

OSLER LIBRARY,
17 April, 1956.

Dr. C. B. Farrar,
Editor,
The American Journal of Psychiatry,
218 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto 5, Ont.

Dear Clare,

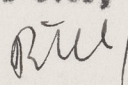
It was more than good of you, it was ~~even~~ *even* rash, to come down to my-and-the-Osler-Society's party. I am alive today because I swore off travelling ten years ago. Glad you liked my "liturgical rendition" - listening to it on the tape-recorder I am horrified by the flatness of my top note. Modern Pithotomists, even Penfield '18, don't know it; like some other good things at J. H. H. it faded away with W. O. in 1905.

I enclose a cheque for \$100 from Prinzmetal which I've endorsed to you. It came with no covering letter in response to a copy of the Bond Head section of yours of 3 March to me. Congratulations to your Medical Historical Club on the successful negotiations.

By this time you should have received that extrarodinary book of "Tributes", or fairy tales, they presented me with. I'm still busy recovering from my astonishment. I wish Norman could have seen it and Bill Holman.

If your banker blinks at the alleged signature on Prinzmetal's cheque, assure him that I've had similar ones honoured out there. Anything goes on Beverly Hills.

Yours ever,



(W. W. Francis).

WWF:cd
Encl:-

American Journal of Psychiatry

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LAUREN H. SMITH

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
BY THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

EDITOR

CLARENCE B. FARRAR
216 ST. CLAIR AVE. WEST, TORONTO 5, CANADA

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LAWSON G. LOWREY
PAUL H. HOCH

3 March '56

Dear Bill

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the privilege of meeting with you and the Order Society and "Friends" the other night. The ceremonies at the banquet, so delightfully focused upon yourself were most gratifying, and the high point was reached by your liturgical rendition of the Rictology Chart. I should like to have had a little more of a visit with you but understood that the Regents would be having a centrip and that no doubt you and Floyd wd. be busy enough, and so decided to postpone further encroachments for a later time.

The responsibility for getting the birth-place of Sir William suitably marked at Bond Head, after many cross-currents of discussion, has fallen at length into the lap of our Medical Historical Club of 15 members. We have negotiated with the owner of the property for the purchase of a small plot

Jim keeping in mind your promise of a picture.

which is the actual site of the church where
Canon Oles officiated. This spot is nearest to
the street and is just where the gateway to
the grounds originally stood. We thought this
a better place for a cairn, where it wd. be
clearly visible from the road, than the site of
the cottage which is much further back
and in the middle of a cornfield.

"The owner who seems very cooperative,
said we cd. have the little plot for \$100.
which the members of the Club have contributed.
and steps are being taken to complete
the purchase. I wondered if you wd. be
willing to ask Dr. Pringent if he wd.
care to send another check toward the
further costs of this memorial. As I recall,
he said if more was needed to let him
know. There wd. be, I'm sure, no trouble
in raising hereabouts the necessary funds,
but thought he would like to have a share
in the project.

There are many other things I am eager
to talk about with you and am looking for
the opportunity. With affectionate regards,
Clare.

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Am J P.T.O.

March 17, 1954.

Dr. W. W. Francis,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
MONTREAL, P. Q.

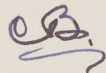
Dear Bill:

Both of your letters came all right, and the information in the first one I transmitted to the members of the Medical Historical Club at their meeting early this month, which was the last meeting of the season, since the historical night at the Academy of Medicine, which comes at the end of the month or the first of April, takes the place of what would otherwise be the final meeting of the Club.

The members were much pleased with your news. Before we make any further assault on the provincial government, Dr. R. I. Harris is stirring up a medical friend of his who lives ~~at~~ *near* Bond Head and who he assures us will presently interview the owner of the cows.

I have a copy from Norman of the ~~family~~ *family* group picture showing W. O. at the age of 7. We were not sure if the others shown, including the three brothers and two sisters, were rightly identified in the printed note under the picture. If you could refer to this photograph and confirm or correct the listing, I would be very grateful.

