

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
CINCINNATI GENERAL HOSPITAL

*Ans'd - no copy,
family was a
W. W. F.
19th.*

September 16, 1940

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

Dear Doctor Francis,

This is a note to say how disappointed Mrs. Evans and I were not to get in to the Library while in Montreal. By way of explanation I hasten to add that we were in town only two days a week, and that I was pledged to re-write two chapters of Doctor Mitchell's Textbook of Pediatrics. As it turned out I just squeezed by the line in time. I am very disappointed that we did not get in, for there are a number of things about which I should like to have talked with you.

We were very distressed to learn about Doctor Abbott's death, or perhaps it would be better to say that we were distressed to learn of her illness, because under the circumstances death was, no doubt, a happy release for her. She was truly a remarkable character.

I did not have half enough chance to inquire concerning your family when I saw you for those few moments. Please give them both our greetings, and also please remember me to the members of the Library staff.

E. R. G. → ||

*Are there any others of us
left who remember him??!*

W. W. F.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph P. Evans
Joseph P. Evans, M.D.

EVANS, N.

352 Kitchener Avenue, Westmount,
Montreal 6, Que.
5th. December, 1944.

Dear Dr. Francis,

The circular concerning the Graduates' Society which you were good enough to send me was indeed of very special interest. In your letter you say that "Osler was the moving spirit in the revival of the Graduates' Society . . .". I think I may claim to be a follower of his in this regard!

For several years prior to 1908 the Graduates' Society had not held a single meeting; and, knowing something of the very great value of such organisations, when active, to the Universities with which they are connected in the United States, I thought it "foul shame" that we should be denied such benefit here, and decided to see what might be done in the way of organising an active movement by starting in a small way with the Graduates of the Faculty of Applied Science, of which I was one. In this endeavour I was later joined by Dr. Adams and Professor (afterwards Dean) H. M. MacKay.

After much correspondence, preparation and verification of address lists, and other planning, a most successful four-day Reunion was held in connection with the Convocation in 1909; and at the Banquet I was appointed Secretary of the movement. There was no salary and there were no other officers! The publication of a "Bulletin" was started, and a copy of each number was sent to every Graduate of the Faculty, whether he paid the annual fee of two dollars or not. This publication ran from April 1909 to January 1919, seventeen numbers in all, totaling 1127 pages, at least one third of which consisted of class news. All the editorial work, as well as the Treasurer's duties, were carried on by the Honorary Secretary.

Naturally these doings became known to the Graduates of other Faculties, and many letters were received by the University, some of them rather indignant, asking why this activity was confined to one Faculty. The writers were informed that the University itself was doing nothing in the matter - that the movement was a purely private one. However, there was so much stir that the authorities felt obliged to do something, and there was planned and carried out the first General Reunion of McGill Graduates ever held. In connection with this event, the first and only tripartite (alphabetical, chronological, geographical) address list of Graduates issued by McGill was prepared in my office - and I had to raise \$500.00 before the University would print it!

Enough Life Members of the old Society were found to reconstitute it (I was one), and to take over from a firm of Accountants in the city something like seven thousand dollars which they had been holding for the organisation. A regular staff of officers was elected and a full-time paid Secretary was appointed - and our Applied Science Graduates' movement was merged into this larger one.

So you see that I have been really interested in the success of the McGill Graduates' Society!!

With kind regards

Yours very truly,

N. N. Evans.

OSLER LIBRARY,
1 Dec., 1944.

Dr. N. N. Evans,
352 Kitchener Avenue,
Westmount,
Montreal 6, Que.

Dear Professor Evans,

Thanks for the 1876 invitation card. The recipient's name is filled in in Osler's hand. A cache of circulars of that year recently turned up in the Radpath. I enclose a copy. It would seem that Osler was the moving spirit in the revival of the Grads-Society, which was then so dead that by 1876 its previous existence had been forgotten. This makes your card particularly welcome.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

WWF:CD
Encl:-

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MACDONALD CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT

NEVIL NORTON EVANS, M.Sc., LL.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS.

MONTREALXXX

352 Kitchener Avenue, Westmount
Montreal 6, Que.
27th. November, 1944.

Dr. Francis
Osler Library, Madical Building
McGill University, Montreal.

Sir:

I am enclosing the invitation card, bearing Dr. Osler's name, which
I spoke to you about a few days ago. I hope it may prove of interest.

Yours truly,

N. N. Evans

Dear Professor Evans,

Thanks for the 1876 invitation card. The recipient's
name is filled in in Osler's hand. A cache of circulars of that
year recently turned up in the Redpath. I enclose a copy. It
would seem that Osler was the moving spirit in the
revival of the Friends Society, which was ^{then} so dead that by
1876 its previous existence had been forgotten. This makes
your card particularly welcome.

With kind regards

Yours truly

OSLER LIBRARY,
16 August, 1944.

V. A. Tyler, Esq.,
Geological Survey,
Southpark,
19 Grange Terrace,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

Dear Sir,

What Dr. Adams had in mind, I think, was rather a handlist of his collection than a catalogue raisonné like the "Bibliotheca Osleriana". He didn't speak to me of the project during the last year or so of his life, so I gathered that he had given up the idea. I have the card catalogue of most of his books, which he prepared, but it would require a lot of work and revision before it could be published. So there is no prospect of its being printed.

