

Letter from Dr. Fallon

in #3535

16 January, 1942.

Dr. John Fallon,
390 Main Street,
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Dr. Fallon,

I have received, apparently via your homonym, John Fulton, a copy of that delightful pamphletoid card of "Frances and John Fallon", "Merry Christmas and the microscope". As a new edition of W. O.'s first publication it belongs in this Library, and as his literary executor I give it my retroactive blessing, not having been asked for it beforehand.

The introduction is perfect, except that he was 13 not "seventeen", and the reproduction also, except that the original gives "Desmids" a capital in the 9th-to-last line.

If you have a couple more copies to spare I should like them. For instance there's Dr. Esther Rosenkrantz of San Francisco whose Osleriolatry compels her to collect every printed mention of him. She's sure to hear of this sooner or later, and will give you (and me) no peace till we find a copy for her.

Also, I'm the depository for Osler bibliography. So please let me know the name of the printer and date (1941?) and place of printing.

I enclose "An Osler Day", which celebrated in situ the 76th anniversary of the original and shows the status grassens of the 1868 sunken barrel. And I hope it may put me on your Xmas list, if you make a commendable habit of refurbishing these old gems.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

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

LAURENCE FARMER, M. D.

993 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

BUTTERFIELD 6-7774

May 27, 1954

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

Dear Dr. Francis:

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I have at your suggestion consulted the catalogue "Bibliotheca Osleriana", 1929, and found it very interesting. However, I was not quite able to utilize it for my purposes since the content of the letter recorded was not always clear.

If I may state once more, the objectives of my proposed anthology are: first, to present a picture of the physician as he sees himself and his profession, and second, to describe some of the developments of medicine. If it were possible for you to be good enough to have typescripts or photostats made, at my expense, of 3 or 4 letters which in your opinion would be appropriate for my book, I would have an idea of some of the material available through you. We could then discuss this matter further if you have no objection. The letters by W. B. Howell seem to be very interesting. Would you care to send me a copy of one of them?

I hope I am not putting you to too much trouble by my request. I am looking forward to hearing from you again.

Very sincerely yours,

Laurence Farmer

LF:sr

LAURENCE FARMER, M.D.
993 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 28, N.Y.
BUTTERFIELD 8-7774

March 8, 1954

OSLER LIBRARY,
14 April, 1954.

Dr. L. Farmer,
993 Park Avenue,
New York 28,
N. Y., U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Stehle:

Dear Dr. Farmer, an anthology of letters from physicians of the 18th to 20th centuries which will be published by Harper & Bros. I've been laid up for four weeks, hence my neglect of your letter of 8 March to Dr. Stehle which reached me on the 17th. We have a great many letters of the 20th century either in originals or copies. Cushing, for example, sent here all his correspondence for the "Life". They are unindexed, except the ones he quoted. We have 28 of Weir Mitchell's, unused by his biographers, and of course a great many of Osler's. He was accustomed to insert interesting and relevant letters in his books. These could be found specified under the names of the writers in the index of our printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", 1929, which it would certainly pay you to consult. There are sheaves of witty but personal letters written to his friends here by W. B. Howell, an anesthetist, after he returned to England about 1934. His widow wanted to publish them.

In short, some selection will have to be made, which in itself will be a big job. Could you suggest some names? I shall be back at work in the Library in a few weeks and then I shall be better able to advise you. You, of course, would not want letters of living writers.

Laurence Farmer

Yours very truly,

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

LF:11

WNF:ed

MAR 17 1954

LAURENCE FARMER, M. D.
993 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.
BUTTERFIELD 8-7774

March 8, 1954

Dr. R.L. Stehle
McGill University Medical Library
3640 University Street
Montreal, 2, Quebec, Canada

Dear Dr. Stehle:

I am preparing an anthology of letters from physicians of the 18th to 20th centuries which will be published by Harper & Bros. The letters, to which I am writing commentaries, cover many facets of a medical man's life and intend to give a picture of his beliefs, his work, his relationship to colleagues and to patients, his trials and tribulations. Some of the letters are from the leaders of the profession, others by less famous and even unknown men.

I am writing to ask whether you have any letters of this kind in your manuscript files written by physicians in the 20th century which might be of interest to me. I would be grateful to you for whatever help you could give me.

It is understood that there will be the customary acknowledgements and that the expense arising from having copies made of the appropriate material will be carried by me.

Will you please let me hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

Laurence Farmer

7596-

28 letters -

(13 autograph, 15 wholly or
mainly typed)

LF:11

MAR 17 1954

to Mrs. M. Farmer from W.W. Francis



22 July '58

Dear Margaret

What Ho! Though suitably ^{UNDERLINE} tucked for
960 in the shade (~~under the~~ shade) your astonishing picture
(I mean, please, not of, but sent by you!) somehow recalls

A giddy old girl of Cyrenus
Once went to a ball dressed as Venus;

Her host said, "It's rude"
"To come here so nude";

"Let me fetch you a leaf from the green" ^{she} said!
(i.e. greenhouse).

also a controversy at the Mummies Club in
1913 when the puritanical judge ~~was~~ demanded the
^{SANCTUARY} cancellation of the gay & witty Mummy monthly Jugend.
The delightful and MYSTAGMIC prof. of English Paul
Poplens (Pomeroy's uncle) agreed with him on the grounds that some
of the pictures ^{were} colored — in black and white they
could not be obscene! It's the red stockings that hit me
in the eye.

(How dry!) By all means keep that sharp
brain of yours free from "bloody matter"
and if you are rubbing someone with the old-time
bibblings you mention, not much need to swallow
in N.Y. We have other acts to be seen, except

Callie's shown 33 vols. might quickly solve my well-known
problem - how to get rid of £6,200 sterling!

So get to the NYACAD MED and greet
Gertrude Humer & the Mallock Room for me,
with which away my soul feels like the
Psalms, "even as a weaned child".

I have shielded some facts next week, leaving
hundred normally and planning to stick it out
(gosh, no doubt entendre intended) till Dec.

I used to accuse Edith of running a
matrimonial bureau; her successor
seems to be making it into a pregnatarium!

Your privileged

Oto Willygerman.

12:30
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Gertrude Humer
Mallock Room
NYACAD MED
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