

Duke Univ

5 May, 1931

My dear Davison,

I got home last week after a very good trip. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the day at Duke - a wonderful place, and what a setting, and what an opportunity for you and your Faculty to make a new Johns Hopkins! Also you deserve more than a word of congratulation on the arrangements for the great day. They must have been very complicated but everything went off smoothly.

My travelling expenses amounted to ~~\$82~~, a figure arrived at by doubling the direct railway fare from here to Raleigh. On the return journey I loitered and made detours.

I am very grateful to you and the Duke Trustees for honouring the Chief's memory, for honouring me in choosing me as his representative, and for giving me the opportunity of having such an interesting holiday.

My kind regards to Mrs. Davison and tell her that sitting beside her at dinner was one of the greatest pleasures of that much enjoyed day.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. Z

Dr. Wilbur C. Davison,
Dean, School of Medicine,
Duke University,
Durham, N.C.

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DA

March 14, 1931

Dr. Wilbert C. Davison,
Duke University Medical School,
Durham, N.C.

My dear Davison:

I am delighted to hear that one of the wards of your splendid new hospital is to be named after the Chief, and I appreciate the honour of being specially invited, as a relative of his, to attend the dedication of the Hospital and Medical School on April 20. I accept the invitation with the greatest of pleasure, my only regret being that I must also take advantage of the very generous offer on the part of your University to pay my expenses.

I shall arrive at Raleigh at 7:06 a.m. on the 20th by the train which you suggest, but I shall probably take it at Baltimore, as I would rather spend there than in New York the ten Sunday hours which I shall have to put in between trains. And I daresay there will be a congenial party of Hopkins men taking that train from Baltimore on Sunday evening.

I suppose the celebration will only last for the day, and that we shall leave Durham on Monday evening? I want to plan a few days in Baltimore on my way home.

With kind regards and renewed thanks,

Yours sincerely,

W.C. Davison

1
DA

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Please Reply to Undersigned
Box 3701

March 9, 1931.

Dear Dr. Francis:

The Duke University School of Medicine and Duke Hospital will be dedicated on Monday, April 20th, and I hope that you will be able to attend. The wards of the Duke Hospital are named for distinguished physicians and surgeons listed below, and we are anxious to have as many as possible of the relatives of those for whom the wards are named. The best way of reaching Durham is to take the Seaboard Air Line train which leaves Pennsylvania station in New York at 6:40 P.M., and which arrives in Raleigh, N. C., at 7:05 in the morning. I shall meet you in Raleigh if you can come. *Your expenses will be paid*

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Davison

Wilburt C. Davison.

Sir William Osler (Can., Pa., Md., & Eng.)
William H. Welch (Conn., & Md.)
Henry Fraser Campbell (Ga.)
Daniel Drake (N.J. & Ky.)
Walter Reed (Va.)
James Lawrence Cabell (Va.)
Edmund Charles Fox Strudwick (N.C.)
Crawford Williamson Long (Ga.)
Ephraim McDowell (Va. & Ky.)
William Stewart Halsted (N.Y. & Md.)
J. Marion Sims (S.C., Ala., & N.Y.)
Francois Prevost (La.)
Josiah Clark Nott (S.C. & Ala.)
John Howland (N.Y. & Md.)

D
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OSLER LIBRARY,
1 February, 1947.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Duke University,
Durham,
North Carolina,
U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

So glad you can make it. If you had forgotten that you had even published your Osleriana, the rest of us have, too, even I. It was just that I looked in that Abbott vol. first to see. What I was vaguely looking for was really your notes on W. O.'s autobiographical talk, 1916, which you may have equally forgotten, but which you sent to Cushing about 1921. I enclose my edited copy, which I can spare, if you want to keep it, though I've marked it to be returned. It is unpublished (except for his opening sentence which Cushing gives on p. 516 of his 2nd vol. and the good account of his call to Phila. on the 3rd page of this MS. The whole thing would well bear reading in connection with your other reminiscences. (as far as I know)

I talked last night to the president of the Osler Soc., a final year man Murphy, grandson of Osler's old colleague and landlord Buller. He and the others agreed with me that it would be more interesting (to us up here, far from the old terror of your "tabardillo") to have those reminiscences of yours rather than the yellow fever.

