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Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons

DE LAMAR INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
600 WEST 168TH STREET
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.

September 14, 1944

Dear Dr. Francis:

I learned only after my text went in of the error in my date, that is, 1908, instead of 1922, for the Kipling address. I have written at various times requesting, in vain, through London, a copy of the volume you refer to.

My errors of wording and inaccuracy of quotation are due to the fact that my original memorandum on this address came from a newspaper report of the event which reached me without date of publication.

I shall ask the Academy to get hold of the book, "Doctors", which you refer to and am ashamed to have been so slovenly in my quotation.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Haven Emerson

Haven Emerson, M. D.

Dr. W. W. Francis, Librarian
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

HE:LG

H.E. New D. - Sept., p. 238
Please return to Your Holiness is perfect,
L.W.F.
OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, CANADA

OSLER LIBRARY,
Sept. 11, 1944.

Dr. Haven Emerson,
800 W. 188th Street,
New York City,
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Emerson,

I've been reading your helpful Grant Fleming lecture (which I heard you give) in the current Canadian M. A. Journal, and am wondering from what unreliable source you got Kipling's fine address which you quote at the end. It is not "unpublished" nor is "1922" its date, and your version omits a few sentences, with curious verbal changes in others.

We have the booklet here. "Doctors. An address delivered to the Students of the Medical School of the Middlesex Hospital, 1st Oct., 1908, by Rudyard Kipling. With a preface by R. Lucas. Sold for the benefit of the Middlesex Hospital," London, Macmillan, 1908, 31 pp., with jaunty straw-hatted frontispiece-portrait. The address occupies pp. 23-31 and is preceded by O. W. Holmes's poem, "The two armies."

I am sorry that I did not catch the discrepancy when you gave the lecture, in time to warn you of the mistake.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L.W.F.

N. W. Francis, M. D.,
Librarian.

W.F.:CD

DR. NORBERT ENZER

MARQUETTE 8-5384

425 EAST WISCONSIN AVE.

MILWAUKEE 2, WIS.

May 4, 1953

Dr. W. W. Francis
McGill University
Osler Libaary
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Dear Dr. Francis:

You were so kind to write me about the Rosen article concerning Osler's contribution to silicosis. I appreciate your thoughtfulness no end.

Osler's paper, in the Canada Medical and Surgical Journal of 1876, which I am now in the process of analyzing, is really a great contribution--the more so since it is entirely an independent investigation. In the light of our modern concepts of dust reactions in the lungs, Osler's observations concerning, particularly, the migration of particles through the lungs without the influence of phagocytes is noteworthy.

I wrote Norbert that I had heard from you and that you have not seen him lately--from what he writes he is going down the homestretch under considerable tension which, he states, is a common thing among the students generally, these days. As I observe medical students in this era, I frankly do not envy them, for in my day it seemed to me times and circumstances were much easier.

Gratefully yours,

Norbert Enzer

Norbert Enzer, M. D.

NE/zk

OSLER LIBRARY,
17 April, 1953.

Dr. H. Enzer,
2967 N. Marietta Ave.,
Milwaukee,
Wis.,
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Enzer,

While I've got it before me — I was
looking for Osler as a pediatrician, I come
upon this, as I remember it, a good article:

Rosen, G., Osler on Miner's Phthisis,
J. Hist. Med. & All. Sci., 1949,
4: 259-266.

Yours sincerely,

W.W.F.

W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian.

WWF:cd

ps the boy must be 10 years?

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 .30' ni gailfubarg ,tofnaf, mox axoxy 28 March, 1938 y gailfjogiof tof

Dr. Blanch N. Epler,
 316 Gladstone Lane,
 Jacksonville, Ill.

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,viononla suuoy

Dear Dr. Epler:

The Welch Library ought to have found you some data about that material if they looked in the manuscript section or in the index of Osler's printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", Oxford, 1929, in which, on p. 686, it is thus described:

7644. "A Study of Dying. J. Johns, H. Hopkins, H. Hospital, W. Osler." Statistics of 486 cases; typewritten c. 1904 ... with the (486) case-cards (1900-4).

