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**Columbia University
in the City of New York**

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

(Personal and confidential)

December 21, 1908

Professor Charles S. Sherrington

University of Liverpool

Liverpool, England

Sir:

At the close of the present academic year, —that is, on June 30, 1909 — John G. Curtis, M.D., LL.D., for thirty-two years Professor of Physiology in Columbia University, will retire from active service, at his own request. Under the Statutes of the University, the right to nominate his successor is vested in the Faculty of Medicine, and that Faculty has appointed a committee consisting of the President of the University, the Dean of the Medical Faculty (Dr. Samuel W. Lambert), the Professor of Anatomy (Dr. George S. Huntington), and the Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics (Dr. C. A. Herter), to consider the names of suitable persons who might be recommended for appointment as Professor of Physiology and to report to the Faculty at the earliest possible date.

At a meeting of this Committee, I was authorized and empowered to enter into correspondence with you in order to ascertain whether you would be disposed to view favorably an invitation to accept the Professorship of Physiology in Columbia University, and whether you would permit this Committee to present your name to