

**Testimonials in favour of William Seller ... : as a candidate for the
Professorship of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh /
[William Seller].**

Contributors

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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

WILLIAM SELLER, M.D.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,

LECTURER ON BOTANY AND VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY IN EDINBURGH, &c.

AS A CANDIDATE

FOR THE

PROFESSORSHIP OF MEDICINE AND BOTANY

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Sir Wm Newbagg & others

EDINBURGH: PRINTED BY HUGH PATON.

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE
LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF EDINBURGH,
PATRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

MY LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave, with much submission, to offer myself as a Candidate for the vacant Chair of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

With as little delay as possible, if you will permit me, I shall have the honour to transmit to you the grounds on which I rest this application, as well as the Testimonials, in my favour, of gentlemen who have had the means of knowing my fitness for such an appointment.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM SELLER, M.D.,

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Lecturer on
Botany and Vegetable Physiology in Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH, 19TH AUGUST 1845.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE
LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF EDINBURGH,
PATRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

MY LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

I have already laid before you an application for the vacant Chair of Botany—permit me, now, with unfeigned respect, to bring under your notice some of the grounds on which I rest that application. I found my claim to your favourable opinion, on this occasion, not on having hitherto made Botany my exclusive study, but on having long devoted a large share of attention to that subject, while, at the same time, my other pursuits were of a kindred sort, and had relation in particular to the whole economy of organic nature.

To many of the Honourable the Patrons it is well known that I am a Graduate of the University, a Fellow, and one of the Office-bearers of the Royal College of Physicians—that I was for some time a Teacher of several departments in the established course of Medical Education—that for eight years I have been a Lecturer on *Materia Medica* and Dietetics—and that during the last three sessions I have been besides a Lecturer on Botany.

My education general, as well as medical, came up to as a high a standard as has yet been proposed for the education of a Physician. I took my degree after four years' study, but continued my application to medicine by Lectures and Hospital attendance for several subsequent years. I went also through the course of study prescribed for the Degree of Master of Arts, having matriculated in all eight times in eight separate years.

I have had since much experience in the kind of teaching adapted to Medical Education. My opportunities have been many of remarking the obstacles incidental to a student's progress, and I believe I have attained some acquaintance with the means of obviating these.

Materia Medica, on which I have delivered Lectures for eight years, is so closely related to Botany, that both were at one time taught together in the University by the same Professor; and, at present, on the sole ground of the intimate connection between them, I am specially permitted by the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Honourable the Navy Board, to give Lectures on both—an exception to the regulation of these Bodies forbidding more than one branch of study to be taught by the same person.

Ever since I took any part in Medical Education, and before becoming a Lecturer, I was in the habit of resorting with my pupils to the fields for the pursuit of Practical Botany, and, I may add, that when the son of Dr Wallich, the distinguished Superintendent

of the Calcutta Botanic Garden, came to Edinburgh, about ten years ago, to begin the study of medicine, he was placed in my house, with his father's approbation, by Dr Graham, the late Professor, expressly with the view of having his attention directed, from the first, to Botany.

The engrossing nature of my occupations for a good many years, as a Teacher of Medicine, prevents me from being able to refer to a long list of published writings. I have contributed at times to several periodical works, and for upwards of a year, at the request of a number of my fellow Lecturers, I have held the Editorship of a Monthly Medical Periodical, "The Northern Journal of Medicine," my contributions to the Review Department of which, I trust, have not fallen below the standard of such works in this country. I have read some Papers before the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, of which I am one of the Vice-Presidents. Of these papers, one is contained in the July Number of the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal, edited by Professor Jameson, from which it has been reprinted in the Monthly Pharmaceutical Number of the London Medical Times for August. Another is already printed for publication in a London Monthly Journal, the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Should I be fortunate enough to gain your good opinion, and obtain your suffrages, it will be the business of my after life to prove myself worthy of your patronage. I will be ready to yield up all other pursuits to

the duties of the Chair—above all, to the paramount duties of persevering anxiously to keep myself qualified to teach an ever-progressive science, and taking an earnest part, to the utmost of my ability, towards promoting its advancement.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD PROVOST AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM SELLER.

EDINBURGH, 1ST SEPTEMBER 1845.

DR SELLER, in a short time, will be able to submit additional
Testimonials to THE HONOURABLE THE PATRONS.

EDINBURGH, 1st September, 1845.

TESTIMONIALS.

From SIR WILLIAM NEWBIGGING, Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, late President of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c.

I have great pleasure in having this opportunity of expressing the high opinion I entertain of Dr SELLER, as a scientific and accomplished Physician. That gentleman's varied and extensive attainments entitle him to hold an eminent position in medicine and its collateral sciences, and, in my opinion, fully qualify him for the duties of Professor of Botany in our University. In the event of his being appointed to the Chair, I feel assured that he will acquit himself with honour to the Institution, and great credit to himself.

