

The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada
4 January, 1954

Dr. Reginald Fitz,
56 Walnut Place,
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Reg:

The English translation of Ramazzini, #3761, has the book-plate of T. N. Brushfield, M.D., F.S.A. (Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries), and was probably bought by W. O. at auction at the sale of his library some time about 1911. Brushfield lived 1828-1910, spent his medical life, 1852-82, as superintendant of asylums, and was a pioneer in England of the non-restraint treatment. He retired to Devonshire in 1882 and spent the rest of his life collecting. His chief work was the Life of Sir Walter Raleigh. The Raleigh items from his library went to Exeter, but the others, about 10,000 volumes, were sold, and 14 of these were picked up by W.O. They are indexed under "Book-plates" on p. 714 of the Catalogue.

That is an extraordinary law for 1723! I seem to remember Archie Malloch a few years ago calling my attention to some early ^{canon} measure, perhaps this law of yours? Ask him, if you are not already in touch with him. I thought it was in connection with the N. Y. Academy's exhibit of early medical Americana in 1926, but I have just been through their catalogue, which has only two lead-poisoning items, 37 and 38, namely, Cadwalader, "Essay on the West-India Dry-Gripes", printed by Ben. Franklin, 1745, in which they are attributed only to the quantity and potency of the rum, and, secondly, Franklin's "Letter to Benjamin Vaughan", 1786, on the "dry-belly-ach". ~~"This is due to the volatile acid or alkali", giving his own reasons (p. 133) for ascribing it to "the sulphurous and alkaline parts".~~ There is no indication of any suspicion of metallic poisoning.

I'm glad you led me to Ramazzini. I'd never read into him before, and there's a lot of human as well as medical interest in the book. In its 274 pp. there are 43 chapters, each devoted to a particular trade. Only five of these, 1, 5, 7, 8 and 21, seem to have any possible connection with lead. I give you below a hint of their leaden contents. They are pretty meagre, as you'll see. I would gladly get photostats for you of any or all of these passages, but I don't know where to begin or end, or whether they would be of any use to you.

In Ch. I, "Of the diseases of Metal-Diggers", pp. 1-15, he says it isn't possible to distinguish the effects of the different metals, which are always mixtures in the mines, and he only once mentions lead, saying that Wedelius in his "Pathologia Medica Dogmatics" (sect. 2, cap. 9) mentions an Asthma Montanum on which "Stockius writ a whole Treatise" imputing "all the Mischief to the Quicksilver of Lead; for we must know, that Lead contains a great deal of Mercury to which it owes its Gravity". (p. 7).

In Ch. V, "Potters", pp. 29-34, he describes the process of grinding the lead and glazing. It is these men who get the severe symptoms, but a'most all who work in a pottery are "wan complexion'd".

(The anonymous translator was a spelling reformer. I never saw another book with such a profusion of apostrophes: almost is always a'most,

them 'em, I am J'm, does do's, medicine med'cine!).

In Ch. VII, "Glass-makers", only those who work in colouring glass are affected. This he attributes to the "minerals" and the heat, but without mentioning lead.

In Ch. VIII, "Painters" (pp. 39-43), he seems to write only of artists. They lead a sedentary life, but (p. 40) "the principal Cause of their sicklyness is the Matter of the Colors that's always among their Hands, and under their Nose; I mean the red Lead, Cinnabar, Ceruss... (p. 41) All the world knows that Cinnabar is the offspring of Mercury, Ceruss is made of Lead, Verdigrise of Copper, and the Ultramarine color of Silver." He gives a few cases. Neither here or elsewhere, apparently, is there any mention of colic among the symptoms- pallor, constipation, melancholy, loss of teeth, trembling, convulsions, *paralysis*.

In Ch. XXI, "Of the Diseases incident to Vintners, and Brewers of Ale and Beer" (pp. 129-140), he advertises the wine industry of his town, Modena, and speaks of the distilling of brandy, which is done in Copper Vessels (p. 130). The workmen "grow Lethargic, Meagre, dejected and Vertiginous with little or no Appetite". He attributes this to a chronic partial Drunkenness from the fumes, and discusses whether this is due to a volatile acid or alkali, giving his own reasons (p. 133) for ascribing it to "the sulphurous and alkaline parts". There is no indication of any suspicion of metallic poisoning.

