

Rhodes Scholarships

ROOM 255, OLD SECRETARIAT,
CIVIL LINES,
DELHI.

~~Kennedy House Annex,~~
Simla.

*From the Secretary of the
Committee of Selection for
India.*

19th July 1947

Referring to the application of Brij Nandan Swarup.

Dear Sir,

Your name has been given as a reference by the above-mentioned candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship, who comes before our Committee of Selection this year. I should be grateful if you would send me a frank and confidential statement regarding his qualifications. Your prompt compliance with this request will be of great assistance to the applicant and will be much appreciated by the Committee of Selection.

The basis of selection by the Committee is that section of the Will of Mr. Rhodes in which he mentioned the four groups of qualities which he desired in his scholars: (1) Literary and scholastic ability and attainments; (2) Qualities of manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship; (3) Exhibition during school days of moral force of character and of instincts to lead and to take an interest in his schoolmates; (4) Fondness for and success in manly outdoor sports such as cricket, football, and the like. The first two of these qualifications Mr. Rhodes considered the most important.

The selection is not made, however, on any system of averaging up a man's qualifications under all these heads. Committees are interested instead in men who show promise of outstanding achievement in later life in their particular callings. For this, distinction of intellect and character are the most important requirements and the Committee will be particularly interested in your critical estimate of the candidate on these points.

It is not expected that each individual will be able to speak about the candidate's qualifications under all these heads, and you are requested to confine yourself to those qualifications on which you have information gained by personal contact.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate's limitations as well as his strong points. A critical appraisal of his qualifications will add to, rather than detract from, the force of your letter, since Committees tend naturally to be dubious of recommendations which imply that a given individual has no limitations whatever.

Since the Committee needs time to consider the credentials of a number of applicants, I should be grateful if you would reply at your earliest convenience. Your letter will be treated as strictly confidential and will be read only by those whose duty it is to pass judgement upon the qualifications of the candidate.

Yours truly,

SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.