

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
630 West 168th Street, New York

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

May 31, 1940

Mr. Edwin B. Henderson
Dunbar High School
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Through great want of time I have put off too long congratulating you on the splendid book you got out on Negro Athletes. It is a grand job. I want to thank you for autographing the copy Francis Gregory and my sister sent me for a Christmas present and express my appreciation for your generosity in the amount of space you allotted to me.

I doubt if any one has really told you how big a part you have played in the lives of a lot of the men you wrote of in your book, not so much by the things you have said, or the things you have done or the lessons in physical education but rather by virtue of the things you have stood for and the way you have lived throughout all these years. The big thing is that in these days of fallen idols of all types it is particularly refreshing to know a few people whom we thought were just about rops when we were kids and when looked at in the sober light of more mature years to find that they still are tops, that they have consistently been the things which they have said other folks should be, that they have tried to do the things which they have said should be attempted. I personally feel a very great debt of gratitude to you. I owe you and a few other men like you for setting most of the standards that I have felt were worthwhile, the things I have lived by and for and wherever possible have attempted to pass on.

Some few always have to set the pace and give the others courage to go on into places which have not been explored. We have so few things to be really proud of that the presentation of so much that is good in one book is sure to have results far beyond your farthest dreams. You have set the pace continually and we who have had the privilege of coming under your influence can not but feel just a bit chesty when we say "Mr. Henderson, - sure I know him, taught me in high school; you bet he's O.K."

My work here is about finished. I've gone as far as I can go in formal medicine so I guess I'll have to go to work now. It has been good fun. Chiefly I suppose because it has never been done by a Negro before and it is felt that the higher realms of medicine are not the place for him. On Tuesday I get the degree of Doctor of Science in Medicine. Now that all is over but the shouting it feels just about like the day after a big race that is won. One wonders why all the excitement before the race was run, the anxious days of training, the striving for form, the all too slow increase in speed, the fine edge on the day of the meet, the gun and then the whole thing is over. The only thing in medicine is that it takes so much longer. When it is all over it is just another medal in the box and we begin looking forward to the next seasons' competition. My next big meet is at Howard in the department of Surgery.

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Very sincerely yours,

Charlie Drew