Willis in his "De anima brutorum", 1672 (#4230), pt. 2, ch. 15, on colic, and ch. 9, on paralysis (which, he says, frequently follows colic), has no suspicion of lead. The first mention of it, that I can hurriedly find, is in de Haen's classical work on lead colic, "De colica Pictonum", 1745 (#2860), p. 12, when he quotes from his own shorthand notes of Boerhaave's unpublished lectures, 1731-4. B. says that painters and other workers in lead are particularly liable to colic. He suspects the sweet taste of Rhine wine to be due to lead, and mentions that a dealer was hanged in Germany for adulterating the wine with lead. Also he had seen cases which he suspected to be lead poisoning due to drinking such wine.

Lead is said to have been often suspected in the colic of wine makers and drinkers, but I've never seen a reference to a specific mention of it earlier than de Haen.

Happy New Year to you and yours.

Yours ever,

W.R.F.

56 WALNUT PLACE
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Bill:

Can you tell me anything of how
W. O. got # 3761, the 1705 English
Translation of Ramazzini's "a Treatise of
the Diseases of Tradesmen etc"? And would
it trouble you too much to let me
know what is said regarding lead? If
you want to photograph that section for me
I shall be glad to pay for it. I am
trying to run down how we in Boston in
1723 had sense enough to pass a law
forbidding the use of leaden stiles in
making rum. Some had a good deal of
clinical knowledge and I wish I knew the man!
Happy New Year.

as ever

Jan 1st, 1934.

Rogers F. H.

almost median.

14 lbs. increased under 1700 lbs. on p. 714.

ch. 1. Metabolism in general - travelling, cerebral
pallor. Chiefly Quercus but copy p. 7
L. 4 on. Myosmia

DR. REGINALD FITZ
THE LONGWOOD MEDICAL BUILDING
319 LONGWOOD AVENUE
BOSTON

March 18, 1945

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

Dear Bill:

Thanks ever so much for writing me about my friend. Lord *MAUDE*
Abbott says that one time he was titular Professor of Medicine
at McGill. He must have been an interesting chap; at least,
when he was here he studied under Dr. Waterhouse and was regard-
ed by his contemporary colleagues and teachers as one of those
totally fearless youths who always are interesting. His sub-
sequent career that you describe would seem to bear out the
reasonableness of the manner in which he was sized up by the
boys here.

Thanks ever so much for your trouble.

Yours sincerely, *R.F.*

Reginald Fitz, M.D.

TELEPHONE BEACON 3911

DR. REGINALD FITZ ✓
THE LONGWOOD MEDICAL BUILDING
319 LONGWOOD AVENUE
BOSTON

*Ans'd with pen
P.T.O.*

*+ 2 p.c.'s after negative answers
from Tr. Acad. & Local. L.H.J.*

February 28, 1944 *9.iii.44.*

Dr. William Francis,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Bill:

Can you by any chance lay your hands on a copy in Canada of the booklet by Valery-Radot entitled "Pasteur Pastelliste"? It was printed in a very limited edition and to the best of my knowledge and belief there is no copy of it in the United States. I am very anxious to see it if I possibly can and wonder whether by any chance there happens to be a copy of the book in Canada.

How are you?

Best wishes and good luck.

As ever,
Reginald Fitz
Reginald Fitz, M.D.

TELEPHONE 254-0000 2011

granger
Bcom H. H. H. H.
I have
" Municipal
" Branchman

Not in any lib. or shops here
3 barrels and that had
seen it. I'm writing to Toronto.

7 3767

BOSTON
219 LONGWOOD AVENUE
THE LONGWOOD MEDICAL BUILDING
DR. REGINALD FITZ

REPLYING 28, 1944
+ 2 p.c. 2
the
1944

Reginald Fitz, M.D.
As ever,
Reginald Fitz

OSLER LIBRARY,
27 Feb., 1945.

