes on his behalf a very strong claim for the larger sphere of influence in teaching which the occupancy of the Regius Chair of Medicine in Glasgow University would afford.

ALEC R. FERGUSON.



*From* ROBERT HUTCHISON, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Physician  
to the London Hospital.*

22 QUEEN ANNE STREET,  
CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.,  
9th February, 1908.

I willingly write a testimonial in support of DR. COWAN'S application for the Regius Professorship of Medicine at Glasgow University, for I consider him to be well qualified to hold that important post.

As a former student of Glasgow, and a graduate of Cambridge, Dr. Cowan combines an intimate knowledge of the traditions and needs of the Glasgow School with the wider outlook which residence at another University confers.

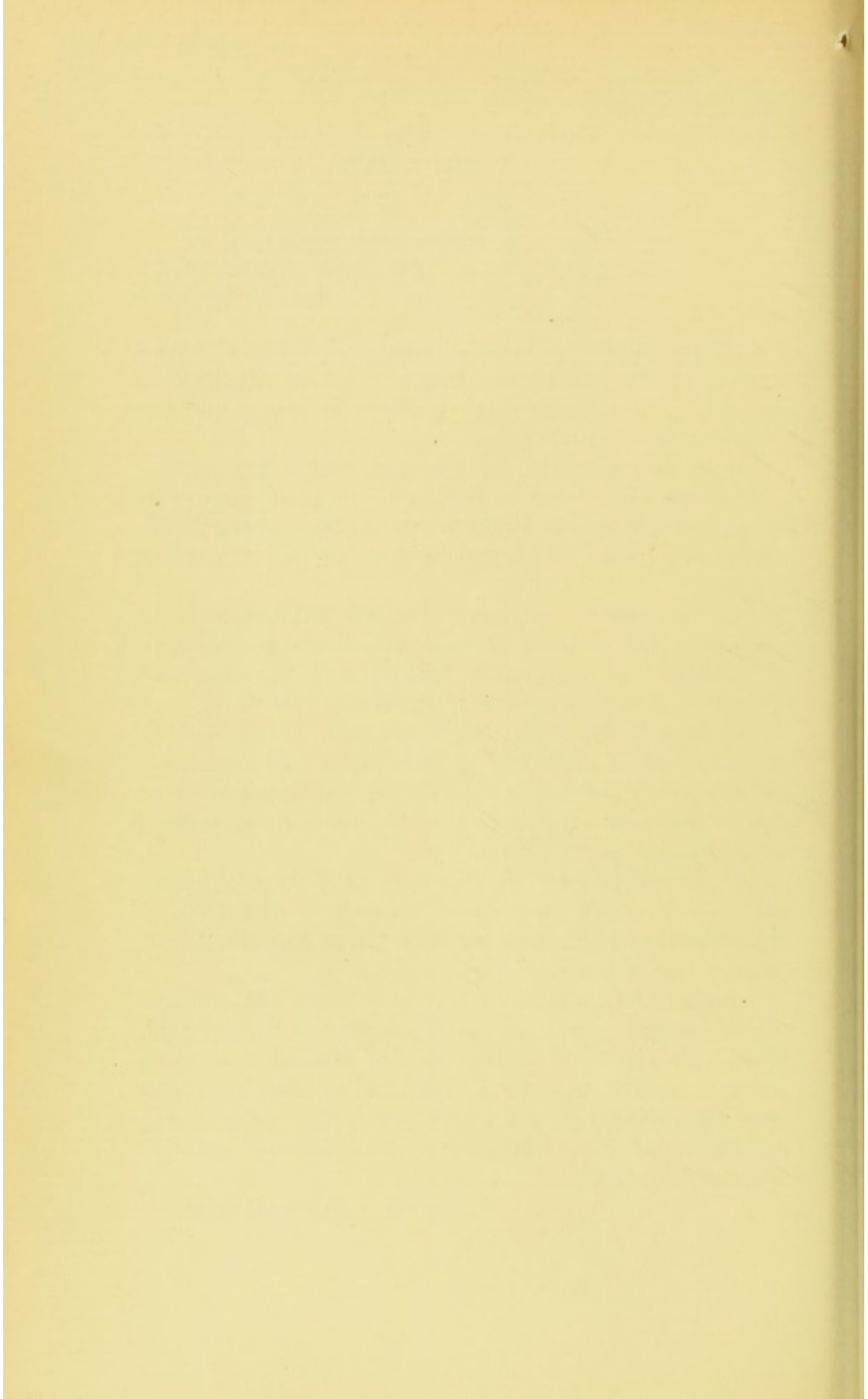
He has already acquired practical experience, as a lecturer at the Western Medical School and as Professor of Medicine at Anderson's College, and has approved himself as a bedside teacher at the Royal Infirmary.

As regards the other chief duty of a Professor—the advancement of medicine by observation and research—he has given proof of his ability by the publication of many important original papers, especially in connection with Diseases of the Circulation.

In addition to these qualifications, Dr. Cowan possesses the gifts of youth, energy and enthusiasm, which are of the greatest value in inspiring students, and in kindling in them a love of sound medical learning.

I regard him, for my own part, as the most distinguished of the younger physicians in Glasgow, and believe that, if he were appointed to the Chair of Medicine, he would prove a worthy successor to the distinguished men who have already held it, and would still further enhance the reputation of the University as a centre of scientific medical knowledge.

ROBT. HUTCHISON.



*From* ARTHUR LATHAM, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., *Physician to, and Lecturer on Medicine at, St. George's Hospital.*

38 PORTLAND PLACE, W.,  
3rd February, 1908.

I HAVE much pleasure in stating that I have known DR. JOHN M. COWAN since his early student days, and that I have kept in close touch with his work since he began to practise his profession.

