

OSLER LIBRARY,
10 March, 1945.

Dr. Bernard J. Ficarra,
Lahey Clinic,
605 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston,
Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Ficarra,

I am glad to hear you are "collecting" your essays, and am honoured that you should want me to write a preface for them. Why not let them stand on their own merits? They can, perfectly well.

I don't feel eminent or intimate enough, nor competent, to "butt in". And I hope you won't think me ungracious if I ask you to excuse me.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

WWF:CD

LAHEY CLINIC
605 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.

GENERAL SURGERY

DR. FRANK H. LAHEY
DR. RICHARD B. CATTELL
DR. SAMUEL F. MARSHALL
DR. HERBERT D. ADAMS
DR. RALPH ADAMS
DR. C. C. ENGLEMAN

NEUROSURGERY

DR. GILBERT HORRAX
DR. JAMES L. POPPEN

THORACIC SURGERY

DR. HERBERT D. ADAMS
DR. RALPH ADAMS

BONE AND JOINT SURGERY

DR. G. E. HAGGART

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DR. HUGH F. HARE
DR. ESTHER SILVEUS

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DR. ROBERT L. RICHARDS
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DR. MAGNUS I. SMEDAL
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INTERNAL MEDICINE

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DR. FRANK N. ALLAN
DR. ELMER C. BARTELS
DR. CARLTON R. SOUDERS
DR. JOHN W. NORCROSS
DR. JAMES A. EVANS
DR. GEORGE O. BELL
DR. A. SEYMOUR PARKER, JR.
DR. JOHN D. DEPERSIO

ALLERGY

DR. HARRIET D. JAMES

GASTRO ENTEROLOGY

DR. SARA M. JORDAN
DR. EVERETT D. KIEFER
DR. S. ALLEN WILKINSON
DR. MARTIN L. TRACEY
DR. DAVID MCC. MCKELL, JR.

UROLOGY

DR. EARL E. EWERT

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

DR. WALTER B. HOOVER

February 22-1945

Dear Dr. Francis,

I am contemplating publishing in book form the several essays I have written on medical history. In this volume I shall have several illustrations. These essays have been corrected - some according to your suggestions.

I should be greatly honored if you would care to write the "Foreword" for me. -

My purpose, in collecting the essays in one volume, is not to present a completed work on medical history. Rather it is my intention to present light reading in medical history for the busy man of medicine. Awaiting your reply, with sincerest esteem;

Bernard J. Cicarra

OSLER LIBRARY,
10 March, 1944.

Dr. E. J. Ficarra,
Kings County Hospital,
Brooklyn,
N. Y.,
U. S. A.

*Change of address; Jan. 1945
Suite 12, 105 Queensberry St
Boston, 15.*

Dear Dr. Ficarra,

Thanks for the interesting reprint on American Pioneers.
It is a good review.

I think you are mistaken about the 5th (and last) generation of the Warrens on p. 285. J. Coll. Warren (died 1927) was the last of the professors of surgery. The only one of his sons in medicine, John, not "John C.", was associate prof. of anatomy, never (I think) practised surgery, and died in 1928, the year after his father. So the family heritage is unfortunately not being carried on still.

Thanks also for the "Famous cripples." You give a surprisingly long list of them!

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

P.S. We have here an interesting volume, which Osler got his friend "Coll." to prepare for him. It contains signed papers by the five generations of the Warrens. J. C. W. (1842-1927) signed himself "J. Collins", and his grandfather of the same name (1778-1856) "John C."

WFF:CD

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CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS
KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL
CLARKSON AVENUE, BROOKLYN

November 19, 1942

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

Dear Doctor Francis:

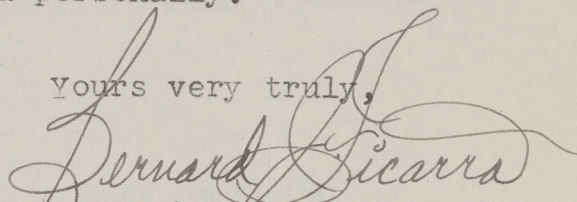
Due to pressing activities with the Army I was unable to write to you sooner in regard to your request for the reference on the autopsy on Malphigi.

