

The University of Adelaide.

April 11 1908

The Council of The University

Gentlemen

I have the honour to inform you that I have received from the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Leeds a request that I should accept a nomination to the Cavendish Chair of Physics in that University. After very much anxious consideration I have decided to ask you to relieve me of my duty to you at the end of this year in order that I may be able to accept the offer made to me.

You will readily understand with great unwillingness I take a step which puts an end to my long engagement here. My life and my work in this country have been so singularly happy, I have met with such kindness from innumerable friends, and in particular from the Council of The University and from my colleagues on the staff, that I cannot hope to find in England and in the future anything better than that which I leave behind. The reasons which prompt me to seek a change relate only to the nature and scope of my work. At Leeds

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I shall be asked to profess only the subject of physics: not physics and mathematics together. The amount of elementary teaching will be less, and the number of advanced students will be greater. Moreover I am offered facilities for research which are more than this University could afford, if all the other work of the chair which I now occupy is to be carried out as it should. And again I shall have constant opportunities in England of meeting men who are engaged on the same lines of investigation as myself. These are very real advantages, and I believe that I ought not to set them aside.

I am, however, so conscious of what I risk in leaving Adelaide that I am loth to make the step irrevocable until I am assured that it is right. For some time I have intended to ask for leave during part of 1909, so that I might have an opportunity of visiting physical laboratories in England, and at the same time of entering one of my boys at the University of Cambridge. From the point of view of this University the opportunity would be not unferable, since it is improbable that there will be any students in Honours Physics next year. Even under the altered circumstances I may perhaps be allowed to ask for leave

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For ten months dating from March 1st 1909, on said date it is proposed that I should be appointed to Leeds. The whole of my salary during that time would of course be applied by you to the payment of the acting professor or lecturer. Or, if you thought it better, I could resign from the date named; leaving it to you to refrain for a time from appointing a permanent successor. Long before the end of the ten months I should know whether there were any conditions of my work in Leeds, or of my life in England which made me reluctant to remain there: if I then returned to Adelaide I should be the better for my year's experience in England, and be more capable of fulfilling my duties to this University. In this matter I can only place myself in your hands.

In conclusion let me again express my deep sense of gratitude to the members of the Council, at whose hands I have received such generous appreciation and such unflinching support during the last twenty-two years.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

W H Bragg.