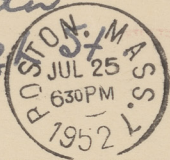
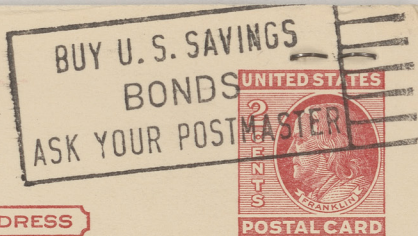


Wm. d. Donnellan
90 gainsborough
Boston, Mass.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Dr. William Francis
Osler Memorial Library
McGill University Medical Faculty
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Dr. Francis -

Elaine Tidwell 25 July 1952

I am rereading Cushing's "Life" of Osler and have started on the Text-book 1st edition. I am writing to know if I can secure (1) a 1st edition Osler from Miss Gordon

(2) a lead on the original printing of Cushing's "Life" in 2 volumes. I am anxious to secure the illustrated edition if possible. Are any still available?

Could you have a copy of the 1st edition of the Text book sent to me if one is available or when one comes in? I shall send a M.O. return. We are well here + working hard. Regards to Miss DeBorja
Sincerely Wm. DONNELLAN

OSLER LIBRARY

OSLER LIBRARY

OSLER LIBRARY,
28 May, 1952.

Dr. W. Donnellan,
90 Gainsborough St.,
Boston,
Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Donnellan,

Glad to hear you've got yourself infected with the Oslerian first-editional disease! Both your desiderata are there in Miss Gordon's cache, the 2. vol. Cushing having come in this very morning. The prices are \$6 for him and \$5 for the text-book for "outsiders" (usually including grads), but Miss Desbarats considers you still a student and says \$6 and \$4 respectively, \$10 in all. Don't send the money till you get the books. Also add the carriage (postage?), whatever it may come to. The money goes to the Medical Library, but payable to "McGill University".

But first confirm your address. Miss D.'s letter to 90 Gainsborough St., Boston, acknowledging the books you sent back, was returned to her undelivered.

AND you won't get anything if you call us "Memorial". We're Osler's own Library, not a "memorial" raised to him by others.

OSLER LIBRARY

OSLER LIBRARY

It won't be the 1st issue, the 1st 3,000 copies of the 1st ed. of the Text-book. That is very rare and much more expensive and seldom comes in now. It has a few misprints.

Remember me admiringly to your other half.

Yours sincerely,

L.W. Francis

WWF:ed

*X'sh'e'h "better", but I grow old & my
standard is no longer beauty but interest
in the* OSLER LIBRARY

90 Gainsborough Street
Boston, Massachusetts
30 July, 1952

CD.

Pleasant

Books + letter mailed
Aug. 13th

Dear Dr. Francis:

Thank you so much for your immediate reply to my card. I am delighted to hear that both books are available. I have been reading the "Life" in both editions, and was so pleased with the format of the first that I determined to have a copy. The photographs add a great deal to the reconstruction of the history. Regarding the Text-book, I am planning to acquire three editions: the first, the last edition written entirely by Osler himself, and an edition about midway to follow the progress of his medical thinking as more and more weapons against disease came into being. I am well into the first edition, and am regretting that I did not use it at McGill for my reading in infectious diseases. The most striking thing of Osler's writings in my experience is to realise that while he was not always right in his consideration of a disease, he was very rarely wrong in his opinions. This ability to separate the wheat from the chaff must have made his clinics wonderfully instructive. Did it?

I must apologise for my crassness in writing to the Osler Memorial Library. After four years, I should certainly have taken at least the name of the Library along with me. I stand corrected. My only defence is that I consider it a memorial to the cause of good in Medicine, and shall always consider it a remembrance of my stay in Montreal.

I have been browsing through the Boston Medical Library, and have recently become a member (or at least have made application.) I would be honoured to use your name as a reference for admission - may I? The collection is wonderful as you know: it took me an hour just to thumb through the titles of Osler which they have on hand. And so I shall have plenty to do this winter when my work for the day is through and the snow keeps me indoors.

11
My thanks to Miss Desbarats for the student rate. I hope that I shall be truthfully ~~eligible~~ eligible for such a rate for the rest of my life... I shall send the M.O. on receipt of the books.

Very sincerely yours,

William L. Donnellan

V.L. Donnellan, M.D.
Medical Research Lab.
Children's Medical Center
200 Longwood Ave
Boston

Lambaréné, A.E.F.

13 September 1955

Dear Dr. Francis -

I have come here to Dr Schweitzer's hospital on my way home from a trip to South Africa, and felt that you would like to hear something of the activities of this hospital and of myself. I have been in Africa now about five months, on an expedition to the Kalahari desert made under the auspices of Harvard University. I met a group of anthropologists last winter who have been studying the Bushmen of South Africa for the past five years, and it was arranged for me to come along. I have always been interested in the historical perspective, as you know, and the opportunity to get into contact with one of the few remaining indigenous races unspoiled by civilization was very appealing. We left America by air on the fifth of April and spent several months with two groups of Bushmen, - in the Kalahari Desert of Bechuanaland, and in the northern part of South-west Africa.

