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Oct. 21, 1913.

Dear Sir William:

We have been having a great time here lately in our medical faculty meetings. Suddenly, as far as I was concerned, without any knowledge or warning, unusual meetings were called and it transpired that the purpose of Dr. Welch and Dr. Williams was to put through the "whole time service" idea and get money from Rockefeller sufficient to pay the leading medical man and surgical & pediatrist man ten thousand dollars a year. Their idea was also to limit the Medical School ~~down~~ to sixty in each class. Whether the faculty as a body ever agreed to these ideas, I don't know, I don't recall any such action; but Dr. Welch simply presented a paper, which I think he and Dr. Williams prepared, taking it for granted that such a course was to be carried out, and by generously inviting discussion, focusing the expressions of opinion up on the pure verbal construction, for instance cutting out an adjective or an adverb here and there. Then another hurried meeting was called for an hour's discussion, 3-4 P.M. and following that at 4 P.M. Univ. the trustees were found in an adjoining room all ready to confirm our action.

It will undoubtedly throw Barker out entirely. He ~~has~~ said that he would ~~have to~~ give up ~~his practice in~~ the Hospital and go into private practice should such a rule prevail. I feel badly about this as I really feel as if we had, as it were, gotten ~~in~~ him here under false pretenses in making radical changes so soon after his arrival. It will probably also throw Thayer out. The hint is that Mrs. Thayer

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wants a good deal of money to spend and will not let him take the position offered him if Barker resigns. Halsted, of course, will just go on as usual and capture two or three times the salary he has been having, & have to do nothing more than before!

I think, myself, that the idea is a good one, but I don't see how they are going to carry it out so as to realize any great benefit from it. The next thing Williams will be coming after my chair, as he expressed his intention of resigning from the Obstetrics chair, which means, of course, that he wants to be invited back and have charge of Gynecology too. Finney is opposed to it, and told me yesterday that if he were offered the place of Surgery he could not accept it but would have to resign.

There is also a ruling which is going to hit Dr. Young very hard; that is to say, that all bills rendered to the patients in the Hospital will go through the main office. In this way they will keep an exact account of any fees paid Young in his large private ward, which amounts, of course, to nothing but a private hospital for him. Personally, I do not care much what they do, and on the whole I approve of the plan, as I have said.

I am ~~very~~ glad that my work has been so largely outside of the Hospital in my own private ~~hospital~~ as they cannot seriously touch me; and, indeed, if it were not for Cullen, who ought to step into my shoes, I would have resigned a couple of years ago. I am now so much interested in radium in all its applications that the mere matter

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of surgical technique and of the pathological investigation of gynecological structures seems a very small ~~matter~~ in comparison.

I have over a gram of radium, at least I will have by December, and am planning to add from five to ten grams more to my collection. This has enabled me already to do some very remarkable work. I will tell you about it more at length later.

I forgot to say that Howland, too, in Pediatrics, will be affected by the change. Meyer does not like it and I think the majority of the men (except lab. profs.) do not like it, but there is no bitterness of feeling whatever. It is curious to me to see how Welch has carried it through. He is like a big father spanking all his children.

I am just going up to York, Pa., in behalf of Miss Small, to examine into hospital conditions there, to hear testimony and to decide whether or not things are going right. As a matter of fact, I think some pretty dreadful things have been done in the Hospital. Our good friend, Meisenhelder, is on the right side and is trying to purify the Hospital.

Please give my affectionate regards to Lady Osler.

Always faithfully yours,

Howard A. Kelly

Who will say men can't gossip!