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60 Buckingham St.
Cambridge, Mass.

May 21, 1915

Dear Mr. Deane,

The laboratory work in Botany, suffers greatly by reason of insufficient space in the laboratory. Only half as much space is now available as when Dr. Goodale had the course. When Dr. Goodale retired Professor Jeffrey stated that he had been authorized by President Eliot to take half of the Botany laboratory for his work. The result is that

Two sections have to be conducted simultaneously in the same room. Despite a temporary partition, which is put up to separate them, all that is said in one section is heard by the other and the men must sit face or reverse at a table.

Doubtless this will be remedied when the work is moved to Purce Hall but this removal will not affect another and much more serious difficulty. I refer to the necessity of turning over the direction of the laboratory work to untrained assistants. Much of my time is taken up in training these men but as a rule it must be done all over again

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with a new set the following year. 3
As most of our graduate students
come from other colleges the majority
of the assistants in Botany are
men who have not had the course
in Harvard and who are unfamil-
iar with our aims and methods.

(It is highly desirable that
provision be made for an in-
structor who shall remain for
a number of years and give his
entire time to the course during
the second term. If the Cor-
poration is unwilling to bear this
expense we might begin with
another assistant, to be paid
four hundred dollars, in addition
to the sums already devoted
to assistance. The duties
of this assistant would be to

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supervise all the laboratory work,
visiting all the sections in turn.

He would not, therefore, take the
place of any of the assistants now
employed. I should, of course,
continue to visit the sections myself
as often as possible.)

I have stated my views
somewhat at length knowing
that you would know how
to condense them for the pur-
poses of your report.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. V. Osterhaus



Osterhout, W. J. V. 1915. "Osterhout, Winthrop John Vanleuven May 2, 1915."
Walter Deane correspondence

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