

October 26th, 1929.

Dr. G. S. Whitby,
National Research Council,
Ottawa.

Dear Dr. Whitby:-

The suggestion made in your letter of October 3rd has received the most careful consideration. You will, of course, realize that the plan involves many questions besides the possibility of establishing a desirable spirit of cooperation.

The European system is not, as you, of course, know, exactly parallel. The manner in which professors are appointed and universities operated differentiates the cases. In this country it is recognized that professors form an active part of a faculty and are subject to control, however, indefinite, by such bodies as faculties and corporations. I confess I do not see how we could meet the difficulty created by the appointment of members of the staff subject in no way to university authority. I am afraid, too, that even if I could see such a solution it would not be easy to pass the necessary amendments to the University constitution. This objection may be technical but it is, I fear, a very real one.

I find, moreover, that the feeling among the staffs of bodies such as that to which you now belong is by no means unanimously in favour of such a proposal as yours. The result of my inquiries, which, I may say, have been made without mentioning your name or position, has been to satisfy me that in many cases the holders of similar positions would rather be entirely