I'll suppress my proposed quotation from the Abbott article. If anybody thinks he has read your remarks before — well, he'll agree that they are worth hearing again.

Yours ever,

Bill
(a. l. f.)

WWF:CD

another
copy in
#3577

OSLER LIBRARY,
24 April, 1947.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Duke University,
Durham,
North Carolina, U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

Murphy, as I wrote, you wants your "Items,"
for our undergrad Journal, and pronto for the June
no., the last one he'll edit. I think, however,
that it deserves a wider circulation and should be
offered first to the Bulletin of the Hist. of Med.
(J. H.) or, that failing, to the new Journal of the
Hist. of Med. It has the true Oslerian qualities
of amusement and inspiration.

I enclose a list of emendations which I
happen to know that it calls for. I hope your
approve. If so, I shall incorporate them on this
copy, which Wilder passed to me, before passing it
on, unless you want it returned to you as it stands.

Yours ever,

L. W. F.

WWF:CD
Encl:-

introd 24.11

"Sir Wm. Osler. Reminiscences" by
Dr. Davison, 1947.

- P. 1, 1. 4 to end: so as a last
2, 1. 4 : introducing
- 4, 1. 2: Aesculapium (Latin, or) Asclepision (Greek - you've portmanteau'd the
two like Humpty-Dumpty into a hybrid "Aesculepeion")
5, 1. 7: while I was obtaining (otherwise it is grammatically W. O. This was
W. O.'s pet syntactical sin)
- 6, 1. 4: is fat right? I hope you weren't injecting it!
8, 1. 17: delete "Royal"; the C. A. M. C. didn't get its R. till after our war.
14 10, 1. 2 : M.D. (there has never been an M. B. degree at McGill)
11. 5-6: summer [of 1871, performing (one of you is wrong here. His prize
was announced on 28 March, 1872, and he sailed for Scotland on 3 July,
1872. So, omit the words "after my last trimester" and substitute
as above, printing the [of 1871, in square brackets.)
1. 7: (delete) of 1872 (It is wrong and is not in the copy we have of your
recollection of the speech)
1. 6: fr. bottom: (for) histology (read) pathology (It was Osler who added
the histology to the "Institutes" which had meant only physiology and
pathology.)

p. 24, 1. 3: "730 titles" vague. That's the no. of items in the 1st Blogg
Bibliography; Maude Abbott's increased the no. to 1551, but of course
not all of them "titles", many being reviews, obits., discussions, &c.
? Make it read:

included 14 different books and monographs, some 350
journal articles and over 1,000 shorter items; the elegance (&c.).

- p27?
29, 1.9: (don't leave out the) food (after good)
1.16: (please make this read:) his Ingersoll (two ll's) lecture on Immort-
ality he acknowledged that he was of the opinion of Cicero (he hoped
that his hearers would "come at last to" it)

1.18: deny altogether the

11.18-21: belief in one of the last letters written on his deathbed, "The
harbour is not far off. And such a happy voyage, and such dear com-
panions all the way! And the future does not worry. It would be
nice to find Isaac [his son Revere, there ... but who knows?" (the
correct version is in Cushing, vol. 2, p. 679; your entirely mis-
leading misquotation comes from Mrs. Reid who had it thus from Lady
O. quoting from memory & remoulding it "nearer to the heart's desire".
That "who knows" - even Cushing leaves out the question mark -- shows
clearly W. O.'s real "belief! I couldn't get Mrs. R. to change it,
& gave it up when she told me that Sci. & Immort. was quite unworthy
of W. O. & the only one of his writings she could not read!!)

unconsciously

W. W. F.
Osler Library
April 1947

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

April 29, 1947

Did not
5 pm -
left for
Murphy
Ind

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your letter of 24 April. I should be very pleased to have Murphy publish "Rems." if I could have permission to submit it for republication in 1949 in the Hopkins Bulletin or in the J.A.M.A. I am hoping that Allan Chesney and Morris Fishbein will publish Osler Memorial numbers in July of 1949 on the 100th Anniversary.

