C. C. Tobie M. D. Dear Sir,

Your letter in relation to a degree of M. D. for your son C. A. Tobie was duly received.

We could not, of course, confer on him the ordinary degree of Doctor of Medicine without his ever having attended our college. That would be regarded as simply selling a diploma for a sum of money, which is regarded by the profession generally as a disgrace alike to the college, giving it, and the man receiving it.

The only way a diploma could be conferred on him without his attending the college and submitting to an examination, would be to bestow him an "Honorary Degree." (It was the "Honorary Degree" that was given by the Rush Medical College to Dr. Russell)
But to confer the "Honorary" title on men comparatively young, and without more than the ordinary qualification for scientific and professional advancement, is a provocation of it from its proper purpose. I could not therefore give any encouragement to the suggestion to have our College give your son a Diploma on any other condition than that he come and attend one course of lectures and have his examination. If he cannot afford to attend the whole length of the term he could come as early as the first of January and remain until the close and pass his examination. It would be better for him, very much better than to have a Diploma, which his professional neighbors would know was obtained out of the ordinary way.