Sincerely yours,



C. B. Farrar, M.D.,
Editor.

CBF:sf

top of at cert. 24.7.54

Dear Clarence, E. lettered with coronary again and surviving as
used. My self left in ~~the~~ frame work the letter yesterday
the "pull" of the Bond Head family camp - we have lots of them if
needed. Below is the correct ~~legend~~ legend, and now pencilled
the names on the pull. The lost original of which only one print is
known to have survived is all that is left of what would have been
an extraordinary valuable collection of early expert amateur photography.
The Perrans & ^{Gavillors} ~~Gavillors~~ were the only "gentle" in the neighbourhood.
Walter P. at the next early became a famous athlete; his
evidently upended at still being at war. girls' clothes at the end of 4.
Yours ever

Dr. C. B. Farrar,
American Journal of Psychiatry,
216 St. Clair Ave., West,
Toronto 5,
Ont.

OSLER LIBRARY,
12 March, 1954.

Dear Clarence,

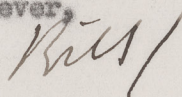
I sent Prinzmetal a copy of the cairn proposal from
your letter, and get this from him:

"Delighted with Farrar's letter. Perhaps it
might not be necessary to pave the nice old dirt
country road - to show what humble beginnings
the greatest of the great come from. Get the
cairn first - train the cows second, and pave the
road third. If they need a few more bucks,
please let me know ...

"And while you are about such great events,
how about a few simple, dignified, small signs
in J. H. B. - such as 'In this room Wm. Osler
wrote his textbook of medicine'. Or am I too
melodramatic?"

Jim Mitchell sent me a reprint recently of his
"Introduction of rubber gloves" from Annals of Surgery, 122: 902-4,
1945, in which I am delighted to see an almost recognisable picture
of dear old Harold Parsons assisting at the first use of them in an
operation.

Yours ever,



(W. W. Francis)

WWF:cd

P.S. I hope you got my letter of the 3rd which I see was not perfectly
addressed.

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OSLER LIBRARY,
3 March, 1954.

March 1, 1954.

Dr. C. B. Farrar,
American Journal of Psychiatry,
216 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto 5, ^{Clair} Canada.
Dr. C. B. Farrar,
McGill University,
MONTREAL, P. Q.

Dear Clarence,

Bravo, your Med. Hist. Club! A cairn is a good sturdy memorial to supplement the cow which Myron Prinzmetal (note the spelling) complained was all he could find. I told him W. O. would probably have claimed that she was a descendant of the famous calf which (he thoroughly believed) was tethered with him on the day his little sister was born, and which butted him with the pail of milk between them, nearly drowning him and spilling their only food supply!

I'm writing to M. P., who is a cardiologist of some repute. He has a good Osler collection and (I was once told) a "bottomless purse." Bright idea of Ken's, he's a smart lad. A bit of land would be an approach to it from the county road which passes it.

I have latterly talked with Sam Andrew who is naturally much interested, and he thinks that we should try to work through the Ontario Attorney General. Yours ever,

There is a meeting of the Medical Historical Club Friday evening of *Bill* when I will report the Prinzmettle donation. Have you any word that I might also pass on to the meeting?

With my warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

WWF:cd

CB

C. B. Farrar, M. D.,
Editor.

OSL:sl

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March 1, 1954.

Dr. William Francis,
Curator, Osler Library,
McGill University,
MONTREAL, P. Q.

Dear Bill:

mettle
Anne Wilkinson has just told me of your letter reporting Dr. Prinzmettle's contribution of \$100 toward the memorial to mark the birthplace of Sir William at Bond Head.

This project was brought forward some time ago by the Medical Historical Club of Toronto, of which I am a member, and there has been no end of interviewing and letter writing about it. The favored plan has been the erection of a cairn at the actual site of the cottage, which is one mile north of the main intersection at Bond Head. This tract of land is owned by a farmer up there and is used as a cow pasture. The main difficulty so far is to get this farmer interested enough to sell us a small bit of land needed for the memorial and an approach to it from the county road which passes it.

mettle
I have latterly talked with Ken Andras who is naturally much interested, and he thinks that we should try to work through the Ontario Attorney General who, I believe, has jurisdiction over the Travel and Publicity Bureau. There is a meeting of the Medical Historical Club Friday evening of this week, when I will report the Prinzmettle donation. Have you any word that I might also pass on to the meeting?

with my warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

CB.

C. B. Farrar, M. D.,
Editor.

CBF:sf

OSLER LIBRARY,
12 April, 1950.

