Your Ref: AMB/PD

27th October, 1955.

Dear Dr. Ballantyne,

Thank you for letting me know that Sir William Farren has agreed to take the Chair at my proposed Section Lecture on November 15th.

I have received from Mrs. Neal of the Editorial Department of Engineering an unexpected demand for a paper, suitable for publication, which I am not prepared to compose as I can only spare the time, in mid term, to make a visit and give a talk on material familiar to me, and in essence already published, though perhaps new to some of the audience.

Sincerely yours,
Dear Mrs. Neal,

Your note on the work required in respect of the Section Lecture that I provisionally consented to give, comes as rather a shock in the middle of a busy term.

I had not undertaken to write anything for publication, for though the additional work of lecturing for three-quarters of an hour or so on a subject familiar to me is not too serious, the preparation for publication of a paper of five or six thousand words is quite a different matter, and makes me wonder whether I am the right man for your purpose; in fact it would probably save us both some troublesome correspondence if I were to cry off at once. Somehow I had got from Dr. Ballantyne's letter the impression that what was wanted was covered by material I had already published in book form.

Sincerely yours,