WILL. NEWBIGGING.

Edinburgh, 29 Heriot Row,
13th August 1845.

From JOHN ARGYLL ROBERTSON, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Lecturer on Surgery, &c.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr SELLER for many years past. He has been engaged in the Medical School of Edinburgh in teaching during several years in the two departments of Botany and Materia Medica. In each of these branches he is

distinguished as a teacher, by the excellence, solidity, and perspicuity of the information which he lays before his pupils.

He has added to the value of his Botanical Lectures by teaching his pupils Practical Botany in constant excursions around Edinburgh. In addition to his great experience as a teacher, DR SELLER possesses a disposition so very amiable and gentleman-like, as to have endeared him exceedingly to his pupils, and to the profession in general.

He is well known as the Editor of the Northern Journal of Medicine, and has himself made some valuable contributions to Botanical and Medical literature.

I may add that I know DR SELLER to be acquainted with medicine and all its collateral branches, as Physiology, Natural History, Chemistry, &c., to an extent *which I have seldom or never seen equalled*, and he increases much the value, as well as the interest of his present Lectures, by being able to draw upon so many different fields of knowledge, for their higher elucidation.

J. A. ROBERTSON.

58 Queen Street, Aug. 13, 1845.

From HOLMES IVORY, Esq., Member of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, and of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, &c.

Edinburgh, 26 York Place,
Aug. 16, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am glad to learn that you have resolved on offering yourself as a Candidate for the Chair of Botany, now vacant by the death of Dr Graham.

I have no hesitation in adding my humble testimony in support of your qualifications for the office for which you are a Candidate.

In the course of a personal intimacy, now of many years standing, I have had the best opportunity for knowing that the study of Botanical Science has long formed with you a very favourite

pursuit, and I know that your attention has been always alive to the progress of modern investigation and discovery.

Having also had the pleasure, at different times, of accompanying you on short Botanical excursions, I am able to bear personal testimony, as well to your general qualifications as a teacher, as to the peculiarly clear and ready manner in which you illustrated and explained the practical details of that branch of study on which you were immediately engaged.

Joined to your other qualifications, your past experience as a Medical Teacher and Lecturer on Botany ought to form a strong recommendation in your favour. With earnest hopes that the choice of the Patrons may fall on you,—I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

HOLMES IVORY.

DR SELLER.

From WILLIAM FERGUSON, Esq., Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Professor of Surgery in King's College, London; Surgeon to King's College Hospital, &c.

8 Dover Street, Piccadilly,
Aug. 19, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have no hesitation in stating my conviction that you are fully qualified to fill the Chair of Botany in the Edinburgh College, and from your long experience as a public and private teacher in Medicine, I imagine that there are few who can produce such testimony to that effect as yourself. I am,

My Dear Sir,

Most faithfully yours,

WM. FERGUSON.

DR SELLER.

From GEORGE WILSON, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts; Lecturer on Chemistry in the Edinburgh Medical School, and in the School of Arts, &c.

MY DEAR DR SELLER,

Since you think a testimonial from me in reference to your qualifications for a Chair of Botany may possibly be of service to you, I most willingly send one.

Although I cannot pretend to offer any opinion as to your knowledge of Systematic and Specific Botany, I have had so many conversations and discussions with you on questions of Vegetable Physiology, and the relations of the latter to Chemistry, that I can readily bear testimony to the extent and accuracy of your knowledge on these topics, to which I have often been indebted for clearer views than I had previously entertained. I have, in particular, been struck with the careful study you have made of the works of Liebig, Müllder, and the other recent writers on Vegetable Physiology, Organic Chemistry, and Agriculture, and with the clearness and precision of your views as to the merits of their several theories. In knowledge of this branch of science, you excel all the botanists I have the pleasure of being acquainted with, and it cannot but be of material service in increasing the value of your prelections on Botany.

As you are well known to possess, in addition to your special qualifications for a Botany Chair, an unusually extensive acquaintance with nearly every one of the physical sciences, besides being well skilled in literature, I have great pleasure in adding my feeble recommendation of your claims,—the more so, that your kindly temper, courteous, affable bearing, and long experience in teaching, peculiarly fit you for being the instructor of young men.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

GEORGE WILSON.

August 19, 1845.

From HAMILTON KINGLAKE, M.D., Edin., Physician
to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, and Visiting
Physician to the Fairwater County Lunatic Asylum.

Taunton, Somersetshire,
August 20, 1845.

Understanding that DR SELLER has become a candidate for the vacant Chair of Botany at Edinburgh, I cannot (as an early associate of that gentleman in his Botanical excursions) refrain from expressing how great an amount of valuable and delightful information I derived from his practical instructions in that particular branch of science, and also my fullest conviction that he is eminently fitted, from the high order of his intellect, and his truly gentleman-like feelings, for the honourable office to which he aspires.

HAMILTON KINGLAKE.

DR SELLER.

