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I. ix

Down,
Beckenham, Kent.

September 14th.

My dear Dr. Sanderson

I have been extremely glad to hear what Frank has told me, and I am very much obliged to you for having allowed him to aid you. It seems a fine discovery, and I should think would lead to much further research; I am very glad that you are going to report on it to the Brit. Assoc.

Thanks for the paper which I will keep for a week or two, as I find I have only the second part.

And now - I am going to beg a favour of you which I stand in great need of. viz a small quantity of a few pure animal substances, namely fibrin, albumen, mucin, or any others which are tolerably distinct, Perhaps you could persuade Dr Brunton to aide me in this; of fibrin I want nearly a drachm for a distinct & special purpose, but of other substances much less; the

fibrin must be absolutely pure
of all salts for the special purpose
i.e. to excite and secretion & not to acid as contained
in view. Frankland is away,
Miller is dead, and Hoffmann
at Berlin and I now know none
else to whom to apply. Do you
know any professional chemist
whom I could pay and who
could be trusted to prepare
such substances pure? The reason
of my wanting these substances
is, that I find absolutely pure
gelatin, formerly given me by Hoffman, does not cause trosina
to be inflected, though isinglass
does. Again as far as I have

gone (though my experiments are not completed) neither casein nor gluten (from wheat-flour) affects drosera. As meat of all kinds, dead insects of all kinds, and white of egg, all act most energetically, I am very curious to know what pure animal compounds will act, It seems even possible!!! that this subject might throw a little light on animal digestion, for I see old Müller suspects that something more than gastric juice is required to digest certain animal substances.

Yours very truly
Ch. Darwin