Unpublished; but summarized in his "Science and Immortality", Ingersoll Lecture, Boston; Houghton, Mifflin, 1904, p. 19, as follows:

"I have careful records of about five hundred death-beds, studied particularly with reference to the modes of death and the sensations of the dying. The latter alone concerns us here. Ninety suffered bodily pain or distress of one sort or another, eleven showed mental apprehension, two positive terror, one expressed spiritual exaltation, one bitter remorse. The great majority gave no sign one way or the other; like their birth, their death was a sleep and a forgetting. The Preacher was right: in this matter man hath no preeminence over the beast, — 'as the one dieth so dieth the other' (Ecclesiastes, iii.19)."

See also Osler's letter to the "Spectator", Lond., 4 Nov., 1911, criticizing Maeterlinck's hysterical book, "Death", Lond., 1911. This letter is reprinted in full, with other interesting comments, in Cushing's life of Osler, 1925, vol. 2, pp. 298-300. See also vol. 1, pp. 638-41, for comment on the Ingersoll Lecture.

You say in your letter that you had just "found in an English book a reference to the data". I should be grateful if you could give me that reference.

I enclose a transcript of the form of printed card, 7 x 5.5 cm., which Osler devised and had distributed to the wards to be filled in by house officers, clinical clerks, or nurses. The nurses, I remember, hated doing it. It seemed like analysing the dying.

As for copying all the data from the 486 filled-in cards, that would be a big job, and as these records were not published by Osler himself, I am not at liberty to allow them, for purposes of publication, to get out of my control.

P.T.O.

Jacksonville, Ill.

3/6/25
1/25/29

"LANE" - which evidently
wouldn't go with the
gold letterhead!

Mr. J. P. Frances
Mrs. Nell Hammondy
Wm. Lumber
Dear Mr. Frances:

The other day when I was at John Hopkins
Wm Lumber, director of Nursing, to whom I
was speaking on 'The Care of the dying'
handed me a parcel ^{point?} I was seeking.

Which Mr. Lumber found no data.
I refer to the cards which Dr. Oster
obtained from J. H. W. nurses data to his
questions on the dying & as I
understand are for work you.
It was 1899 J. H. Medical.

Would it be agreeable to obtain a
copy of those cards for my use on
the subject, if you please?

Miss Lumber said she ran across
them & only yesterday I found in
an English book a reference
to the data.

ask her

Cordially

Frank N. Epler M.D.

W. M. F. F. F. F. F.
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

316 Hookstone
Jacksonville, Ill.
iii/31/38.

Dear Doctor F. F. F. F. F.:

Thank you for your letter.
The English book was "The Adventure of
Death, Robt. Mac. Kenna" and on page
86 he quotes from the Jagersall Lecture,
but as Medicine today in its eagerness
for the technical words, omits that
pertaining to the whole human being
problematic patient, so Mr. Kenna omitted
Part of Dr. Aler's thought.

We do seem so afraid these days of real
situations.

For some time & since dropping
back into my old home town
of Lincoln & Glasgow & College, have
I have been impressed with the
unintelligent care of the dying and
the awful expense & hideous display
of funerals.

What I am trying to do is to get
some of the facts & words & opinions
into a popular, tho. factual, article
in the Atlantic.

A later experience of my own further
impressed me.

I have been more & more aware
of the interaction of the physical
mental & personality factors in
Medicine & am just beginning to
know enough to begin to
Practice.

Mrs. Lins (Mrs. Myers) and Ricardo
at Mtch & Mrs. Plogg, now in Pension,
are valuably interested but I
was disappointed in Mtch
Lebrun Sawyer, Ths. The Reading
Room associates were also
interestingly helpful.

Again, thanking you,

Sincerely,

Blanch N. Epler.

Had such a good
talk with Dr. Finney
& Dr. Kelly & the new
President seems valuable
Chance. P.M.E.

Tel. Crescent ⁷ 7633

M. B. Etziony, M.A., M.D.

475 Champagneur Avenue

Montreal

April 2, 1957

To Dr. W.W. Francis
On his 79th birthday

To fourscore only one to go
But we do not wish it so -
For we want you with us more
Than the psalmist's mere fourscore.
So on the occasion of this day,
A sevenfold strong ^{and} loud hurrah
We voice to our dear old "Bill":
May that be the good Lord's will!