From JOHN ALEXANDER MACKAY, Esq., Younger of
Blackcastle, in the Commission of the Peace for the
County of Edinburgh.

I have much pleasure in expressing my opinion of the talents and acquirements of DR WILLIAM SELLER, in reference to his present application for the Chair of Botany in our University. I attended his Lectures on Botany and Vegetable Physiology two or three years ago, and found him a zealous and efficient teacher, imparting the facts and principles of the science to his pupils in the clearest and most perspicuous manner. What appeared to me a particular advantage for the instruction of students was, that he scarcely ever used a written lecture or any notes beyond the heads and chief illustrations of each day's subject, chalked on boards, and placed before the class. I accom-

panied him, also, in some of the numerous excursions made to the country around, during the course, and felt much interest in the pains he took to impress on his pupils the names and characters of the plants met with. And I know that many years before he commenced these lectures, he devoted much of his time to the study of Botany, and that he was esteemed a good Botanist by those most capable of judging. He has also lectured for many years on *Materia Medica*—a subject intimately connected with Botany, in so far as it relates to medicine. His professional brethren, I know, estimate his acquirements very highly; and from a long and intimate acquaintance with him, I entertain the very highest opinion of his talents, and shall rejoice that he attains the object of his present ambition, as I am satisfied that he will maintain the reputation of our celebrated University.

JOHN ALEX. MACKAY.

Edinburgh, 26 George Square,
August 25, 1845.

FROM JAMES ANDREW, M.D., Cantab., Fellow of the
Royal Society of Edinburgh; Fellow of the Royal
College of Physicians, &c.

MY DEAR DR SELLER,

I regret that my absence from home, for the last fortnight, has prevented me from complying with your request earlier. From the long experience which you have had in the teaching of medicine, from the intimate knowledge you possess on all subjects connected with medical literature, and from the facility with which you communicate that knowledge to others, few, if any, could, I imagine, be found so well qualified to fill the Chair, to which you aspire, as yourself.

I might say much more, and feel disposed to do so, but when I reflect how well and generally known you are in this city and elsewhere, as a profound medical scholar, I feel it to be quite

superfluous to add more ; and, therefore, with sincere wishes for your success,—I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JAMES ANDREW.

38 Minto Street, 25th August 1845.

From DAVID SKAE, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons ; Lecturer on Anatomy, Edinburgh, &c.

I have had the pleasure of being acquainted with DR SELLER for a good many years, and entertaining, along with, I believe, all my professional brethren in Edinburgh, the highest estimate of his acquirements, and the most unfeigned regard for the many excellencies of his character, it is with great pleasure that I bear testimony to his qualifications for the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

I know of no one more generally and extensively conversant with all the branches of medical study than DR SELLER. He has been connected with the medical school of this city for many years, and has had great experience in teaching. DR SELLER has lectured for several years on Botany, and also on Materia Medica, a subject intimately connected with the former, in so far as it relates to medicine, and by his lectures, as well as by his contributions to our medical periodicals, has proved himself fully qualified for the duties of the Chair for which he is now a Candidate.

DAVID SKAE.

Edinburgh, 3 Argyle Square,
12th August 1845.

From DAVID BOSWELL REID, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have known DR SELLER for many years, and though I do not consider that I have had sufficient opportunity to speak as to the attention he has devoted to Botanical Science, I can bear testimony to the high respect which his attainments, as a man of science, have always secured to him, and to the circumstance that his professional engagements have, for a long period, rendered Botany an object to which he had necessarily to devote a considerable portion of his time. As a gentleman intimately acquainted with the business of education, there are few who can bring more valuable acquirements to bear on the wants and discipline of a great University than DR SELLER, particularly from his long and intimate communication with numbers of the most distinguished students who have graduated there.

D. B. REID.

London, August 22, 1845.

From JAMES MARR, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Lecturer on Midwifery, Edinburgh.

Understanding that DR SELLER is a Candidate for the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to his fitness for the appointment.

I have long had the pleasure of knowing DR SELLER,—he possesses a more extensive and varied knowledge of every subject connected with medical science than any one I ever knew.

He has long been engaged in teaching the different subjects connected with medical education. For many years he has been lecturing on *Materia Medica*, and its kindred science, Botany;

and in a most successful manner, as I know, from observing the progress of many students who had been placed under him.

From DR SELLER's talents, his extensive and varied acquirements, his accurate and thorough knowledge of Botany, together with his long experience in lecturing, I am certain he would discharge the duties of Professor of Botany most ably and successfully.

JAMES MARR.

6 Northumberland Street,
Edinburgh, August 14, 1845.

FROM GEORGE DEAS, Esq., A.M., Advocate.