From my point of view the interesting things

were the ability of these little people - they stand about 5' in height, more or less - their ability to survive and to be happy in the driest, most arid and unwanted areas of the country. They are a shy unaggressive people who have apparently been pushed by stronger races, black and white, into undesirable areas, and there they have learned to exist on melons, nuts and roots, and on hunting, in a nomadic life to which they have adapted fairly well. They live in the desert without drinking water for at least 8 months of the year, on the Tsamma melons, gathering and eating from five to seven daily each to supply their water requirements. It was interesting to me, therefore, to examine them for their state of nutrition, and also to see the social adaptations which they had developed to deal with their perilous life. A further point, too, was to learn how they deal with illnesses and to form thereby an appreciation of modern methods of medical care. I shall write more of that to you later - of their infections, and burns, and snake-bites, and so on.

As an extension to my understanding of native peoples, I took a keen interest in the political situation in South Africa, and have tried further to learn some of their problems by coming here to Dr Schweitzer's hospital, built, as he says, in

the midst of, and for the "savages". The hospital is placed on the Ogowe River in the Gabon province of French Equatorial Africa, and draws its patients from all up and down the river. There is no doubt that the medical lot of the native is not a happy one, even excluding the diseases of the white people - as shown by the very frequent statistics here even now of strangulated hernia, elephantiasis, worms, and sleeping sickness. I shall be here only two weeks, as I must get back to my work in Boston, but in that time I shall see many diseases which were only names to me in Dr Cameron's parasitology course - malaria, sleeping sickness, filariasis, (I saw Loa-loa on the eyeball today), enlarged spleen - almost universal, and many other diseases we see rarely nowadays - complete retention from gonorrhoeal stricture (six cases here now), leprosy - 250 cases in a colony - hernias the size of one's head, and elephantiasis tumors of the scrotum the size of a watermelon. It is fascinating to me to realize the extent to which our own sanitation and prophylactic medicine has relieved these conditions.

Then, too, the privilege of associating with the companions of Dr Schweitzer is a great one. He himself is resting in Europe now, and so I shall not have the opportunity of direct inspiration from him, but his spirit is

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OTTAWA No 4

everywhere here, and it is a sobering and
elevating experience to see his work and to
reread his books in the setting in which
they were projected and written.

It is the rainy season now, - it has just
begun - and the rain is falling gently outside
my room tonight. The animals and birds are
quiet in the jungle, and I hear only the
sound of the drops on the roof, and the
croaking of some frogs down by the river. It is
a quietude which allows one to think, and to
approach the truths of living, I think. Perhaps
Schweitzer knew more than he thought in
coming here to find himself through losing
himself -

I hope to come to Montreal this winter and
shall certainly come to see you. I shall have
pictures from Africa which might be of
interest. Until then, I am

most sincerely yours -

William Donnellan

The "better half" is well and the boy is
flourishing.

Please give my regards to my friends
at home. Gill.

D.

THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER
BOSTON

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
300 LONGWOOD AVENUE
BOSTON 15, MASS.
BEACON 2-7800

August 4, 1954
OSLER LIBRARY,
10 August, 1954.

Doc Dr. W. L. Donnellan,
The Children's Medical Center,
Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Francis:

Dear Donnellan,
I thought you would be interested to know that I am now working in
Surgical Research Delighted to hear from you and of your laudable, under
ambition, but I have to report that you have been forestalled, surgery
and "Woman's surgeon, the life story of J. Marion Sims", by Dr. Seale
Harris (emeritus prof. of medicine at the Univ. of Alabama), N. Y.,
Macmillan, 1950, 452 pages, well illustrated and with what looks
like a complete bibliography, pp. 395-413. Slip over to the
B. M. L. or the Harvard Med. Lib. and have a look at it or borrow
it, if they'll let you have it. If you are not registered there,
tell them I sent you.

I am writing also to ask you where I might obtain information on the life
of James Marion Sims. What happened about Hopkins; did you change your
mind? If they didn't like your looks or my letter of recommendation,
they must be hard to please!

So glad of your news of the lovely Elaine and of
Michael. We hope to get our daughter and her four back this month.
Her eldest is a Mike, almost six, with right arm polio'd., but the
rest of him all there.
drawn mainly from his own account "The Story of My Life" and I think a
more thorough study, if possible, would be of great value.

Elaine is well and in practice in Maryland. She will come to Boston in
the spring. The boy, Michael, is now twenty and growing very
rapidly.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

My best regards to you and to Miss D.

(W. W. Francis)
Sincerely,

WWF:cd

William L. Donnellan
William L. Donnellan, M.D.

WD:ja