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ALLEN, PERCY S.

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SNOUCH HURGRONJE, C.

1922

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MERTON COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

16 April 1922

Rector mi magnifice

The auto whisked us swiftly from your hospitable door to the station; and the same good fortune which had marked the day for us with a white stone, followed us to the end. In the train we fell in with a friend, Mr. Profer of the Hoogburgerschool at Haarlem, who proved a most agreeable travelling companion; and the sea was at its calmest, so that the good ship St. Denis wafted us to Harwich in complete comfort; and since Wednesday we have been at home, happily working upon the task to which your University has so

handsomely given the hall-mark of its commendation. I was unable to satisfy myself, after consultation with kind friends, whether it was customary or permissible for a new doctor to express his thanks in a few words: so though I had thought out what I wished to say, it seemed wiser not to utter it. But from a press notice, which states that 'I replied with a few words of thanks', I got the impression that something of the sort would have been suitable. I am sending you therefore a copy of the sentiments to which I should have given utterance, if I had ventured to address you in reply: hoping that they will convey to you, more clearly perhaps than the present letter, my sincere gratitude for the great honour which you & your University have conferred upon me.

I was on Tuesday, & still am, quite unable to express you the pleasure & the encouragement which your degree has given to me, & to my wife who was permitted to assist in it. It came as a complete surprise, for I had always recognized the careful selection with which the Leiden degrees are awarded; & I had never expected that there would be room for me within the well-chosen company of your doctors.

Your encouragement will certainly help us greatly in keeping the standards of our work high, as the later volumes are prepared for the press; & I hope you will have no cause

By the time this reaches you Arnold will be  
with you, I expect: please give him our congra-  
tulations on reaching the haven of Leiden!

May I ask you also to express to  
Mrs. Bronck - Huzarowje our appreciation of her  
kindness in providing us with such a splendid  
Promotië - dinner: even to the length of a  
Promotië - rock. It was a most interesting &  
delightful experience, & a fitting close to a  
wonderful day.

Some day I hope we may have the pleasure  
of seeing you both in Oxford.

Yours sincerely

P. S. Allen