I have known DR SELLER in his public and professional capacities, and in private life, as a successful teacher and lecturer in the departments connected with medical education—a highly valued Physician, and a respected member of society for a number of years. If I thought his pre-eminent qualifications for the Keepership of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, and the Chair of Botany, admitted of the slightest possible difference of opinion, I should not presume to say any thing on the subject; but satisfied as I am that every unbiassed individual in and out of the medical profession who knows DR SELLER, will fully concur with me, I do not hesitate to state that he is a man of very rare talents—of an extraordinary capacity for the acquisition, retention, and communication of knowledge, whether of a profound or minute description. His mind is, in fact, a perfect storehouse of varied and valuable information. He combines, beyond any man I know, originality of thought, with uncommon powers of observation and memory. In short, while I am aware that my opportunities of judging of him, which have been continuous and peculiar, alone entitle me, without presumption, to give an opinion, I cannot but express my entire conviction, that by devoting himself, as he professes to do to Botanical pursuits, which have of late years engaged much of his attention, he will shortly add another name to the list of those who have done most for the

science of Botany, besides proving, from the first, one of the most able, efficient, and useful teachers on whom the vacant appointment could be conferred.

GEO. DEAS.

Edinburgh, 42 Heriot Row,
August 13, 1845.

From CHARLES F. FAVELL, M.D., President of the Provincial Medical Association; Physician to the Sheffield General Infirmary, &c.

Sheffield, August 25, 1845.

It gives me very great pleasure to offer a testimonial in behalf of DR SELLER, who is at present a Candidate for the situation of Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

Several years ago, I had the advantage of having DR SELLER for an instructor. At that period DR SELLER's attainments, in every branch of Medical Science, were of a very high character; and his method of communicating information at once lucid, courteous, and efficient. I am quite satisfied that he is admirably qualified to discharge the duties of the office which he seeks.

The pursuits in which he has latterly been engaged have necessarily caused him to devote the special attention of his vigorous mind to Botany and Vegetable Physiology.

CHARLES F. FAVELL.

DR SELLER.

From RICHARD PARNELL, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; Author of "the Grasses of Britain," "Ichthyology of the Frith of Forth," &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to your high talents, both of a professional and general character. I know

you have paid much attention to Botany, and that your studies have well qualified you for a teacher of that subject, as well as to promote the advancement of Botany and Vegetable Physiology.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD PARNELL.

Mount Radford, Exeter, Aug. 25, 1845.

From W. H. LOWE, M.D., Vice-President of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, formerly President of the Royal Medical Society, &c.

Balgreen, August 26, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I fear a testimonial from myself must be comparatively of small value, yet I most willingly express the very high opinion I entertain of your knowledge of Botany, and your fitness for the appointment for which you are at present a Candidate.

As an Office-bearer in the Botanical Society for several successive years, I have had many opportunities of observing your profound knowledge of Botanical subjects, as well as the originality of the views displayed in many of your Papers, while to the easy and perspicuous manner in which you elucidate these subjects, every one acquainted with you will, I am sure, readily bear testimony. I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. H. LOWE.

DR SELLER.

From R. M. FAWCETT, M.D., Edin., of Cambridge.

Cambridge, August 29, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to your assiduity, kindness, and success, as a private Teacher; and am sa-

tified that you are well qualified for the honourable appointment of Professor of Botany. I am,

Yours truly,

R. M. FAWCETT.

DR SELLER.

FROM ALEXANDER D. CAMPBELL, M.D., Oxon., Fellow
of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh;
Lecturer on Forensic Medicine.

Edinburgh, Sept. 1, 1845.
4 Picardy Place.

MY DEAR SIR,

As you are a Candidate for the vacant Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, it affords me the greatest satisfaction to send an expression of my opinion as to your fitness to fill that office. I have known you intimately for many years, and have frequently had the pleasure of listening to your instructions; and, although I have heard most of the distinguished teachers, both in this country and on the Continent, I have never met with any one whose style was better calculated to fix the attention of the student, and to lay before his mind clearly and distinctly the various topics which came under review. I am convinced of your thorough knowledge of Botany, both practical and theoretical, from the many conversations I have held with you on the subject, from what I have heard related of your Lectures by numerous pupils, and from having frequently accompanied you on Botanical excursions. On your high scientific attainments, it is unnecessary for me to remark; your contributions to science, published in the various journals, place it in the power of the Honourable Patrons to judge of these for themselves. And your character, as a gentleman, is too well known throughout Edinburgh to require any one to dilate upon it. In short, keeping in view the high character of the University of Edinburgh, and convinced that the prosperity of the Medical Schools in this city is intimately dependant on the well-being of the University, I cannot conceive any one who, as Professor of Botany, is better qualified than

yourself to maintain its ancient fame, and efficiently and successfully to discharge the duties of the Chair. With my best wishes for your success, believe me,

Yours most truly,

A. D. CAMPBELL.

DR SELLER.

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From THOMAS SHAPTER, M.D., Corresponding Member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh; Physician to the St Thomas' Hospital, Exeter; to the Exeter Dispensary, Lying-in-Charity; Author of "The Climate of South Devon," "Diseases mentioned in the Sacred Writings," &c.

