

*Science*

Fuld Hall  
Princeton, N. J.  
March 6, 1941

Mr. Robert Woodworth  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter telling me about William R. Cole. I shall try to look him up when I am going in that direction.

In the meantime, I hope very much that you can have John Hawkes, who is to be reached at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey, up to Bennington. Won't you write him directly to make the arrangements? At the end of my talk with him in New York it was agreed that our next step would be an invitation to him to visit the college to meet with you. I hope very much that you can arrange this so that we can discuss it when I come to Bennington in the week of March 17th. There is another possibility for the Physics position which I have not mentioned to many people, but which seems to me quite attractive -- that is Mrs. Marie Polanyi, wife of Dr. Polanyi, who is now in England but who may come to the United States this Spring. I am sending you her rather unusual record which indicates that she has done work in the field of mathematics, physics and engineering. Also, she has worked in the field of physical chemistry which I think might be a good one to develop at the College. I have talked several times with Dr. Polanyi about Mrs. Polanyi and I have talked with two or three other people who know her. The picture I get is of a very remarkable woman who has had real experience in teaching and is a first-rate scientist. Dr. Polanyi does not want to push this possibility at all and hopes that we can wait until she comes to this country. But all that I hear of her makes me think that she might do a remarkable piece of work as a member of our Science Division.

In response to a letter to President Weld of Wells College about the Physics position, he made the following suggestions regarding the Physics set-up in women's colleges: ". . . have you thought of the possibility of employing someone for Bennington who is a physicist, but is also well trained in physical chemistry? I have been told that it is possible to get someone with such training. He or she could teach the fundamental course in physics, any advanced work that needs to be taught, and as a third course could take charge of physical chemistry, and so bridge the gap between the two departments. It is almost impossible for a woman physicist to get a job. I understand it is possible for women to get jobs, if the candidates have had the double training. At Wells we are considering more and more the biology-chemistry (which is not simply bio-chemistry) and physics-chemistry combinations." I wonder what you think of it.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Leigh, President