

The University

Oct 29. 1908.

The Finance Committee

Gentlemen

The instrument maker, A R Rogers, has asked me to lay before you an application for a rise in his salary. His case is somewhat exceptional; I will endeavour to state it as briefly as I can.

There is no doubt that Rogers receives a high wage already, £234 a year. Moreover he receives a premium of £50 from each new apprentice, and this happens every year or two: also I believe he earns other money for work done outside University lines. It is to be noted also that he is troubled with increasing deafness, and he is not very strong physically. It might therefore seem at first sight that any application for increase of salary was out of consideration. But there is a great deal to be said on the other side.

He is a man of wonderful skill in his work: I do not think there is his equal in Australia. He has amply earned his salary. Not only is all the apparatus belonging to the Physical Laboratory kept in good order, but it is saying much considering how easily deterioration sets in if care and skill are not exercised, but also the apparatus has been greatly strengthened indeed it largely consists of ~~app~~ instruments made in our own workshop. Except as regards special instruments like the liquid air machine, certain electrical engineering instruments and the like we have been almost independent of English workshops, and the

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I am, gentlemen

Yours obedient servant

W H Bragg.

bills for imported apparatus have been very small, considering the quality and quantity of experimental work which we do. For instance Dr Madson reports that in spite of the lavish expenditure on the electrical engineering laboratory in Sydney the students are worse off than our own students who are richer in opportunities for doing experiments. ^{The greater part} Part of the credit for this is due to Dr Madson of course: but he could not have been so successful unless he had been able to rely on Rogers and his assistants, who have made or reconstructed ^{from second hand material} half the instruments and machines which the laboratory contains at comparatively small cost to the University. Again, material assistance has been given to Dr Rennie, Dr Stirling, Prof Chapman and others of the staff. The fame of the workshop has spread so far that it is quite common to receive all sorts of delicate apparatus sent with the idea that the University may be trusted to put things right here others have failed: we have received apparatus even from West Australia. The apprentices always find ready employment: the instrument maker to Melbourne University was one of our own boys. Against the fact that Rogers receives premiums from the apprentices must be set the fact that the University gets a lot of work out of these boys for very small wages: indeed we could not have carried on our classes without them.

If therefore you think fit to raise Rogers's salary by some moderate amount, say to £250 or £260 a year, you need have no fear but that the money will be fully earned for some years to come. The one difficulty that I see ahead is that of superannuation: but that applies in a greater or less degree to every servant of the University.

I am, gentlemen

your obedient servant

W. A. Bragg.