

DAVIES

Forwarded
her "May 16th"
Ryerson's letter
+ not her ap. c.

4. vi. 45
L.W.F

University Settlement
23 Grange Road
Toronto

June 3, 1945

Dear Dr. Francis,

I hoped to be in the library on the Monday when the big news came from Europe, and realized that the library would close. I left Montreal on Tuesday, so had to come away without saying good-bye or thanking you for your kindness and co-operation while I was working in the library. I thoroughly enjoyed it all. I hope to be in Montreal not later than early August, so will visit you again at that time.

At present I am searching for a small house in the country. I hope to be settled somewhere in a month or two. I find that it will cost \$19 for a copy of the catalogue here, so I am hoping to find a way to get someone to send me one directly from England. Perhaps when I am settled I may take advantage of your offer of the use of the catalogue as you suggested, until I can get my own. I must have it some time.

It will take me some time to organize all the material I have accumulated in the last year and a half. When I do I can get down to some regular work and it will be a pleasant change after so much running around, living in suitcases.

Thanks you so much for all your help.

Sincerely yours

Blodwen Davies

(Miss)

BLODWEN DAVIES
23 GRANGE ROAD
TORONTO

April 27, 1943

Dear Dr. Francis,

I am glad the Osler Library will accept the Banting sketches. I asked in case there were restrictions as to what was acceptable. I am not anticipating that you will have them soon, but one never knows, and I wanted to find a place where they would be permanently placed.

There is something else I am interested in, in which you can probably help me. I am wondering if Sir William's library pioneered in the idea of a synthesis of knowledge such as now underlies the new philosophy of scientific humanism. Do you know of any other attempt, such he made in his library, to bring together in a coherent conception of human knowledge, the various tributaries of learning, prior to his work? Humanism was so long regarded as a field devoted to arts and languages and philosophy, and so exclusive of scientific affairs, that I imagine his vision of building up a humanistic library around the medical sciences as a nucleus must have come fairly early in the development of the new humanism.

I have an idea, too, which I have not yet confirmed, that Dr. Banting's socialization of insulin was a pioneer move in that field.

Dr. R.M. Bucke introduced a new idea into psychology which contemporary workers in that field are just now incorporating into the new theories of psychology.

Since these ~~things~~ ideas are basic to the

new scientific humanism, it seems to me that these three Canadians dug the foundations upon which the philosophy of the new age is being slowly constructed. Dr. Osler approached humanism not directly from the classical side, but from the scientific side; Dr. Bucke approached emergent evolution not from the physical side but from the point of view of human consciousness; and Dr. Banting approached the problem of the socialized control of applied science not from the industrial but from the humanitarian point of view.

If you can give me your ideas on Dr. Osler's claim to the status of pioneer in this field of contemporary synthesis, I would appreciate it very much. We would probably find that the motivating idea behind his library plan was the keynote to his entire life purpose. His reverence for human personality would be quite in line with his purpose of creating a synthesis of human knowledge which would free men from the bondage imposed by non-human values which have so far dominated our civilization.

Sincerely yours

(Miss) Blodwen Davies

OSLER LIBRARY,
6 May, 1943.

Miss Blodwen Davies,
23 Grange Road,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Miss Davies,

Were
I am not enough of a philosopher to know whether E. O.'s
"library pioneered in the idea of a synthesis of knowledge such as
now underlies the new philosophy of scientific humanism." The
inspiration for his "Bibliotheca Prima," or "fundamental" part of
his collection and catalogue, came (I think) as usual from his
"life-long mentor," Sir Thomas Browne, in the passage which he quotes:
"'Tis not a melancholy Utopia of my own, but the desires of better
heads, that ~~there was~~ a general Synod ... for the benefit of learning,
to reduce it as it lay at first, in a few and solid Authors. Religio
Medici."

Have you read Osler's "The old humanities and the new science,"
Oxford, 1913? (2nd ed., Boston, 1920)?

Bucke, to me, is an incomprehensible mystic and I'm not clear
about what is meant by the "socialization of insulin." So I'm afraid
I can not be of much help to you. However, I'm taking the liberty of
passing your letter on to my friend Dr. Fulton of Yale, humanist,
scientist, bibliographer and synthesizer. He has written of our printed
catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana," 1929, that "it clearly represents
the greatest achievement of the humanistic movement in medical biblio-
graphy." I think he can help me to answer your questions.

Yours sincerely,

W.W.F.

Secretaries,

"Humanist Group".

here on Jan 4th.

Miss

BLODWEN DAVIES
23 GRANGE ROAD
TORONTO

April 14, 1943

Dear Dr. Francis,

Since my visit with you at the Osler Library, I have intended writing you to make a suggestion.

I have two sketches given to me by Dr. Banting. They were at the recent Hart House show. I have often wondered where I would bequeath them. Would you be interested in having them for the Osler library? He often spoke to me of Dr. Osler, quoting him or referring to his visit to Lady Osler at Oxford. He was sensitive to Dr. Osler, as a personality. So it occurred to me that if you approved of the idea, there would be no happier plan than to provide that they go to the library at my death. I am sure he would be glad to know they were there and I would be glad to make some contribution, even so indirectly, to Dr. Osler's memory as a physician and humanist, and one of the most compassionate thinkers Canada has given to the world.

Thank you so much for some very pleasant hours in the library and the privilege of seeing so many things of interest.

Sincerely yours

Blodwen Davies

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OSLER LIBRARY,
22 April, 1948.

Miss Blodwen Davies,
23 Grange Road,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Miss Davies,

I am the more delighted with your kind note of the 14th because I have just been reading Jackson's booklet on "Banting as an artist." The Osler Library would be delighted to have the two sketches by him when you have no further use for them. You are far too useful a person for me to want the library to receive them in my time. I hope there will be a long wait before we get them.