Ever yours

Bella & Mosdecia Etziony

Extra carbon to E with note that I enclose M's letter
W.F.

OSLER LIBRARY

5 Dec., 1954 postmarked

Dear Etzioni,

Tell Macht that the delay is mine and that I can't believe Osler ever can have called the rather innocent though futile doctrine of signatures either "disgraceful" or "abominable". I find no reference to it in the early eds. of the textbook. Here is all I've managed to dig up so far:

In his "Evolution of modern medicine," 1921, p.7, "The association of ideas was suggestive — the plant eyebright was used for centuries in diseases of the eye because a black speck in the flower suggested the pupil of the eye. The old herbals are full of similar illustrations upon which, indeed, the so-called doctrine of signatures depends."

Under Porta's "Phytognomonica," 1583, no. 5718 in his "Bibliotheca Osleriana," 1929, W.O. put this note: "Porta sought to discover the properties of plants according to their analogies with the different parts of the animal body. 'Un pareil système ne peut conduire qu'à des absurdités, et c'est là, en effet, qu'arrive presque toujours l'auteur' (Jourdan). For a modern comical consideration of the subject see Prof. R. W. Wood's 'How to tell the birds from the flowers' and 'Animal analogues'."

Sorry to miss you this a.m. Miss D. is off this afternoon, so don't suspect this of being her typing.

Yours ever

W.W.F.

(W. W. Francis)

SE/LF

cc: Dr. W.W. Francis
Osler Library

15 October 1953

15 October 1953

Dr. M. B. Etziony
475 Champagne Avenue
Montreal, Canada

Dr. M. B. Etziony

475 Champagne Avenue
Montreal, Canada

Dear Sir:

Your letter of 8 October 1953, addressed to our Curator of Rare Books, Dr. Dorothy M. Schullian, has been referred to me, since she is absent for the entire year on a Fulbright Fellowship in Italy.

The 1585 edition of Horst is here in Cleveland. The title is: Precationes (not Precautiones) medicorum piaae, and the title page adds that these prayers have been selected from the Bible and the Saints of the Church or have been composed elsewhere. It contains 202 pages of prayers recommended for a great variety of situations that may occur in the life of a medical student, a medical practitioner, a medical teacher, etc. If you wish to see the book, we shall be glad to send it as an interlibrary loan in care of Dr. Francis at the Osler Library for your use.

There must be hundreds of prayers of Christian physicians on record, and I am doubtful that you could put more than a scanty selection of them into a one-volume anthology. One way to start the search would be to pick out the known medical saints--Cosmas and Damian and all the rest--and look them up in the massive volumes of Migne's Patrologia Latina and Patrologia Graeca. I fear it would be a lifetime job, however.

Some material to your purpose can doubtless be found among the books and articles listed in our Index-Catalogue under "Medicine and Religion." If you find there any specific works that you would like to examine, we shall be glad to send them on interlibrary loan insofar as they are available.

Your topic could be so defined as to take in magical spells and incantations, but it would probably be better to leave those out. Material on them is suggested in the Index-Catalogue under "Magic" and under "Medicine (Magical)."

As for the Oath of Hippocrates, I have always understood it to be the earliest thing of its kind preserved. Ludwig Edelstein, in his 64-page essay on The Hippocratic Oath, published in 1943 as a supplement

Page 2

15 October 1953

To: Dr. M. B. Etziony
475 Champagneur Avenue
Montreal, Canada

to the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, makes out an extremely good case for regarding it as a specific product of the Pythagorean philosophico-religious sect of the 4th century B.C., but he makes no effort to trace any previous oaths or covenants of the same general sort. I doubt if there were any.

On the other hand, there were numerous later revisions and adaptations of it, as noted by W. H. S. Jones, The Doctor's Oath (Cambridge, 1924). One is the form of the oath "as it can be said by a Christian." Jones in an appendix compares the promises made in the Hippocratic Oath with the commands laid upon Hindu physicians in certain of the early medical books of India. It is, however, only fair to note that these promises, covenants, oaths, and commands are not in any proper sense prayers, and I hardly see how you could legitimately include them in an anthology of the prayers of physicians.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM JEROME WILSON
Chief, History of Medicine Division

✓
Dr. W. W. Francis
Librarian
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal 2, Quebec
Canada