University of Glasgow.

MUIRHEAD CHAIR OF MEDICINE.

APPLICATION

OF

JOHN M. COWAN,

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

Fellow of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons;
Professor of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College Medical School;
Physician to the Royal Infirmary;
Major, *à la suite*, Royal Army Medical Corps, T.F.;
Examiner in Medicine, Royal Army Medical College;
Principal Medical Officer to the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

R. MacLehose & Co. Ltd. Glasgow.

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14 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, *August* 1911.

THE CURATORS OF
THE MUIRHEAD CHAIR OF MEDICINE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to offer myself as a candidate for the Muirhead Chair of Medicine.

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.

Since then I have devoted myself to hospital and consultant work. I was appointed a member of the staffs of the Western Infirmary and 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; Queen's medal with two clasps.)

I have been engaged in the teaching of medicine since 1899, when I became a Clinical Assistant to Dr. Samson 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 five 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 1907, when I was unanimously appointed to the Chair of Medicine in Anderson's College Medical School. Here I have established what is, I believe, the first laboratory for practical instruction in connection with such a course. My classes have been large, and almost wholly composed of University students.

For the last thirteen 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 am at present one of the Examiners in Medicine at the Royal Army Medical College.

I have had the honour of serving on the Executive Committee of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland; and on the Council, and as Vice-President, of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow.

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,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M. COWAN.

Contributions to Medical Literature

By JOHN M. COWAN.

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„ II., 1906, vol. lxxvi., pp. 317-331. 8 Figs.
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TWO CASES OF ACUTE ENDOCARDITIS (with Dr. A. M. KENNEDY, Dr. A. R. PATERSON and Dr. J. H. TEACHER). *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*, 1910, vol. iv., pp. 35-42. 9 Figs.

COUPLED RHYTHMS OF THE HEART (with Dr. W. T. RITCHIE). *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*, 1910, vol. iv., pp. 55-88. 31 Figs.

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List of Testimonials

FROM

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

ST. RADEGUND'S,
CAMBRIDGE, *May*, 1911.

I CAN cordially recommend the merits of DR. COWAN of King's College, Cambridge, now of Glasgow, for the Muirhead 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 ALEC R. FERGUSON, M.D., *Professor of Pathology in the Egyptian Government School of Medicine.*

PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
CAIRO, *July*, 1911.

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 Muirhead Chair of Medicine in Glasgow University would afford.

ALEC R. FERGUSON.

From GEORGE A. GIBSON, M.D., LL.D., ETC., *Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.*

3 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,
EDINBURGH, *May 25th*, 1911.

THE position which DR. J. M. COWAN holds in the medical world is so well known that any testimonial from me may seem superfluous. As he has, however, requested my opinion, I have much pleasure in acceding to his desire.

My knowledge of Dr. Cowan rests upon the basis of long personal acquaintance with him, and I am intimately conversant with the valuable contributions he has made to the literature of medicine. As a teacher I know that Dr. Cowan has been singularly successful both in systematic and clinical work, and the long course of preparation which he has passed through in the Western Medical School and Anderson's College, as well as in the Western Infirmary and the Royal Infirmary, gives the best guarantee of his future development.

Dr. Cowan's original work has already taken a very high place in modern medicine, and, as much of it has lain along lines parallel to investigations of my own, I am in a position which allows me to form a clear judgment as to its value. I have no hesitation in saying that he has made great additions to our knowledge of many pathological problems connected with the circulation, a number of which I have been glad to utilize in my own work. In addition to these pathological contributions, Dr. Cowan has also produced some admirable clinical studies, showing that in his labours pathological investigation and clinical observation go hand in hand.

Understanding that Dr. Cowan is at present a candidate for the post of Muirhead Professor of Medicine, I have much satisfaction in expressing my opinion that he is peculiarly fitted to adorn an academic chair, and that, if he is successful in his application, he will throw additional lustre upon the University.

G. A. GIBSON.

From W. P. HERRINGHAM, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Examiner in Medicine for the Conjoint Board; Member of Senate of the University of London, etc.*

40 WIMPOLE STREET, W.,
July, 1911.

I HAVE great pleasure in stating the extremely high opinion I hold of DR. JOHN COWAN'S work. He has written many papers of great value upon diseases of the Heart and of the Blood-vessels, a subject in which of late years great advances have been made. But he has not confined himself to these alone. He has contributed papers upon many other questions, and all of them have been thoroughly good pieces of work. He is a physician who is sure to perform great services to Medicine and to carry on the traditions of the Glasgow School.

W. P. HERRINGHAM.

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

22 QUEEN ANNE STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, W., *June*, 1911.

I WILLINGLY write a testimonial in support of DR. COWAN'S application for the Muirhead 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 Muirhead 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.,
25th May, 1911.

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 enjoys 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 J. MACKENZIE, M.D., LL.D., *Lecturer on Cardiac Research, London Hospital; Physician, Mount Vernon Hospital, etc.*

17 BENTINCK STREET, W.,
May 25th, 1911.

I HAVE known DR. COWAN'S work for many years, particularly in the field dealing with affections of the heart and blood-vessels.

Dr. Cowan has contributed many valuable papers on these subjects, and he is one of the ablest pioneers and exponents of the recent advances that have been made in affections of the circulation. He is a man whose appointment would reflect credit upon any school or hospital.

J. MACKENZIE.

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

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS MEDICAL SCHOOL,
DUNDEE, 26*th May*, 1911.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN is, in my opinion, eminently fitted to occupy the Muirhead Chair 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, *July*, 1911.

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 Muirhead Chair 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 on avoiding all visiting practice, so as to concentrate his attention wholly on 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 five years ago he was appointed Visiting Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and in 1907 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 has 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 Muirhead Chair 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, LL.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.S.E., ETC., *Professor of Pathology in the University of Cambridge.*

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY,
NEW MEDICAL SCHOOLS,
CAMBRIDGE, *May* 25, 1911.

I have followed for some time and with great care DR. JOHN COWAN'S work. His investigations on the "heart" are of very high order, his experience of clinical work is wide, and his teaching power great. He is a man from whom the profession has received and still 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.

I wish him all success in his candidature.

G. SIMS WOODHEAD.