Exeter, Sept 1, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am obliged by your informing me of your being a Candidate for the Chair of Botany, now vacant by the death of my very much esteemed friend, Dr Graham.

It will give me sincere pleasure to hear that you, whom I have so long learned to respect, have succeeded in attaining this object of your wishes. I entertain a lively recollection of your very great professional and general attainments, and cannot but consider myself as under many obligations to you for the manner in which you conducted my studies during my residence in Edinburgh.

I fear any recommendation from me can be of no service in your behalf. I shall, however, be glad to hear of your success, not only because you desire it, but likewise for the sake of the alumni of that University, which I am proud to call my "Alma Mater." Believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

T. SHAPTER.

DR SELLER.

From F. J. WHITE, M.D., Perth, Corresponding Member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

It is with much pleasure that I add my feeble testimony to DR SELLER's professional talents, energy of character, and high qualifications for the duties of a Botanical Chair. The facility and perspicuity with which he communicates information—his indefatigable zeal and fervour in the pursuit of knowledge—and his literary industry and attainments, qualify him especially to sustain the eminence which the Botanical Chair of Edinburgh has hitherto possessed.

F. J. WHITE.

Athol Place, Perth, Sept. 2, 1845.

From J. F. OGILVIE, M.D., Foreign Secretary to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh; Medical Superintendent of the Aberdeen Lunatic Asylum.

It gives me great pleasure to add my humble testimony to that of DR SELLER's numerous other friends and pupils, in regard to his qualifications as a teacher, and the kindly interest he has uniformly taken in their progress and advancement.

DR SELLER is possessed, in no ordinary degree, of the two great requisites for efficiently discharging the duties of the situation to which he aspires—an extensive acquaintance with Botany and the allied sciences, which he has taught for several years in another capacity, and an uncommon facility in communicating his knowledge to others.

On this account, as well as from his high standing as a gentleman and a scholar, I feel assured that he would fill, with credit to himself and to the University of Edinburgh, the Chair now vacant there.

J. F. OGILVIE.

Aberdeen Asylum, Sept. 1, 1845.

From GEORGE FIFE, M.D., formerly Lecturer on Materia Medica and Therapeutics, and on Medical Jurisprudence in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne School of Medicine and Surgery; Physician to the Sunderland Infirmary and Dispensary.

Sunderland, Sept. 5, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

In reply to your note which I received this afternoon, I most earnestly wish you success as a Candidate for the vacant Chair in the University of Edinburgh. In this wish I am actuated, not only by feelings of personal regard towards you, but also by the most anxious desire for the continued reputation of the University. And this, from my long and intimate acquaintance with you, as pupil and friend, I feel assured you are pre-eminently calculated to maintain and extend.

For the valuable instruction which you imparted to me as your pupil, I never can offer any adequate acknowledgment, but do most sincerely affirm, that whether in the study, or at the bedside, I am constantly reminded of the depth of obligation under which I must ever consider myself to you. The attention which you have long devoted to Botanical science is too well known to require confirmation—whilst your recent Paper, on the Views of Liebig on the Nutrition of Plants, has afforded me both instruction and pleasure.—With sincerest esteem and regard, believe me ever yours, most truly,

GEORGE FIFE.

WM. SELLER, M.D.

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From ALEXANDER RUSSEL DUGUID, M.D., Corresponding Member of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

Having been long intimately acquainted with DR WILLIAM SELLER, and being well aware of his great professional attain-

ments, more especially in Botany, and the kindred sciences of Chemistry and Physiology, I consider him eminently qualified to discharge the duties of the Professorship of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

ALEX. R. DUGUID.

Kirkwall, 1st September 1845.

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From DR WM. CAMPBELL, Lecturer on Midwifery, Edinburgh; Fellow of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of London; Honorary Member of the Obstetric Society of Manchester; Corresponding Member of the Royal Natural History and Medical Societies of Heidelberg; of the Royal Mineralogical Society of Weimar; and of the Imperial Society of Physicians of Vienna, &c. &c.

4 Picardy Place, Sept 3, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your long residence in this city—your unsullied private and professional character—and the high estimation in which you have been so long held by the professional community, and by men in every Department of Science, both as an accomplished scholar, and as a scientific Public Teacher in our Medical School—will save me the necessity of entering into any elaborate eulogium on your merits; moreover, my doing so would, I am satisfied, very ill comport with your universally acknowledged modesty of disposition. Having been myself for 26 years a Member of the Extra-Academical School of this city, and knowing, it may be presumed, pretty intimately, not only the character and capabilities of all who have been selected for vacant chairs in our University for the last 30 years, but also the various acquirements of those who are now expectants for academical preferment, I do not hesitate to state, that your pretensions, to say the least, are equal to those of any of them. Your writings, which are certainly not few, must satisfy the Patrons, not only of your high literary attainments, but also of your intimate knowledge of the history of

your profession. From your long experience in teaching *Materia Medica*, which, correctly speaking, must be considered the *practical part of Botany*, you are allowed by all who know you, to be not only thoroughly acquainted with the latter subject, but also to have acquired the faculty of arranging your knowledge scientifically, and of communicating it easily and intelligibly to your auditory. And, finally, I must not forget to state, that your conciliating disposition has always been the theme of your pupils—one of the most important attributes of a Teacher, and one which, I hope, the Honourable the Patrons will take into their deliberate consideration. I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

WM. CAMPBELL.