I have an extremely uncomfortable feeling that I may have neglected to acknowledge a very interesting humanist pamphlet you sent me. I find no trace of having written to you about it. If that is the case, please accept my sincere apologies with my grateful thanks. I hope we shall have another visit from you before very long.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

WWF:CD



Department of Health

St. John's, Newfoundland

Dec. 6th, 1957.

Miss Cecile Desbarats,
Secretary,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Miss Desbarats:

I wish to thank you for your letter of the 26th of November with all the information on the Jenner-Clinch material.

I was also very pleased to hear from Mr. LeFanu, with the photostat of a letter from Jenner to Clinch dated 12 th March 1801. When this has been completely transcribed I shall send you a copy. I am having difficulty with some of the words. Unfortunately Mr. LeFanu cannot now find the evidence for his statement that Clinch was vaccinating in Newfoundland in 1798, but he hopes to be able to track it down and if so will let me know.

I am enclosing a copy of the following correspondence between Dr. McCurdy of St. John's and Admiral Pole, which I found in the old Colonial records. There is much circumstantial evidence to show that Vaccination was performed some time previous to this in Newfoundland.

When Doctor Stevenson returns I would be grateful if you could show him this letter.

I will forward anything else of interest that I may find.

Yours sincerely,

John W. Davies

JOHN W. DAVIES, M.D., D.P.H.,
ASST. CHIEF MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER.

ENCLS.

Letter book 15. 1798-1800 (Colonial Secretary's office)
P 440-442.

Fort Townshend 3rd, Oct. 1800.

Sir:

It appears from a Petition presented by the Inhabitants of Portugal Cove to the Magistrates of this District, that they are under great apprehension of the evils attending the catching the Small-Pox, the natural way, from a knowledge that some belonging to that Cove have been inoculated at St. John's.

Strong conviction in my own mind of the importance which the rendering general the inoculation from the Cow Pock virus would be to mankind as adopted by Dr. Jenner and others; and learning from the Rev. Mr. Clinch that you have taken much pains in the subject, induces me to solicit you to undertake the alleviating the apprehensions of those people by the disbursement of this blessing to all those, that are not obstinately determined against it, which I hope will be found to be very few indeed.

I shall be most cheerfully accountable to you for all the expences attending your exertion in the service.

I shall be glad to hear your opinion and determination as soon as convenient, I am

Sir

your most obedient
Humble Servant
C.M. Pole.

Dr. McCurdy,
St. John's.

St. John's 3rd, October, 1800.

Sir:

I had the honor of receiving your letter of this days date signifying a wish that I would inoculate the Inhabitants of Portugal Cove with the vaccine virus. Highly convinced of the great importance such a discovery must be to mankind, and the manifest utility likely to accrue from it, nothing can yield me more satisfaction than being able to meet your wishes in putting into execution your truly philanthropic intentions.

I mean to set out tomorrow morning for the spot together with my worthy friend Mr. Clinch, and fully convinced as well from my own observation as a relation of facts from many medical Gentlemen of the strictest veracity of its wonderful and singular property of destroying the variolous pabulum in the humans constitution; I shall use every argument in my power to remove their prejudices and prevail upon them to embrace the salutary effects of a prophylactic means greater than any other in the annals of Medical History, and I hope that the happy consequences in lieu of any other advantage will yield me a tenfold compensation on the occasion.

I have the honor to be
your Excellency's
most obedient and
most humble servant
Jno MaCurdy.

His Excellency,
Governor Pole.

From the Librarian,
The Osler Library,
8 March, 1957.

The three items submitted by
Mr. R. A. Davies in his letter of 17
February are returned to him herewith.

No further offers from him will
be considered by this Library.

Encls:-

Air mail form

To Mr. Dennis Davison

21 Sept., 1951.

Dear Sir,

I am surprised to learn that the Greatrakes "Great cures", 1666 (Wing, G 1791) our no. 2822) is so rare. It is not the same work (as you seem to suspect, in spite of the separate entry in Wing) as the "Brief Account" (Wing, G 1789, our no. 2824). Our copy of the latter has among the names of witnesses ("in the presence of") "Andr. Marvell" on p. 84 and "Andr. Marvel" on p. 85.

"The Great cures" is only 4 leaves; title-page, verso blank, pp. 1-5 text, rp. 6, not numbered, "Postscript" - Names of 4 individuals are mentioned, but not Marvell.

I suppose you have a note of the two pieces by Marvell *to Britin* among the commendatory verses in the "Popular Errours", 1651, of James Primrose (no. 3736 in our catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", Oxford, 1929).

Let me know if I can help further.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

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

WWF:cd

If the book is not identical with the other editions it might contain valuable information, but I shall deem it a great pleasure on your part if you could inform me first of all whether it differs from the other editions.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Davison

43 Broomgrove Rd.,
Sheffield 10.
England.

17th Sept. 1951.

Dear Sir,

I am shortly publishing an edition of Andrew Marvell and I would be extremely grateful if you would supply me with some information upon a small point.

Wing's Short-Title Catalogue (vol.II. p.131) lists a book which does not appear to be in any library in Great Britain. It is:

The great cures and strange miracles of Mr. Valentine Gertrux.
1666. 4°.

I have seen the British Museum copies of Greatrakes's Brief Account, also listed at your library, and I wish to know whether this book is identical with them apart from the title.

In A Brief Account Andrew Marvell's signature appears on pp.83-4 and pp.84-5 under two testimonies of cures. I am particularly anxious to know whether his name appears in the other copy you have.

If The great cures is not identical with the other editions it might provide some valuable information, but I shall deem it a great kindness on your part if you could inform me first of all whether it differs from the other editions.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Davison