I should appreciate it if you would incorporate in the "Rems." all of the very valuable emendations which you sent me except that on page 6, line 4. "Fat" is correct. I had always thought that the intravenous use of fat was fatal, but the sterilized cream which we used was innocuous. Recently Emmett Holt and others have been using intravenous fat. Sherrington anti-dated them by thirty years.

If you and Murphy decide to publish the "Rems." could I buy 200 reprints as I wish to indoctrinate our students?

Thanking you for your great help, and with best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dave

Wilburt C. Davison

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

September 10, 1949

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

*Large bundle
Penc. Corr.*

Dear Bill:

Dr. Smith asked me to speak at the Founder's Day Festival on Sir William, so I have been busy this summer reading and rereading everything which has been written about him ^{in order} so that I could write a paper. I enclose the result and am thoroughly ashamed of it. I should be very grateful if you would read it and tell me what parts to leave out, both from the point of fact and poor taste.

I do not plan to read a paper on October 6th, merely to talk ^{and} realize that I can cover only a small part of the material in this paper, so do not hesitate to blue pencil as much of it as you wish.

How tall was Sir William? I have tried to find the information, but so far have been unsuccessful.

5' 5 1/2"

I plan to arrive in Montreal late in the evening of October 5th and if it is agreeable with you, I should like to call on you in the morning of October 6th to be briefed for the meeting that evening.

Hoping that this request is not too great an imposition and with best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dave

Wilbur C. Davison

P.S. Since dictating this letter, I have seen Wade Oliver who told me of the tragedy of Dr. Smith's death. I wish I could tell you how shocked and distressed I am. I am writing to his wife today. I enclose a letter I had dictated to him and should appreciate it if you would read me the information.

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

September 10, 1949

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

Dr. Frederick Smith, Dean
Faculty of Medicine
McGill University
Montreal 2, Canada

Dear Dr. Smith:

Wilder Penfield wrote me that the Founder's Day Festival on the sixth of October would be very formal. Does that mean white tie or black tie? I wish to be prepared.

must be white tie

My wife, who is also a devotee of Osler, would like to accompany me. Would that be possible? Do not hesitate to say so, if not.

yes but not if high tide

I have a plane reservation to arrive in Montreal on the Canadian Air Lines, flight #14 at 10:30 P.M. on October 5th. I am planning to leave on October 7th on Canadian Air Lines, flight #23 at 1:00 P.M.

Looking forward to seeing you on October 6th and with best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Wilburt C. Davison

Sp

HTW mail
1st class
50y. 27d
32d

Box 3701

Durham, NC

19 Sept., '49

Dear Dave,

As the Chief would say, "A. 1". I don't see anything to delete -- the ladies probably won't notice the "flatus" -- and ~~it~~ is just what we need, an appraisal of what he did for medicine apart from or in addition to the personality which cannot be conveyed to the sceptic

I'm told that Millen has written to you /-- black tie at high table, otherwise informal, also Atala more than welcome.

I return your MS. herewith, in a hurry, with a few queries & emendations in red; also a Sherrington note attached to p. 8. WO must have (mis)-understood that S. was giving the book. The same thing happened with his rarest Browne item, the sale catalogue, no. 4532.

Height, 5' 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " -- we look diminutive to you titans. Aunt Jeannette (my footnote on p.1) was only 5'4" when they told an oversized great niece, aged 4, that "Little Auntie" died last night; she was 96!", instead of the expected tears they got a contemptuous, "She wasn't very tall for 96!"

Could you send me back your 4 pp. of BIBLIOGRAPHY or a copy of it. Just what I need & was hoping to compile.

Fred Smith was a shocking loss. We are all glad that he managed to "book" you.

Yes, I'll be at the Library the morning of the 6th, except when Graham Ross & I (& I hope, you) will be handing out the "Way of life" to the 2nd year -- time not fixed yet, but usually about noon.

Yours WOfully

SE/RF
from home
arrived 27d

2241

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

November 14, 1949

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

Dr. William Francis
The Osler Library
McGill University School of Medicine
Montreal, Canada

Dear Bill:

I enclose a copy of the table of contents of the July-August 1949 number of the Bulletin of the History of Medicine as it contains several articles about Sir William. The ones by Bunting, Fulton and Courville and Spector were included in the list which I sent you as having been presented at the meeting of the Association of the History of Medicine at Lexington in May.

