

April 14, 1927.

R.D. Furse, Esq.,
38 Old Queen Street,
London, S.W.1.

Personal.

My dear Major:-

Thank you very much for your letter of March 31st. I think I understand the position thoroughly. I can imagine that when Professor Matthews offered to give to you the reasons of the Committee for refusing to recommend Dr. Olmsted he merely wished to emphasize that in our opinion these reasons were good and sufficient. You can well understand that it may sometimes be impolitic to state the reasons very definitely. I think we felt that way in this case, because we gathered the impression that some of Dr. Olmsted's social friends were pressing his appointment.

My Committee takes its obligation to you in a very serious way. We are fully determined never to recommend anyone unless we can unqualifiedly do so. It so happens that we were all in the army and we saw there the evil results that followed the promotion of officers solely because social friends were urgent. I know this the way in which you would wish us to act.

While Dr. Pearce seems keen to have Dr. Olmsted as his assistant, we were unable to get an unqualified recommendation from any school in which Dr. Olmsted did undergraduate or post graduate work. Socially he would be quite popular; may be that is the kind of a man Dr. Pearce would like to have, but it is not the kind of a man our Committee will recommend, unless he has in addition other very necessary qualifications.