

The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada
15 February, 1934

Dr. J. M. T. Finney,
1300 Rutaw Place,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Dr. Finney:

I've just had the notice and programme of the opening of the Thayer Wards on the 24th. I wish I could be there. I see you are to speak on him as a man. Two of my recollections might be of interest to you, possibly even of some use.

*copied for
injection
in 9093*

It is difficult to imagine anyone disliking Thayer, but doubtless the elevated chin of the Boston Brahmin prejudiced some in his early days in Baltimore. The preface to the first edition, 1892, of Osler's textbook is merely a "Note", thanking his various assistants. In his own working copy *(no. 3544)* "W. S. Thayer" is heavily inked out. In the margin Osler has written, "Who the d -- crossed out this?" and at the foot of the page he has added, "That nymph H. S. confessed it; she did not like T." I could never find out who "H. S." was, and when I showed it to Thayer *mint* a few years ago, he shook his head and remarked with a chuckle, "There were so many who didn't like me in those days."

mint

passed

His appreciation of cheese went beyond the bounds of hygiene. When I was living with the Oslers, one evening while we were at dinner, Morris, their old coloured man, reported that someone had left a package which he didn't like to bring into the house. We all went out and smelt it, and even Mrs. Osler, who had a high taste in cheese, decided to leave it in the porch. After dinner the Chief sent me out to pass on the gift. Cushing and Fitcher next door would have none of it, and I zigzagged vainly along Franklin St. getting a polite rebuff at every doctor's door. When I reached Cathedral St., thoroughly nauseated, I was tempted to abandon it in the lane, but I struggled on, and was more relieved than horrified to see the joy with which Thayer sniffed and welcomed it.

more or less

With kind regards to you and yours,

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

DR. J. M. T. FINNEY
DR. J. M. T. FINNEY, JR.
DR. GEORGE G. FINNEY

3119 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE MARYLAND

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT

February 20 '34

Dr. W.W. Francis,
Montreal, Canada,

My dear Francis:-

Your very interesting letter received, for which I thank you. Yes, it will be helpful in preparing my Address on "Billy Thayer as a ~~man~~."

I wish you could be present at the Reunion on the twenty-third and twenty-fourth. We are expecting quite a crowd, and you will be missed.

Thank you again for the two delightful glimpses of Billy Thayer contained in your letter. He was a rare character.

With kindest regards,
Sincerely yours,

J. M. T. Finney

DR. J. M. T. FINNEY
DR. J. M. T. FINNEY, JR.
DR. GEORGE G. FINNEY

2947 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT
TELEPHONE UNIVERSITY 1284
1285

April 30, 1941

Doctor W. W. Francis
McGill University
Montreal
Canada

AIR MAIL

My dear Doctor Francis:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of April 26th just received. I appreciate deeply your invitation to make an address at the opening of the new hospital at Trinity College. Unfortunately, I have two other addresses one just before that time and one soon after, which will take all my time to prepare, and this will definitely prevent my taking on anything else, much as I should like to because of my association with my very good friend, Sir William Osler. I am sorry, but I will have to decline with regret.

Thank you for the kind words you say about my book. It seems to have given many of my friends much pleasure, which also pleases me.

With kind regards from Mrs. Finney, the boys and myself,

Very sincerely yours,

J. M. T. Finney

*with p.c.
to Head. U.V.*

FINNEY

Finney

26 April, 1941.

Dr. J. M. T. Finney,
2047 St. Paul St.,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Dr. Finney,

First, congratulations on the autobiography. What a splendid record of a fine life, and what an interesting background! I missed you last July when I had a fine afternoon with Wylde on Chester Bay.

A Mrs. Paterson, of Toronto, has given a new hospital to Trinity College School, at Port Hope, 60 miles from Toronto, and the Headmaster, Mr. P. A. C. Ketchum, is anxious to have one of Osler's Baltimore colleagues open it officially on May 17th. F. O. was the first head boy when the school was founded at Weston. The native Canadians have failed us, Barker, Cullen, MacCallum, and you are his remaining hope. Parfitt, who is an Old Boy of the School and was on the J. H. H. staff, you remember, about 1898, is laid up and can't take on the job. I hope you can manage it, but it is a lot to ask and to expect of you?

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Finney and the boys.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

at Port
chum,