Dr. Cowan is a cultured gentleman and a highly skilled physician. He is possessed of unusual tact, and has already earned a reputation as a successful and painstaking teacher. His writings are well known in the profession, and are of much value, especially those which deal with the diseases of the heart.

Dr. Cowan has a great future before him, and I venture to recommend him, with every confidence, for the responsible post that he now seeks.

ARTHUR LATHAM.





*From* LEWIS R. SUTHERLAND, M.D., *Professor of Pathology in the University of St. Andrews.*

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,  
DUNDEE, 3rd February, 1908.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN is, in my opinion, eminently fitted to occupy the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

Among the younger physicians in Glasgow I know of no one who has worked more industriously and more successfully, and who has qualified himself more fully in all the varied departments of medicine.

There are many more qualified than I am to speak of the excellence of his purely medical work, and to testify that he is, as I believe, a clinician and a teacher by instinct, by heredity and by training. I would, therefore, refer more particularly to his many valuable contributions to medical pathology, in which he reveals the sound scientific basis of all his work. Work conducted on such lines is by necessity progressive, and teaching founded on such work cannot fail to be efficient, illuminative and stimulating.

L. R. SUTHERLAND.



*From G. P. TENNENT, M.D., Consulting Physician to the  
Western Infirmary.*

159 BATH STREET,  
GLASGOW, 14th February, 1908.

HAVING been intimately acquainted with DR. JOHN M. COWAN during the whole of his medical career, I have special pleasure in giving him my heartiest recommendation in his application for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Cowan's medical education has been unusually complete. After graduating he acted for upwards of six months as Resident Physician in charge of my wards in the Western Infirmary, and I was then led by his enthusiastic interest in his professional work, his untiring industry and his exceptional skill, to form a very high estimate of his abilities.

Subsequently Dr. Cowan held for a considerable time the appointments of Resident Medical Officer to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and Assistant Physician to the City of Glasgow Fever Hospital.

On commencing private work as a physician, Dr. Cowan resolved in avoiding all visiting practice, so as to concentrate his attention wholly in hospital, teaching and consulting work. For seven years he acted as Dispensary Physician to the Outdoor departments of the Western Infirmary and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and for a like period lectured with marked success on the Practice of Medicine in the Western Medical School. About two years ago he was appointed Visiting Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and last year was elected to the Chair of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College. Dr. Cowan has thus



been, since his graduation, continuously associated with important hospital appointments, and these have afforded him the extensive practical experience of his profession which have made his lectures and teaching so thoroughly successful and so highly esteemed by his many students. During these years, too, Dr. Cowan has already secured for himself the highest regard of the profession, by his excellent original investigations and his numerous valuable contributions to medical literature.

For these reasons Dr. Cowan is, in my opinion, eminently worthy of, and exceptionally well qualified for, the Chair of Practice of Medicine. I feel that I cannot too highly recommend him, and I have no hesitation in saying that, if Dr. Cowan be appointed, he will add greatly to the fame and reputation of the University of Glasgow.

G. P. TENNENT.



*From G. SIMS WOODHEAD, M.A., M.D., F.R.S.E.,  
Professor of Pathology in the University of  
Cambridge.*

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY,  
CAMBRIDGE, 7th February, 1908.

ALTHOUGH I have already written very strongly in favour of the application of Dr. Lindsay Steven for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, I feel that, as I am so well acquainted with DR. JOHN COWAN'S work, I ought to state my opinion that Dr. Cowan would make an exceedingly good Professor of the Practice of Medicine.

Dr. Cowan's work on the "heart" is of very high order, his experience of clinical work is wide, and his teaching power great. He is a man from whom the profession expects great things, and I believe that he would make an admirable exponent of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Cowan has, as his contributions to pathology and medicine indicate, a broad and thoroughly scientific outlook on these subjects, whilst his tact, energy and ability would all make for his efficiency as a teacher, and his desirability as a colleague.

G. SIMS WOODHEAD.





[The following testimonial was given to me by the late Dr. Finlayson in favour of my application for wards in the Royal Infirmary.]

*From JAMES FINLAYSON, M.D., LL.D., Physician to the Western Infirmary, Consulting Physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and to the Hospital for Diseases of the Ear; Late President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.*

2 WOODSIDE PLACE,  
CHARING CROSS, 22nd May, 1906.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN'S application for wards in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary is entitled to and is sure to receive very serious consideration.

No doubt there is the objection that he has not served the Institution in the lower grades of office, but when the higher appointments are concerned it has always seemed to me that the best possible men should be selected. If the Royal Infirmary is to maintain the reputation of its staff, men like Dr. Cowan, who have devoted themselves to the scientific aspects of medicine, are required when vacant posts as Physicians have to be filled up.

Dr. Cowan has qualified himself for such a post by varied hospital experience as a resident assistant in the Western Infirmary, the Children's Hospital, and Belvidere Fever Hospital, while in the Scottish Hospital during the war in South Africa he acquired further and rare experience. Since then he has worked assiduously at pathological inquiries, which are so important as a basis for practical medicine, and his published investigations, particularly regarding the heart and the arteries, are justly recognised as important.



As a teacher of medicine he has already taken high rank and has had experience in clinical teaching in the wards of the Western Infirmary, and more particularly in the out-patient department there. He has likewise conducted a successful class in systematic medicine in the Western Medical School.

Dr. Cowan served for a time under me in the Children's Hospital, and I have followed his subsequent course with interest and admiration. He has the requisite natural ability, and he has taken ample pains to qualify himself for the work of a physician ; he is sure to make good use of his opportunities if appointed to wards in the Royal Infirmary.

JAMES FINLAYSON.