He left his collection to this Library and I have charge of it. Unfortunately, the war prevented us from acquiring the necessary shelf-room here, so for the next few years his books must remain in the basement of the University Library, where they are accessible, but not conveniently so, and where I am unable to give them as much attention as I ought.

Yours truly,

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

WWF:CD

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DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
23 SOUTH PEARL STREET
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SECRETARY,
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March 28, 1960

Miss Cecile Desbarats,
Secretary-Librarian
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Miss Desbarats:

I was most pleased to have your letter of March 22 and as soon as I can get a little free time, I am certainly going to come up to pay you a visit and look over some of the documents which you have so kindly looked up on Dr. Thomas McCrae. At the present time, I would prefer not to request any documents. I have taken the liberty of making a photocopy of the reprint which you sent along and I am returning the original to you.

I am looking forward to a visit to McGill sometime during this year.

Very truly yours,



Stiles D. Ezell, M.D., Secretary
Board of Medical Examiners

SDE:JL
Enc.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
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3rd-year clinics, 1897-1902. Unfortunately, these books are not available, as they are part of the original collection. Perhaps OSLER LIBRARY, 22 March, 1960.
might be of sufficient interest to lure you up to Montreal!

Dr. Stiles D. Ezell,
The State Education Department,
The University of the State of New York,
23 South Pearl Street,
Albany, 7,
N.Y., U. S. A.
Following references: For biography see Clinic Jefferson M. Coll., N.Y., 1935, 73: 84. Also Lancet, Lond., 1935, 2: 107. Also Tr. Coll. Physicians Philadelphia, 1935-36, 2: p. xv-xviii.

Dear Dr. Ezell,

Do not hesitate to let us know if we can give you any further information or help you.

It is so nice to hear from somebody who is interested in Dr. Thomas McCrae. We always feel as if he had been a member of Osler's family, as he was married to his niece Amy Gwyn. I am sure you have seen all the references to him and his wife in Cushing's "Life of Sir William Osler".

Among our accessions (loanable books added to the original collection), we have quite a few items relating to Dr. McCrae. The late Dr. Francis, who up till August, 1959, was the librarian here, had salvaged from the Montreal General Hospital quite a few books which had belonged to McCrae and had been sent there after Mrs. McCrae's death in 1939. The ones which Dr. Francis kept for this library were the interleaved (corrections and changes in McCrae's hand) copies of the Principles and Practice, 8th to 11th editions, which McCrae revised, and also the most interesting item, a note-book of McCrae's, which contains his notes taken at Osler's clinics, 1897-1904, with two inserted leaves of anecdotes concerning Osler. This book and any of the interleaved volumes of the Practice could be sent to you by registered mail. The other books, which included his diary on his trip abroad in 1899, were sent to McCrae's nephew, Dr. J. M. Kilgour, Winnipeg Clinic, St. Mary's and Vaughan Streets, Winnipeg, Man. Another item, the 7th edition, 1909, went to Dr. Kilgour's sister, Mrs. R. Gardner-Medwin, 16 Kirby Park, West Kirby, Cheshire, England. This copy, to quote Dr. Francis, "has a characteristic inscription, unsigned, but in Osler's hand, 'To the industrious hard-working underpaid junior editor from the idle, loafing overpaid senior editor, May 9, '09.'"

In the original Osler collection, e.g. all the books catalogued in the Bibliotheca Osleriana (a copy of this catalogue might be found in your Medical Library in Albany), there are many references to T. McCrae, as assistant editor and editor of the different editions of Osler's text book which are all in this library. Among Osler's note-books, there is one, mostly written by McCrae, which contains the records of Osler's

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STILES D. EZELL
SECRETARY
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

We have no biographies about McCrae, but we are enclosing a reprint of an obituary by Dr. Gwyn which you might like to read. Volume X, 4th series, of the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office give the following references: For biography see Clinic Jefferson M. Coll., 1924, 26, portr. For obit. see Brit. M.J., 1935, 2: 91. Also Canad. J. M. & S., 1935, 78: 64. Also Lancet, Lond., 1935, 2: 107. Also Tr. Coll. Physicians Philadelphia, 1935-36, 3: p. xv-xviii.

Do not hesitate to let us know if we can give you any further information or help you in any way.

Miss C. Desbarats
The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Miss Desbarats:

Very truly yours,

Mr. Blackburn of the University of Toronto Library has suggested I write you.

I have been trying to find some material on Dr. Thomas McCrae who was one of the Sir William Osler's assistants (Miss) Cécile Desbarats, for about six years before Sir William was Secretary-Librarian. Dr. McCrae left Johns Hopkins in 1914 and became Magee Professor of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College where he remained until his death in 1935. Dr. McCrae had no children and I understand that most of his family is now deceased. I am wondering if you have any of his papers or letters, or whether any other type of biographical material exists in your library about Dr. McCrae. As you perhaps know, he continued to revise and edit the Osler System of Medicine and the textbook on medicine which was used so long by medical students in the United States.

If you have anything at all on Dr. McCrae, I would like to come up sometime and have the privilege of looking at the material.

With many thanks for your cooperation, I am

Very truly yours,

S D Ezell

Stiles D. Ezell, M.D., Secretary
Board of Medical Examiners

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR
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STILES D. EZELL
SECRETARY,
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

March 1, 1960

Miss C. Desbarats, Librarian
The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Miss Desbarats:

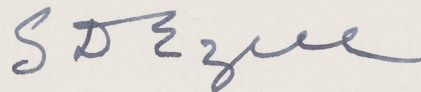
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