Dr. Reginald Fitz,
319 Longwood Ave.,
Boston,
Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Reg.,

Many thanks for the Harvard Bulletin with "A word from the age that is past", reproducing the "Terrier's" diplomas. It reminds me that I've never sent you a pamphlet from the Hôtel-Dieu, "Léo Pariseau", containing a tribute by me, p. 15, and his showing up of Laterrière (see pp. 52 & 73), in a good account of transfusion. It goes to you now under separate cover. He told me that he hesitated to publish it during his lifetime for fear of the expense (not the outcome) of a lawsuit with which the family threatened him!

My Marian is in uniform and gets her M.D. this autumn. I believe you have two daughters married! Any grandchildren in esse or in spe? Love to you all, especially both Phoebes.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

WWF: CD

P.C. 27. iv. 43

*Envoies on the grandparentes!
Marian also tells us that in
she is medicine and the
other distinguished family
laurels paratrooperist
Marianella. May a fair breeze
waft her reply down.*

29 November, 1941.

Dr. Reginald Fitz,
The Longwood Medical Building,
319 Longwood Avenue,
Boston.

Dear Reg.,

All I know about that no. 1264's provenance is in the note to no. 1251 with which it is bound -- a vol. (7 Jenner items, mostly autographed presentation copies to his friend, Shrapnel), presented by the Crawford Long fan, Geo. Foy of Dublin, to Hunter McGuire of Richmond.

Copy for A.M.

I've never seen another copy of that single sheet of Jenner's "Instructions", either in esse or listed, and I've never been at all sure that the colored plate facing it belongs to it. The printed sheet, 9.5x7", closely printed, has the undated imprint "Printed by D. N. Shury, Berwick Street, Soho", and it doesn't refer to the plate, 10.5x8", which depicts cow- and small-pocks, side by side, at 6 stages of development, 6th to 18th days. The plate is signed "Will^m Cuff del. Will^m Skelton sculp." and is undated.

Any light you can throw on this (or these?) item(s) would be welcome.

I much enjoyed your "Terrier" and some conversations I had with poor old Pariseau about him. T.'s family evidently don't like the old boy's Munchausenisms shown up. I believe they threatened our late Civic Librarian with a lawsuit if he dared to publish what he knew about your first Harvard post-grad.! Even Pariseau is scared -- he fears neither God, man, nor Devil, but law casts are more formidable.

Love to Phoebe and all of you.

Yours ever,

W.W.F.

TELEPHONE BEACON 3911

DR. REGINALD FITZ
THE LONGWOOD MEDICAL BUILDING
319 LONGWOOD AVENUE
BOSTON

November 27, 1941

Dr. William Francis,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Bill:

I am still in the throes of my Waterhouse paper and in this connection I wonder whether you can tell me about No. 1264 in the Osler Library. Do you happen to know where this particular item came from?

Love to the family.

As ever,

Reginald Fitz
Reginald Fitz, M.D.

[A] 8

23 July, 1941.

Dr. ~~Frederick~~ ^{Frederick} Fitz,
The Longwood Medical Building,
310 Longwood Avenue,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Fitz,

Dr. Francis is away on his holidays in the
Laurentians but will be back in a week. In the meantime I shall
try to give you the information which you desire.

There are no illustrations in the #1261, "The
Origin of the Vaccine Inoculation." 1801. I have looked through the
other articles but have not found the lady's arm with the rose, only
coloured plates of various sores.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

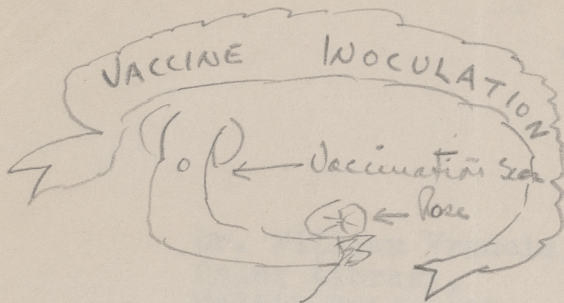
14 Aug.