Dr. C. B. Farrar,
The American Journal of Psychiatry,
113 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto 5,
Ont.

Dear C. B.,

The date of your last and a gentle hint from Norman both shame me, so I tardily enclose a much-travelled report of all I know about the Baby-on-the-track. It has come back from Rucker and from Blumer and I'm sure you are no less reliable. I've brought it up to date with a note of E. B. O.'s confirmation via Norman and you. As I wrote to Blumer, I have a vague idea that those elusive affidavits turned up at Oxford after WO's death, but I've had frequent vain searches for them there and here. I must have seen them in my dreams!

Too bad Cram couldn't get to the Osler dinner. I gather from Western sources that you "filled the bill" better than it could have been done by this

(Yours sincerely)

WWF: cd
Encl:-

OSLER LIBRARY,
21 March, 1951.

Dr. C. B. Farrar,
American Journal of Psychiatry,
113 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto, 5,
Ont.

Dear Clarence,

All I know about the Baby-on-the-track was on those three typed sheets I sent you last year. Do you need the loan of them again? The elusive affidavits are an absolute mystery. At the time when W. O. searched for them at 1 W. Franklin St. in 1897 after the publication of Gould's book they may well have been in that J. H. Hospital library drawer, where Blumer saw them about 1894-6.

I added this note after you wrote me a year ago about Norman's talk with Sir E. B. O.:

"As I wrote to Blumer, I have a vague idea that I saw the affidavits at Oxford after W. O.'s death. Possibly it was in my dreams for I often searched for them vainly since, both there and in Montreal."

Pierce Rucker of Richmond who graduated at J. H. in 1905, got all my data together in 1942, and wrote to me the other day that he is thinking of publishing it now. Perhaps you should get in touch with him, or beat him to it?

Yes, thanks, I got the U. W. Ont. M. J. with your good address, and am ashamed if I never acknowledged it.

I am looking forward to that visit from Anne Wilkinson.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

RUC
(L. W. J.)

WWF:cd

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C. CHARLES BURLINGAME
CLARENCE P. OBERNDORF

Ind. 7 '05 -

March 9, 1951

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal

Dear Bill:

A recent conversation with Norman Gwyn was probably the reason for his writing to you further about the "baby on the track." I thought it would be interesting to get all the available documents together relating to that memorable incident. I have the comment that appeared in the New York Medical Journal in 1888 together with the copy of the clipping that had appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press, which was copied from the Minnedosa Tribune.

You remember George Blumer mentioned in his contribution to the Archives that he had seen in the Hopkins Hospital library the actual affidavits of the Manitoba train crew concerning the W.C. accouchement. That was, of course, some 50-odd years ago. I wrote to Dr. Blumer in California to see if he could help me locate those affidavits, but he tells me he knows nothing more about them and wonders whether W. O. recovered and took them with him when he left Baltimore.

I haven't written yet either to the Hospital or to the Welch Library and was wondering whether you might have any knowledge of the fate of those precious affidavits. Can you give me any suggestion to whom I might write to inquire?

Incidentally, I earmarked a copy of the University of Western Ontario Medical Journal containing my address at the banquet of the Osler Society last year to send to you and wonder if it ever reached you.

We are all glad that you are going to see Anne Wilkinson sometime soon. I have talked with her a good deal about writing up the four Osler brothers, and she has become much interested in that prospect.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

CB

C. B. Farrar, M.D.

CBF/ml

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CLARENCE P. OBERNDORF

Dear Bill, would you like to have a word about the dinner of the London Otolaryngological Society the other night? Your statement was correct; it is a bio-war society, a really fine group, and so keenly interested in everything relating to Otolaryngology. The new President, Don Swartz presided with grace and dignity and the others, Beatty and McLeod, also took their parts most acceptably. It was a pleasure and honour for me to be received into their fellowship.

In our great regret Dr. Crane was not in his usual place at the head table. He had intended to come but the night was blustering and cold and he decided not to venture out. Next morning however I had a long phone conversation with him and heard a number of interesting things, including the story of the origin of our Medical Historical Club here which Dr. Crane was instrumental in organizing in 1923, along with Jabez Elliott.

