

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



SAINT LOUIS

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

July 11, 1938

Dr. Viktor Hamburger
M. B. L. Woods Hole.

Dear Viktor:

I enclose a copy of a letter I got from Brown this morning. From his first letter I suspected considerable immaturity since he wanted to teach so many and such varied courses. But from the present letter and from the letter of Twitty to you (a copy of which I received this morning) he looks almost too good to be true. One almost suspects an Ethiopian in the wood pile. His training for this work is simply excellent and he seems to want the job and is willing to stay for several years.

He says both Twitty and Whitaker are in Woods Hole now or will be soon. Please see them at once and get the whole low down and let me know. I shall send you copies of the letters from Blinks and Beadle as soon as they come. Contrary to my express request he did not send a photograph nor did he give any other personal data such as age, etc. In his previous letter he said he would get his degree in the summer quarter. I dont know when this will end but I doubt that he would be available before some time in August. In any case it would probably be out of the question to send him to Woods Hole this summer yet unless he will pay his expenses himself. Since he is married this seems unlikely. If all reports are favorable, however, I am in favor of taking him at once lest he slip out of our hands. He seems to be made to order. You will notice that Harvard was angling for him. I was on the point of writing him an air mail letter asking for a photograph but doubt if I shall. It will probably be coming along soon. You can find from Whitaker whether there is anything wrong with his looks or personality. If so we can insist on a photograph. You can also find out when the summer quarter will be over, hence when he will be available. If it should turn out that he will be free very soon it might still pay to send him to WH. Otherwise I could put him to work on the polarizing microscope here or we could ask him not to come till September. There is some possibility that Barbara and Marion may go to Boston shortly. In that case I would drive up in the End of August to get them and hence might not be here till the second week in September. Unless something very unfavorable turns up I should very much prefer Brown to Salzburg.

Frank

His reports haven't turned up yet!

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PS

I took the above letter down to be mailed and found in my box Brown's reprints and a letter from Blinks (copy enclosed). The papers are in J. Gen. Physiol., 21; 475, 1938 and J. Cell. Comp. Physiol. 9; 105, 1936.

Blinks' letter has cinched the matter as far as I am concerned. I am in favor of taking him almost sight unseen! I suspect they meant to hold on to him at Stanford but simply weren't able to find the money. Hence no one suggested him to us. He probably met Szegö through his interest in mathematics. There is a bare possibility that he is Jewish and that that was the common interest but I don't believe it. I have written Brown asking when he could come and mentioning that the letter had not yet arrived.

While we should not act too precipitately I think we should sign this man up just as soon as we are sure there is no catch in it. If you feel as I do and after you have talked to Whitaker (who is himself a very able man and on whose judgement, like Blinks, you can rely) give me your opinion at once as well as your idea of the best plan to take care of him during the summer.

JS