DR SELLER.

From the Rev. ANDREW BROWN, Minister of Alva.

Manse of Alva, Sept. 5, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am glad to learn that you are a Candidate for the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh. It is now a considerable number of years since I became acquainted with your predilection for the study of Botany, and I had then reason to admire the ardour and success with which you pursued it. Since that time, I have had opportunities of knowing that you have continued zealously to cultivate that science; and I have the most confident expectation, from what I know of your superior talents, your varied acquirements, your excellent character, and amiable disposition, that, if elected to the vacant Chair, you will do full credit to the judgment of the Patrons, by proving yourself a most efficient Professor. I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. BROWN.

DR SELLER.

From THOMAS LINDLEY KEMP, M.D., late Editor jointly  
of the Northern Journal of Medicine with Dr Seller.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr SELLER for some years. For a considerable period, we were connected together as Journalists, at which time I was in almost daily communication with him, and had every opportunity of forming an opinion of his professional knowledge and acquirements. In common with his other friends, I consider them of the very highest order. To the subject of Botany, he has paid particular attention, and has taught it successfully. I do not think that there is any one who would fill the Chair of Botany with more honour to himself, and with more credit to the University of Edinburgh.

THOS. LINDLEY KEMP.

67 York Place, Edinburgh,  
Sept 8, 1845.

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From CHARLES WILSON, M.D., Kelso, Corresponding  
Member of the Medical Society of London; Secretary to the Border Medical Society; Surgeon to the Kelso Dispensary, &c.

I have too lively a recollection of the benefits derived from my intercourse with Dr SELLER, to feel otherwise than gratified at having an opportunity afforded me, of offering a public testimony to his very extensive and diversified attainments.

In all the departments of medicine, and of its accessory sciences, complicated and difficult as these have become through the progress of modern improvement, Dr SELLER possesses an amount of knowledge, more profound and carefully grounded than I have ever known in any individual whom I have had the same opportunities of observing closely. The immense assemblage of facts with which he has stored his memory, his power of discriminating these, and of estimating their value, and his sagacity in form-

ing his own judgment and in weighing the opinions of others, have excited, many times, my surprise and unqualified admiration. The knowledge which he is enabled to communicate is, in this way, not only valuable in itself, but his style of oral communication is clear, patient, and assiduous ; and his urbanity is unfailing. Thus, both from the capacity and bent of his mind, he is eminently fitted for the office of a public teacher ; and I believe that his services cannot fail to be highly useful and creditable to any Medical School with which he may become connected.

Regarding his more recent acquirements in Botany, I can offer no direct opinion. I am aware, however, that he has, of late years, made that science an object of special attention : and from what I know of his previous attainments in it, and from his general capabilities for philosophical investigation, I have the fullest confidence that he possesses a judicious mastery over its facts and doctrines.

CHARLES WILSON.

Kelso, 5th September 1845.

From JAMES MERCER, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh ; Lecturer on Anatomy.

50 Northumberland Street,  
Sept. 8, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

Considering the nature of our general professional pursuits, I fear that any testimony of mine will be of little avail in furthering your prospects for the Chair of Botany in this University, and for which you are now a Candidate.

Others, more fully qualified than I am, will, I have no doubt, establish your claims in this respect ; but, from a long acquaintance with you, I consider myself called on to state, that, independently of your qualifications as a scientific and practical Botanist, for undertaking the special duties of that Chair, I feel assured that few will be found to possess in so eminent a degree, that as essential and as imperative acquirement—a useful and in-

structive method of teaching, and which you, from a long experience, have so perfectly acquired. Believe me,

Yours very truly,

JAMES MERCER.

DR SELLER.

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FROM ALEXANDER ZIEGLER, M.D., Surgeon to the Maternity Hospital of Edinburgh.

23 Buccleuch Place,  
Edinburgh, 9th September 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

Having heard, with much pleasure, that you are a Candidate for the vacant Chair of Botany in our University, I hasten to express my sincere good wishes for your success ; and, at the same time, to offer my humble testimony to your fitness for the discharge of the duties of that appointment. Your intimate acquaintance with the whole range of Medical Literature, and your high attainments as a practical Physician, are well known to your professional brethren. And in addition to these qualifications, the great attention you have bestowed on the study of Botany and the kindred subject of Materia Medica, the experience and reputation you have acquired as a Lecturer in both of these departments, and the facility, clearness, and fluency with which you communicate instruction to others, cannot fail to recommend you to the Patrons, as an individual in every respect worthy of the position to which you aspire, and affording high promise of advancing, by your labours, the science which you cultivate, and upholding the well-merited celebrity of our University. Believe me to be,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

ALEX. ZIEGLER.