At the London meeting I had your letters, also a message from Norman, and they were warmly appreciated. Among the stories I included reference to the childbirth in the toilet on the Manitoba train, on the strength of Otolaryngology's original report and subsequent note in the Canada Medical and Surgical Journal of 1888 that I had just looked up and copied

from the files at the Academy of Medicine here.
Until I saw George Blumer's reference to the incident
in the Memorial issue of the Archives I had regarded
this story as one of E. J. Davis' hoaxes. Norman had
arrived to be of that opinion too. But after the
Blumer report and comparison with Oster's signed
(with his own name) statement in the Journal of 1888,
Norman recalled that in a conversation with
Sir Edmund, the latter had confirmed the story
as authentic, saying that he was on the train with
Oster when they learned about the occurrence and
had himself seen the mother and child along
with W. O. Is this your understanding of the case?
The thing I would like to know is what became
of the affidavits that Blumer says he found in the
table drawer in the J. H. Hospital library.
Hoping your patience has held thus far, yours affly CB.

12³/₅₀

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OSLER LIBRARY,
23 Feb., 1950.

Dr. C. B. Farrar,
The American Journal of Psychiatry,
113 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto 5,
Canada.

Dear Dr. Farrar,

That Religio Medici, Boston, 1862, was the second book W. O. bought, in 1868 in Arts at Trinity, and it remained his favorite copy of his favorite work of his favorite author. The first book he bought was a Shakespeare, but, he said, "Some Son-of-Belial stole it!" On the front fly-leaf (not the back) of the Browne he scribbled in pencil, on his death bed, "I doubt if any man can more truly say of this book, Comes viae vitaeque" [companion of my life's journey].

visited the London club 18 years ago by. I am also interested to know wheth It is an ancient expression, but W. O. got it, I think, from another Browne, Isaac or William, no relation, who directed in his will that they should put into his coffin his "Elzvir Horace, comes viae vitaeque, worn out by and with me".

I've had a lot of correspondence with and about the London Osler Soc. and have a great admiration for Crane and his pepful methods. As I recently wrote him, Virchow collected crania, but I collect Craniana. My last visit to London was unforgettable, but long before the Society. It was for the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association, of which I was at the time, for my sins, Secretary, treasurer, and working editor. Running that meeting was like a one-man-show-three-ring-circus, and the temperature was 100. Four days with the president, Dr. Hugh McCallum, gave me a great admiration for him. He got things done. At the last evening meeting, when everyone was nearly exhausted, and we had congratulated each other that at least old Polixonus had not turned up for the first time since the Association started, didn't the old fool stalk in majestically. He was (like me) in his anecdote and apt to speak unasked for an hour. McCallum made me shout into the old man's ear that if he would limit himself strictly to five minutes, we would elect him the first honorary life member. I had a hard time getting it across, but he swallowed both the insult and the bait. He only took ten minutes!

Recently I had occasion to look up the "Semi-Centennial

P. T. O.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
WM. RUSH DUNTON
FRANKLIN G. EBEL
STANLEY COBB
WILLIAM C. SANDY
S. SPAFFORD ACKER

Celebration" of our Medical Faculty, Montreal, 1882, and was interested to see that Osler, proposing the toast of sister institutions, included "the new Western College, lately established in London." He regretted that no representative was present. That was, of course, before we taught the Mustangs how to play football!

Perhaps you can read some of this to the boys (and girls) when conveying my regrets that there is no representative there of the McGill Osler Society.

Dr. C. B. Farrow,
The American Journal of Psychiatry,
113 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto 5, Ont., Canada.
Yours fully,
W. O. Brown

W. O. B.

That little Medical Book, 1882, was the second book W. O. bought, in 1882 in fact at Trinity, and it remained his favorite copy of his favorite work of his favorite author. The first book he bought was a Shakespeare, but, he said, "Some day - On the front fly-leaf (not the back) of the Brownie he scribbled in pencil, on his death bed, 'I doubt if any man can more truly say of this book, Gemma vixit vixitque, companion of my life's journey'."

It is an ancient expression, but W. O. got it, I think, from another Brownie, Isaac or William, no relation, who directed in his will that they should put into his coffin his "Beloved Horace, Gemma vixit vixitque, worn out by and with me."

