

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

From the Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship -----
Committee of Selection -----

Referring to the application of -----

Dear Sir/Madam,

Your name has been given as reference by the above-mentioned candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship, who comes before our Committee of Selection this year. I should be grateful if you would send me a frank and confidential statement regarding his/her qualifications. Your *prompt* compliance with this request will be of great assistance to the applicant and will be much appreciated by the Committee of Selection.

The basis of selection by the Committee is that section of the Will of Mr. Rhodes in which he mentioned the four groups of qualities which he desired in his Scholars: (1) literary and scholastic ability and attainments; (2) Qualities of truthfulness, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship; (3) Exhibition during school days of moral force of character and of instincts to lead and to take an interest in schoolmates; (4) Fondness for or success in outdoor activities.

The selection is not made, however, on the principle of averaging a candidate's qualifications under all these heads. The Committee will look for a person who shows promise of outstanding achievement in later life. For this, distinction of character (to which the Founder attached particular importance) and intellect are the most important requirements and the Committee will be particularly interested in your critical estimate of the candidate in this respect.

It is not expected that each individual will be able to speak of the candidate's qualifications under all these heads, and you are requested to confine yourself to those qualifications on which you have information gained by personal contact.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate's limitations as well as qualities. A critical appraisal will add to, rather than detract from, the force of your letter, since Committees naturally tend to be dubious of recommendations which imply that a candidate has no limitations whatever.

Since the Committee needs time to consider the credentials of a number of applicants, I should be grateful if you would reply **1 August**. Your letter will be treated as strictly confidential and will be read only by those whose duty it is to pass judgement upon the qualifications of the candidate.

Yours truly,

Secretary of the Committee of Selection