From GEORGE STEED, M.D., Edin., late President of the Provincial Medical Association; Senior Physician to the South Hants Infirmary.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,

Long acquaintance and considerable opportunity have enabled me to speak with much confidence of the zeal and acquirements of DR WM. SELLER, and I humbly, but earnestly presume, to recommend that gentleman to the vacant Chair of Botany, in the full confidence that he will not only be found fit and capable to perform the duties of the Professorship, but do honour to himself and the University in the choice.

GEORGE STEED.

Southampton, 11th Sept. 1844.

From THOMAS DAVISON, M.D., Edin., Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

Paris, Rue Mondori, No. 5, Sept. 5, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received your letter with great pleasure, not only as coming from an old and valued friend, but also as it gave me tidings that there is at least a possibility that your talent and industry may be rewarded by a Chair in the University.

I have lately read with great interest a paper by you, in the Medical Times, "On some of Liebig's Views on the Nutrition of Plants." No other proof can, I think, be needed of your knowledge of Vegetable Physiology than the article in question. Having enjoyed the advantage of residing with you during the whole time I pursued my medical studies in Edinburgh, I can fully testify to your competency to teach Botany and its collateral science, and that your other pursuits have qualified you for the advancement of both sciences.

I feel persuaded that all who have had the pleasure of your intimacy, will feel no less gratified than myself in paying a humble tribute to your excellence as a man, and to your ability as a teacher. Believe me,

My Dear Sir,

Ever faithfully yours,

THOMAS DAVISON.

DR SELLER.

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FROM ADAM WARDEN, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Author of several Memoirs on the Application of Prismatic Reflection to the Investigation of Disease.

Edinburgh, Sept. 9, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have great pleasure in acknowledging the high estimation in which I hold your professional attainments, and in bearing testimony to your eminent qualifications and long experience as a favourite teacher. Your persevering zeal of inquiry also has enabled you to keep pace with the progress of medical knowledge in its several branches; while, if I may be allowed so to express myself, your exact method of analyzing all subjects, whether as a lecturer, an investigator, or a critic, appears to me peculiarly to fit you to guide the studies or investigations of others. Wishing you every success, believe me,

My Dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

ADAM WARDEN.

DR SELLER.

From F. G. PROBART, M.D., Edin., F.L.S., formerly Senior President of the Royal Medical Society; Extraordinary Member of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society of Edinburgh; Senior Physician to the Suffolk Hospital, &c.; J. P. for Suffolk, and for Bury, St Edmunds.

I have known DR WILLIAM SELLER for many years, having studied with him, in the University of Edinburgh, now long since; and from his high general character, and known attainments in all the sciences (especially that of Botany) essential to medicine, it will delight me to find that the University of Edinburgh, to which I owe and feel many associations of love and veneration, is in possession of so competent and enlightened a Professor to occupy the Chair vacated by the death of Dr Graham.

F. G. PROBART.

Bury, St Edmunds, Suffolk,  
Sept 9, 1845.

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From WALTER BRUCE, M.D., Leith.

22 Charlotte Street, Leith, Sept. 9, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

It affords me much satisfaction, at your request, to bear testimony to your qualifications for the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh for which you are a Candidate.

I have had the pleasure of your acquaintance for several years, and have always been led to remark the zeal, perseverance, and industry with which you have cultivated every department of Medical Science, as is sufficiently evinced by the variety and extent of your knowledge. Possessed of excellent natural talents, and with these qualities you could not fail to attain that position, as a Teacher of Botany and Materia Medica for the last few years, which is alike creditable to yourself and indispensable to

your pupils. Your facility of expression and power of communicating information in a clear and intelligible manner, give you every advantage as a lecturer.

For these reasons, I have no hesitation in saying, that I consider you are well qualified to discharge the duties of the Chair to which you now aspire. Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Yours most truly,

W. BRUCE.

DR SELLER.

From NEVILLE WOOD, M.D., Edin., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Author of several works on Natural History.

15 Lower Belgrave Street,
London, September 10, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

In reply to your favour of the 8th inst., I have much pleasure in saying, that, from your long standing and experience as a Lecturer, your extensive knowledge of Botany and of the Medical Sciences in general, your clear and impressive method of imparting your stores to others, and your well-known high moral character, you appear to me in every way fitted to fill the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh with honour to yourself and advantage to your pupils.

I should be very glad to hear of your obtaining the vacant Professorship in that great and deservedly celebrated seat of learning. I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

NEVILLE WOOD.