Dear Reg.,

I have no information to add to what Miss

Perrault wrote you on 23 July - only a few questions to
ask. Our copy of "The Origin" (#1261) begins with
the title page, so there is nothing opposite it. Is your
rose-in-hand "bit of artistry" engraved? and
what sort of a leaf is it on? Is it a wrapper? If
not, perhaps our copy lacks a ~~portion~~ ^{portion} of
frontispiece?, especially if it is the the same sort of paper as the rest??

I don't think it is right to speak of the tract as
a "reprint". No doubt this is its earliest form & it



Benjamin Waterhouse.

Will y

DR. REGINALD FITZ
THE LONGWOOD MEDICAL BUILDING
319 LONGWOOD AVENUE
BOSTON

July 21, 1941

Dr. William Francis,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Bill:

At the moment I am struggling with my friend Benjamin Waterhouse. Will you tell me something about "The Origin of the Vaccine Inoculation" by Jenner published in 1801? In the bibliotheca you have it listed as #1261.

Dr. Jenner sent Waterhouse a copy of this little reprint, and on the reprint which Jenner sent, opposite the title page is the following bit of artistry. I have reproduced it very badly but what it shows is a young woman's arm with the vaccination on it, she holding in her hand a rose, and above the arm is a scroll on which is printed, "vaccine inoculation". We have no other copy of this particular print in Boston. I am writing you to find out whether the lady's arm, etc., was part and parcel of the reprint as it was made originally or whether by any chance Jenner had the legend put on for the benefit of Waterhouse.

Waterhouse and Jenner had a good deal of very friendly correspondence and Jenner not only sent Waterhouse virus but also a snuff box, some lancets, and a china tea set, all in token of their friendship. I have wondered, therefore, whether the decoration to the reprint was a common one or whether, by any chance, Jenner had this put on for his friend's benefit.

As ever,

Reginald Fitz
Reginald Fitz, M.D.

Encl.

Dr. in envelope

His personal material
love in #1268

OSLER LIBRARY,
15 Nov., 1947.

Mister Reginald Fitz,
519 Longwood Avenue, Building,
Boston, Wood Avenue,
Mass., U. S. A.
Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Reg.,

I'll teach your secretary to laicize me! She's done it before. Not that I'm sensitive really, but when you are "DR." in your letter-head and "M.D." in type under your signature, I refuse to be so conspicuously mistered.

There are no surviving letters here of 1907, but I've been through the hundred or more copies and notes in Cushing's folder of that year (all his "Life" material came here), and there is no mention of Jenner, not even in one to Jacobs (a Jenner fan) in Sept., nor in another to "Dear Bowditch" in Aug.

I have no recollection of a Jenner locket, or if I once had, it has been obscured by a lock of Sir Thomas Browne's hair which gave me a lot of bother ^{when} we discovered, two years after both W. O. and the owner were dead, that it was only on loan!

Then there was Jenner's ink-stand which Weir Mitchell got. I think it is in the College of Phys. of Phila. I've also looked through W. O.'s pocket diary for 1907, but without a clue.

Who is, or probably was, your Dr. Arthur Davies? Perhaps the A. T. D. (born 1858) who gave the Hunterian oration in London in 1902 on "Organo-therapy" (no. 2427 in our catalogue)?

Greetings to all three generations.

Yours ever,

Bill

Dr. W. W. Francis

WWF:CD

OSLER LIBRARY,
20 March, 1946.

Dr. Reginald Fitz,
The Longwood Medical Building,
319 Longwood Avenue,
Boston,
Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Reg.,

Dear Reg., Dr. Martin tells me you want information about Thomas Fargues of Quebec. Most of the information about him is to be found in Ahern, M.-J. & Co., "Notes pour l'histoire de la médecine au Canada ...". I hope Fargues's connection with Waterhouse and with Harvard is being written up for publication. Is there record of a Harvard degree? He was appointed titular professor here when it became prudent, about 1820, to appoint a skeleton faculty to help carry out the terms of James McGill's will. He never taught here.