The reference is found in Ralph Major's text: Classic Descriptions of Disease, page 515. This book is published by Thomas Co., Springfield, Illinois. Doctor Major quotes the original article by George Baglivi. The title of the book is: The Practice of Physick, London, MDCCIV, page 461.

In a recent letter from Doctor Sigerist of Johns Hopkins, I have been welcomed into the Association of Medical History, through the recommendation of Doctor Packard. In several of the booklets sent to me, I was happy to find your name among the honored members.

I sincerely hope that soon in the future I may have the pleasure of meeting you personally.

Yours very truly,


Bernard J. Ficarra, M.D.
Department of Surgery

bjf.db

OSLER LIBRARY,
24 October, 1942.

Dr. B. J. Ficarra,
Kings County Hospital,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Ficarra:-

Your very interesting "Poems and Prose", held up in the Customs, has only just reached me. Many thanks for it and for the kind inscription which I scarcely deserve!

It is good to read really musical verse in these jazzy days, and I like the echoes of "Drink to me only" and of Burns in your "Pursuit of Love" and "My Heart rejoices". Of course the "Historical Review of Pathology" I find most interesting.

I should like to have (if you can give it to me off-hand, without search) the full reference to "the second of his dissertations" in which, as you say on p. 76, Wepfer reprinted Baglivi's account (which I have) of the autopsy on Malpighi. Wepfer died within a year of Malpighi, so I suspect it is in a posthumous edition of one W.'s works, brought out by his sons.

Your little book joins the other medical poets on Osler's "Litteraria" shelves in good company, alphabetically adjacent to Fracastoro.

With kind regards,

Yours gratefully,

WFF:CD

OSLER LIBRARY
1st October, 1942.

Dr. B.J. Ficarra,
Kings County Hospital,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Ficarra:-

Many thanks for the two reprints, especially the one on Transfusion/ with your kind inscription on it to me. It seems to be an excellent review of the subject. The only error I noticed, probably a misprint, is the date of the "Christianismi Restitutio" of Servetus, "(1533)" on p. 303. It was published in 1553, the year that they burned him for it.

Please give my regards to Charles Frankensberger at your library.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

May 23, 1942.

Dr. E. J. Ficarra,
Kings Co. Hospital,
Clarkson Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Ficarra,

I'm sorry to inform you that my fellow-executor
vetoes the "release" of that autopsy record, at any rate
until the Oxford pathologist is heard from.

The main lesions were in the lower lobe of the
right lung. It showed numerous small abscesses, and was
firmly adherent to the diaphragm and vertebral column with
a purulent pleurisy on its posterior surface. Otherwise
the lungs showed only edema and, at the left apex, a small
pleural scar.

Part of the right 9th rib had been resected for
empyema a week before he died. The immediate cause of
death was hemorrhage, the source of which was not found at
autopsy.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL
CLARKSON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

May 8th, 1942

May 12, 1942.

W.W. Francis, Librarian
Osle Dr. B. J. Ficarra,
McG Kings Co. Hospital,
Mont Clarkson Avenue,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Dear Dr. Ficarra, I am sending the autopsy records on famous characters in history. Among these personalities I have found references to the fact that Sir William Osler was subjected to necropsy study.

The report of Osler's autopsy has not been published. I have a typed copy of it here, sent by the Oxford pathologist with a note to the effect that he had been instructed to regard it "as a private document". In your projected work would you wish to include the complete protocol, or would a statement of the important findings suffice for your purpose? How soon would you need the report? In any case, I must get advice before passing it on, and it takes some time to receive an answer from England.

I had an enquiry (the first) for this report only last week from the Grerar library, Chicago. Perhaps that was in connection with your own search?

Thank you most sincerely for whatever aid you may be able to give me.

Yours truly,

W.W.F.

Yours very truly,

W. W. Francis, M.D.

Bernard J. Ficarra
Bernard J. Ficarra, M.D.
Resident Pathologist

W.F.F.



CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL
CLARKSON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

May 8th, 1942

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

Dear Sir:

I am compiling the autopsy records on famous characters in history. Among these personalities I have found references to the fact that Sir William Osler was subjected to necropsy study.

My investigations reveal that only one reference is available pertinent to the exact anatomical findings revealed at post mortem. This article was written in the Journal of Comparative Neurology 46:1, 1928. The author describes only the results of the brain studies.

I am interested in finding, if possible, the complete autopsy protocol.

If it is possible for you to give me any information in this matter, I shall be truly grateful.

Thank you most sincerely for whatever aid you may be able to give me.

Yours very truly,

Bernard J. Ficarra
Bernard J. Ficarra, M.D.
Resident Pathologist

bjf.db

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL
CLARKSON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

May 14th, 1942

May 16, 1942.

Dear Dr. Bernard J. Ficarra,
Kings County Hospital,
Clarkson Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Ficarra,

Before deciding whether I can send you a copy of the autopsy findings, either for publication or only for your information, I must wait till I hear from a fellow-executor, to whom I have written, on this side of the Atlantic. his suggestion that I write to you.

Would the enclosed account of Franz Xaver Swediaur (or Schwediaur), 1746-1824, be of any use to you? He was a wellknown practitioner in his day, in Vienna, London, and Paris, and author of a much reprinted book on V. D. As an autopsy, it is pretty sketchy. It is from the unpublished diary of Jonas Asplin (1771- ?), M. D., Edin., 1797, and I referred to it in the description in our printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", 1928, entry #7512, on p. 684. The diary frequently mentions Swediaur, but without other medical details. attempted to give as much as possible of the entire necropsy.

I suppose you have the autopsy on Malpighi, in Baglivi's works — I haven't the exact reference — and in Lancisi's letter, Journal 3, art. 1, p. 118, in Claude Brunet's "Progrès de la médecine", Paris, 1685? Osler calls attention to it in a note on Malpighi, #384, in his "Bibliotheca".

does not desire the information to be made public, his wishes will be respected. If I shall write you again shortly. in the near future. Your permission and information would be deeply appreciated as soon as conveniently possible.

Yours sincerely,

Thank you once again for your courtesy and interest. I am truly indebted to you for your kindness, please be assured that I am very grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard J. Ficarra, M.D.,
Resident Pathologist

Dear Arch,

Below is a copy of another letter from Ficarra (14th inst.). He seems to be in a hurry and offers to suppress the protocol if Gibson, to whom I have written, objects. Do you think I should let him have a copy now?

Do you want to New Orleans — good for you! Kitty too? I spotted your lower-case looking "A. Z." on the composite postcard.



CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL
CLARKSON AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

May 14th, 1942

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

Dear Doctor Francis:

Thank you most sincerely for your recent letter concerning the autopsy on Sir William Osler. The first enquiry for this report from the Crerar Library, Chicago, was instituted on my behalf by Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, Editor of the Archives of Pathology. It was at his suggestion that I wrote to you.

My investigations on "Famous Autopsies in History" have revealed only eleven (11) outstanding personalities who have been autopsied. I am very anxious to include Osler in this group in order to complete the study.

Many references are found in the literature to famous men who were subjected to post mortem study, however, no record of the pathological findings can be found. For this reason in my work I have attempted to give as much as possible of the entire necropsy.

If it is possible I should like permission to review the the entire protocol on William Osler.

If this permission is granted and the Oxford pathologist does not desire the information to be made public, his wishes will be respected. My thesis which is practically completed will be published in the near future. Therefore this permission and information would be deeply appreciated as soon as conveniently possible.

Thank you once again for your courtesy and interest. I am truly indebted to you for your kindness; please be assured that I am very grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard J. Ficarra
Bernard J. Ficarra, M.D.
Resident Pathologist

Dear Arch,

May 16th
bjf:db Below is a copy of another letter from Ficarra (14th inst.). He seems to be in a hurry and offers to suppress the protocol if Gibson, to whom I have written, objects. Do you think I should let him have a copy now?

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