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CLARENCE P. OBERNDORF

Feb. 21, 1950

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal

Dear Dr. Francis:

May I bother you once more? The meeting of the Western Ontario Osler Society is on March 8, and I was wondering if you would care to let me have a little message of greeting which I could read to the boys. Norman is going to prepare a brief message of that kind, and I am sure that they would greatly appreciate hearing such a message from each of you.

Would you let me know whether you may have visited the London club in years gone by. I am also interested to know whether there has been any kind of reciprocity between the McGill and Western Ontario Osler Societies or any mutual visiting.

I have one more favor to beg of you. When I visited the Library and you showed me the special copy of the "Religio Medici" that Osler kept by him I copied the pencilled lines Sir William had written inside the back cover, in which he said what the book had meant to him. I seem to have mislaid the note I made at the time and would be most grateful if you would let me have a copy of those few words the Chief had written so shortly before the end.

With apologies for asking so many questions, and warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

C.B.F.

C. B. Farrar, M.D.

CBF/ml

American Journal of Psychiatry

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Clarence F. Osterman

In the Osler number of the Archives of Internal Medicine, July 1949, Esther Rosenbaum in her article "Posthumous Tributes" has a couple of pages, 191-8 on "Clubs and Societies" called after him.

Feb. 2, 1950

OSLER LIBRARY,
6 Feb., 1950.

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library, 4th Floor, 4th Fl.
McGill University
Montreal
Dr. C. B. Farrar,
Editor,
American Journal of Psychiatry,
115 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto 5,
Ont.

Dear Dr. Farrar,

I have a long-standing admiration for Crane and the way he has fostered his live-wire Western Ontario Osler Society, and I'm glad he's got you to address them.

Ours was organized in 1921, largely by two students, C. J. Tidmarsh and J. S. Henry, both now assistant professors. It was suggested, and devotedly fostered during its teething troubles, by S. E. Whitnall, who was professor of anatomy here 1919-34, now at Bristol, who had been a favorite of Osler's at Oxford.

Besides the London, Ont., Society, founded in 1927, there is an Osler Club of the U. of Alta. at Edmonton, which comprised all the final year students. Meetings were every two weeks, when three papers were read, one being historical. Dr. H. E. Rawlinson, prof. of anatomy there, is busy reviving it this year. It languished during the war.

Dr. Wm. Gibson, I believe, is organizing our Osler Soc. at the U. of B. C.

Also there used to be an Osler Club in connection with the Aesculapian Society at Queen's, but the Club had lapsed before 1934. So had the "Osler Society" at the U. of Man., which functioned for only two years, 1926 and '7. They sent the Library a bound volume of the contributions, most of them by members of the faculty.

P. T. O.

ASSOCIATE E
WM. RUSH DUN
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In the Oaler number of the Archives of Internal
Med., July 1949, Esther Rosencrantz in her article, "Posthumous
tributes", has a comple of pages, 191-3 on "Clubs and Societies"
called after him.

OSLER LIBRARY
8 Feb., 1950.

With kind regards,

Dr. O. B. Barrett,
Editor,
American Journal of Psychiatry,
112 E. 42nd St.,
Toronto 5,
Ont.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

WWF:cd

Dear Dr. Barrett,

I have a long-standing admiration for Oaler
and the way he has fostered his live-wire Western Ontario
Oaler Society, and I'm glad he's got you to address them.

Ours was organized in 1931, largely by two
students, C. J. Fildes and J. E. Henry, both now assistant
professors. It was suggested, and devotedly fostered during
its teaching specialties, by S. E. Mitchell, who was professor
of anatomy here 1919-34, now at Oxford, who had been a favorite
of Oaler's at Oxford.

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American Journal of Psychiatry

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY
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CLARENCE B. FARRAR
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Feb. 2, 1950

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal

Dear Dr. Francis:

I wonder if you could tell me when the Osler Society was organized by the McGill medical students, and also if you know whether there are other such societies in Canada beside the one at Western University. I was curious to know about this as I am expected to attend the annual meeting of the Osler Society at Western University in March and offer some recollections of Dr. Osler from the Baltimore days.

I recall with pleasure my visit to the Osler Library several years ago and your courtesy in showing me about.

Very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



C. B. Farrar, M.D.

CBF/ml