

15/30

Lismoyne  
Derry

Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 1896

Dear George

I feel quite penitent  
for giving you so much  
trouble especially when  
you were so busy just now

I am so much obliged  
and shall return the  
books long before a month  
and would you let me send  
you enclosed to recoup the  
postage and loss.

I have been asked to give  
a paper on the New photography  
here but do not know enough  
about it or what apparatus

is wanted. I imagine my  
big induction coil might  
come in.

Did you happen to observe  
a paper by C Christiansen  
in Wied Ann 1895 No 12  
on Contact electricity.

It is very ingenious. I  
mean the method - and  
more important I fancy  
than the author seems to  
recognise himself.

One of the two metals is a  
jet of mercury <sup>or</sup> amalgam  
& by taking account of  
the times during which the  
mercury on different jets  
is exposed to the gas, as  
measured by the lengths

of the jet before it breaks  
he shows that the effect  
depends on the time of  
exposure to the gas & so  
is probably an atmospheric  
effect. It seems to me  
particularly striking when  
employed in inert gas  
like H<sub>2</sub> as the impurities  
water &c

in the gas have not time  
I suppose to get at the  
metal - as they <sup>probably</sup> do in  
the usual form of expt.

I hear Lodge has been  
holding forth on this new  
discovery. I should like  
to know something about how  
it is actually done.

With many thanks  
Yours faithfully  
15/30 J Brown