Chevers, Norman

B.33

32 Tavistock Road,
Westbourne Park, W.
Tuesday November 13th. /77

My dear Madam,

I am quite unable to acknowledge sufficiently the great care and kindness with which you have considered and acted in this question of St. Thomas's Hospital. Had the result disappointed me, the fact of your generous intervention would have been, as it is, a true and valid recompense. In the

question of this election. however,
I have not entertained any strong
personal interest, apart from the very
important question at issue. I moved
in it at the instigation of a friend,
who adds influence to activity, but,
having, for many years, watched the
manner in which City people hold the
great medical charities, I never
believed that the Governors would
admit an outsider. The existing
system resembles the slave-trade in
being full of good points, but in being
vicious in principle and liable to
many gross abuses. Thirty years ago,

Guy's (superficially viewed) looked very fairly under it, while St Thomas's was — what I attempted to describe in my book. I lost no time in seeing Mr Tomkins, the senior almoner, who told me very candidly the hire intentions of the majority of Governors, and suggested that I should withdraw. I said that I did not dread any loss of reputation from defeat, so he promised to bring my application forward on Wednesday; but added that he did not believe that the Governors would allow the application of one who is not a Governor to be read! I think that, by this means, the

principle mooted by the Lancet & the Medical Times and Gazette will be fairly set forward and that – at some extremely distant period, the London hospitals may have medical treatment. As Superintendent, I should do more harm than good. A young physician, believing in the old system and obeying its indications, might be of some good. Again offering you my heartfelt thanks, not only for myself but also for my Profession. I remain ever gratefully and faithfully yours

Norman Chevers