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12 Grassington Rd
Eastbourne
Sussex.
Feb. 3. 1952.

Dear Forbes

I have been ~~dejected~~
remiss about writing - or no -
writing, to thank you & Mrs
Forbes for so kindly sending
me a ~~precious~~ ^{parcel} thing at the
year's end. My rheumatic
fingers are a difficulty against
writing, even briefly. Please
accept these belated thanks
now.

We hear you, at Milton, had
a brisk touch of frost. I
expect you got a reminder of the

year-end weather. To write to
you reminds me Ralph Waldo Emerson
- & that visit to his ~~st~~ historic house
at Concord - "where 'were the embattled
farmers stood & fired the shot heard
round the world" (R.W.E.'s own lines
about it). A great though parsimonious
poet. To quote him again "Long & various the
report, but the sense of the world is sort - to
love & be beloved". It has a Greek brevity
which makes French (outside Greek) the
only language which can express it
fitly. Well I begin to grow wordy
- which is the last form of boredom I
would be guilty of in writing to Milton.
Once more my hearty thanks and
best remembrances to both of you.

Yours always
Charles C. Sherrington

POETRY — AND LAST WORDS

Letter from Sherrington to Dr. Alexander Forbes, Professor Emeritus of Physiology at Harvard University, dated 3 February 1952.

This letter was written by Sherrington a month before his death, on 4 March 1952, in his ninety-fifth year. For several years he had been under treatment for chronic rheumatism, but it was only towards the end that he allowed this condition to affect his writing. Note the spelling slips and the reversion to the signature which he used as a young man. This charming letter shows no evidence of failure of intellect or memory.

- Good Demonstrations for class.
- 1. Drugs vapor bottle top.
- 2. Degeener (vallet) w/ top.
- 3. Cordley's pami skin.
- 4. Asphyxia w/ top.
- 5. Vapor w/ reagent.
- 6. Cortical skin. + phlopy.
- 7. Kneader's.
- 8. Pileuter's cat's tail. + w/ reagent.
- 9. Astigmatism. Phlopy. + w/ reagent.
- 10. Contrast. by Hering's bones.
- 11. Project. of surface on w/ top.
- 12. Ref. of atropine.
- 13. Projection spectra.