DR SELLER.

From EDWARD TAYLOR, M.D., Portsmouth.

I have had the very best opportunities of studying the character and estimating the abilities of Dr SELLER ; and I do confidently say, that, possessing as he does all the high principles which mark the perfect gentleman, he has, at the same time, all befitting qualifications as a Teacher or Lecturer. With the practice and experience of several past years, as a teacher of *Materia Medica*, and having been a Lecturer on *Materia Medica* for the last eight years, and on Botany for the last three summers, I do not know whether any gentleman could be selected more desirable to occupy the vacant Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

EDWARD TAYLOR.

September 1, 1845.

From THOMAS ANDERSON, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh ; Lecturer on Chemistry in Edinburgh.

12th September 1845.

DEAR SIR,

I fear any testimonial from me can have but little influence in furthering your claims for the Chair of Botany. It affords me, however, much pleasure to have the opportunity of expressing my high sense of your qualifications for the office. I feel entitled to give my testimony to your intimate knowledge of Vegetable Physiology, which you have long and successfully cultivated. Of your knowledge of Systematic Botany, I am less able to express an opinion ; but I can testify to the high estimation in which you are held by those more competent than myself to judge of your merits. With best wishes for your success, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS ANDERSON.

DR SELLER.

From JAMES DUNSMURE, M.D., Fellow of the Royal
College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, 26 Castle Street, Sept. 8, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

In reply to your note of the 6th, requesting me to give you a testimonial on your standing as Candidate for the Professorship of Botany in our University, I have no hesitation in stating my belief that, from your extensive information on every medical subject, and being well conversant with Botanical Science in all its departments, if you succeed in your application, that you will discharge the duties of the Chair with satisfaction both to the Patrons and students. I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JAMES DUNSMURE.

DR SELLER.

From WILLIAM ROBERTSON, M.D., Fellow of the Royal
College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

DR SELLER, by his well-known attainments in medical science, and more particularly in Botany, by his experience as a teacher, and by his successful method of communicating instruction, is, in my opinion, highly qualified to fill the Chair of Botany.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

Edinburgh, 28 Albany Street,
Sept. 15, 1845.

From THOMAS THOMSON, M.D., Physician to the Strat-
ford-on-Avon Infirmary.

DEAR DR SELLER,

It gives me much pleasure to add my testimonial to the numerous and more important ones, which I feel assured you can

readily command, of your qualifications for the Professorship of Botany in the College of Edinburgh, for which I learn from your letter that you are a Candidate.

From the ample opportunity which I enjoyed, whilst attending your examinations, of forming an opinion of your ability, of your extensive and accurate acquaintance with the Medical Sciences, and of the facility with which you impart your knowledge to others, I do not entertain a doubt that you are eminently qualified for that office, the duties of which I feel assured you would perform with honour to yourself, and much advantage to the University.

Sincerely wishing you success, believe me to remain, with much regard,

Very truly yours,

THOMAS THOMSON.

Stratford-on-Avon, 13th Sept. 1845.

From ALEX. KEILLER, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Argyle Square Medical School, &c. &c.

18 St Patrick Square,
Edinburgh, Sept. 15, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I gladly avail myself of the opportunity afforded me of adding my humble testimony in support of the claims which you have on the Professorship of Botany and Medicine now vacant in our University.

From my connection with the Extra-Academical School, of which you have long been a distinguished ornament, I have enjoyed the very best opportunities of becoming acquainted with the measure of success which has attended your assiduously and most ably conducted private and public prelections; and while I can with confidence affirm that you have hitherto been regarded as a highly efficient Teacher of Botany and of the other Sciences appertaining to Medicine, I feel assured that no one, in or out of

the profession, capable of appreciating the great extent of your literary and scientific acquirements, can hesitate in declaring, that you pre-eminently possess all those high mental qualifications which are so essentially necessary to the successful occupancy of the Edinburgh Botanical Chair, of which, I sincerely hope, you will prove to be the chosen Candidate.—I am,

My dear Sir,

With great esteem,

Faithfully yours,

ALEX. KEILLER.

DR SELLER.

From GEORGE LEES, Esq., A.M., Lecturer on Natural
Philosophy, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, 15th Sept. 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

Though I am scarcely qualified to express an opinion on your great merits as a Botanist, I may nevertheless be allowed to state that, among competent judges, I have always heard those spoken of as of the highest order. I can for myself truly say, that I regard you not only as having an extensive acquaintance with the Physical Sciences generally, but as possessing a highly philosophical spirit, both in study and conversation, and therefore eminently fitted to impress the same high character upon any academic situation which you may be called upon to fill. In short, from what I know of you both as a scholar and a gentleman, I do most firmly believe that your appointment to the Chair to which you aspire, would not only go to support the fame of the University of Edinburgh, but certainly confer also the most lasting advantages on all whom you may be called upon to instruct.

GEORGE LEES.