Baptized 11 Oct., 1777, in the Church of the Recollets (on the ...). The correction in your letter, of "Lord" to "Maude" was Abbott reminds me of the verse Maude used to quote about herself: "Ma sainte que l'on eut encore vu à Québec", and of a Catholic mother. His father died in 1780.

There was a young lady named Maude
Who was a most terrible fraud.
She never was able to print ses degrés au commencement
To eat at the table, in). Soon afterwards he went
But out in the pantry - O Lord! Bill, De chere, here at
McGill. There is no personal touch in it, so fef. to Canada, etc.

You can pass that on to your secretary and your grandchildren with my compliments. In London when he became intimate friend of John Abernethy. (Ahern puts this after the M.D., the date of which he apparently didn't know, but it must have been before, because Ahern continued: "Vers 1811" he returned to Quebec. F., Yours sincerely, didn't bother about religion, but his sisters were fervent Catholics, and he became physician to the Ursulines. Surgeon to the Hôtel-Dieu, where his portrait hangs. Stroke in 1840, another in 1843, reduced him to a deplorable state bodily and mentally. Died 11 Dec., 1844. W. W. Francis, M.D., has suits about his will. In his first will, 1842, never probated, "Croyant dans l'importance de l'homéopathie et désirant en encourager l'étude il laisse la somme de 8,000 louis (40,000 \$) pour la fondation et l'entretien d'une chaire d'homéopathie au collège McGill."

Morgan, H. J., Biographies of celebrated Canadians, 1862, p. 372, is quoted as saying that F. had a considerable medical library, which was sold after his death to G. O'H. Stuart, who presented it to Laval University, but "dans ce temps, 1848, l'Université n'était pas encore fondée!"

Will you be at New Haven for the Medical Library Assoc. meeting?

I hope so.

WVF:CD

friction & better-half & leave

OSLER LIBRARY,
14 March, 1946.

Dr. Reginald Fitz,
519 Longwood Avenue,
Boston,
Mass., U. S. A.

Dear Reg.,

Dr. Martin tells me you want information about Thomas Fargues of Quebec. Most of the information about him is to be found in Ahern, M.-J. & Geo., "Notes pour servir à l'histoire de la médecine dans le Bas-Canada ...", Québec, privately printed, 1925, pp. 206-13. You may have this at Harvard, if not, and you need it, I'll have the article copied for you. Meanwhile here are the main points.

Baptised 11 Oct., 1777, in the Church of the Récollets (on the Anglican register - protestants used that church till the English one was built), son of a rich Huguenot ("le plus impitoyable railleur des choses saintes que l'on eut encore vu à Québec"), and of a Catholic mother. His father died in 1780 and left quite a fortune.

T. F. studied at Harvard, "où il prit ses degrés au commencement du XIXe siècle" (no authority quoted for this). Soon afterwards he went to Europe. M.D., Edinburgh. We have his thesis, 1811, De chorea, here at McGill. There is no personal touch in it, no ref. to Canada, &c.,

Passed some years in London when he became intimate friend of John Abernethy. (Ahern puts this after the M.D., the date of which he apparently didn't know, but it must have been before, because Ahern continues: "Vers 1811" he returned to Quebec. F., like his father, didn't bother about religion, but his sisters were fervent Catholics, and he became physician to the Ursulines. Surgeon to the Hôtel-Dieu (Que.) where his portrait hangs. Stroke in 1840, another in 1843, reduced him to a deplorable state bodily and mentally. Died 11 Dec., 1847, aet. 70. Resolutions, law suits about his wills. In his first will, 1842, never probated, "Croyant dans l'importance de l'homéopathie et désirant en encourager l'étude il laissa la somme de 6,000 louis [24,000!] pour la fondation et l'entretien d'une chaire d'homéopathie au collège McGill."

Morgan, H. J., Biographies of celebrated Canadians, 1862, p. 372, is quoted as saying that F. had a considerable medical library, which was sold after his death to G. O'K. Stuart, who presented it to Laval University, but "dans ce temps, 1848, l'Université n'était pas encore fondée!"

Will you be at New Haven for the Medical Library Assoc. meeting?
I hope so.

WWF:CD

Quintus & butter-half & bawrs.