

CENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE,

Exhibition Road,

26/22
London, Feb 7 1897
S.W.

My dear Fitzgerald,

I fear that you will think that I have treated you disgracefully in delaying so long to answer your letter of the 11th. But, during the past few days I have been out of my senses with work - preparing for the enclosed and inducing several new Electric Railway Companies to sign undertakings to employ insulated returns along the whole

length of the line (instead of the ordinary earthed returns) for their own benefit and for the benefit of science

Now for your letter - I regard the whole move of Murray Kieraff as the next best bit of advertising of the Queen's reign - But, as the principal people in England Actors, Musicians, Seographers, Physicians &c. are bitten with the bait to be allowed to perform retroactively in ^{order to} well the receipt of a private Company doubtless the exhibit will be a good one.

I am, as perhaps you have seen, a Member of the scientific Committee, and, although I have been to three Meetings, I received a letter the other day (of which I

have however taken not the smallest no-
tion) that I was put on the Committee
in order to do, and that I am not doing
the ~~best~~; a general letter of reprimand
that I am allowing myself to do any-
thing ^{else} but from ~~the~~ Earl's Court, and
to show.

As regards the interest that may,
or may not, be taken by visitors in a
scientific show - I do not suppose that they
will take much unless it be by and mor-
ing or unless you get an article inserted
in Pearson's Weekly - Look how Bose
is being treated. I was interviewed by
a newspaper correspondent the other day,

or rather he wanted to interview me ~~and~~ but
I did not see to the occasion - who asked
me whether there was not some man Hertz
doing the same thing - Of course I ex-
plained to him that, even if Hertz were
alive, he was only an investigator and,
therefore, of course of not much importance.

We departed Lord Salisbury
today regarding the "National Physical
Laboratory" and preserved ~~the~~ a proper
humble attitude for mere scientific folk
with no rank and less money

Sincerely Yours

W. R. Ayton

26/22