The November 1949 number of Phares; the Alpha Omega Alpha journal, has three articles on Sir William. The first is an editorial entitled "Osler Centenary" on page 5 (vol. 13, no. 1), the second an article by Lord Horder entitled "Medicine and the State" on page 6, and the third is a reprinting of my reminiscences on page 13.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

David

Wilburt C. Davison

P. S. Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith wrote "Osler Centenary Celebration at Oxford" in The Lancet, July 23, 1949, p. 168.

October 16, 1950

OSLER LIBRARY,
2 Nov., 1950.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Duke University,
Durham,
North Carolina,
U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

Many thanks for yours of the 16th with its very good news of 13 Norham Gardens. Lady O. foresaw its fate and it worried her to have to carry out the Chief's suggestion. This will make it all right. I sent that bit of your letter on at once to John, Malloch and Mrs. Chapin.

Here's a copy of a letter I had about it in the summer from the prof. of anatomy at Edmonton, a good Osler fan with a posthumous mash on Lady O.

Greetings to your better half.

Yours ever,

W. W. Francis

WWF: cd

PS. Miss Desbarats, my good secretary, covets a copy of your "Osler's Influence", because, "It answers so many of the questions that people ask you". She's a good showman.

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

October 16, 1950

Dear Bill:

My wife and I have just returned from a very interesting visit to England. We spent two weekends at Oxford and saw the Wylies, Allens and Duncan Gardner.

Duncan Gardner is now Regius Professor, and he told me that plans are now on foot to convert 13 Northham Gardens into one large apartment for the Regius Professor and two smaller ones for members of the faculty, so that the rental from the latter would help carry the expense for the Regius Professor.

My wife and I also called on Sir Charles Sherrington at 12 Grassington Road, Eastbourne. Except for his arthritis, he was very comfortable, and we enjoyed our visit with him.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Lawr

Wilburt C. Davison

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

November 8, 1950

Dear Bill:

" Many thanks for sending me Dr. Cameron's interesting reprint on Sir William Osler and Parasitology. It brought back many happy memories of Sir William's hunting for amoebae by rectum. On ward rounds, he often carried a catheter and pin to collect and demonstrate amoebae. "

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W.C.D.

Wilburt C. Davison

Dec Cameron

*Dr. Wilburt C. Davison, School of Medicine,
Duke Univ., Durham, N.C., who was a
medical student Rhodes Scholar in 1915-16,
commanded by Osler to help in the
Radcliffe Infirmary, writes as follows, &*

*W.C.D.
1.*

*These slides for Dr. Stittwell cannot
possibly have been deposited with him, ~~as~~ ~~it~~*

P.D.

OSLER LIBRARY,
11 Jan., 1951.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
School of Medicine,
Duke University,
Durham,
North Carolina, U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

Thanks, especially from Miss Desbarats, for the extra reprints of "Osler's influence". I had a letter from Mrs. Chapin yesterday praising it highly and hoping I had read it! I not only read it but discovered the useful "Bibliography" which had been basely omitted from the Journal though it had the affrontery to print the references thereto! Crowded editors have no conscience - that's why I'm no longer one myself!

I'll miss Rosie's enthusiastic correspondence. She sent me two touching deathbed postcards of farewell. You and I may be Osleriolaters, but we can't be classed with Osleriolatrixes like Maudie and Rosie.

I like to think of you sunning yourself in Cuba or Florida away from the Arctic snows of Durham!

Yours ever,

Bill

WWF:ed

OSLER LIBRARY,
19 Nov., 1951.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
School of Medicine,
Duke University,
Durham,
N. C., U. S. A.

Dear Davy,

S. G. L., A. M. L., National M. L. (when the
Army, Navy and Airmen stop scrapping) and International
M. L. (when the nations ditto). It is a long time to
wait for a waterproof roof for the treasure-house!

I've been reading your session of the Hon.
Consultants and trying to read (without a Norwegian
dictionary to hand) "William Osler 1849 12/7 1949"
by H. F. Høst, Kr. Augustgate, 19, Oslo, who sends me
the reprint, from "Nordisk Medicin, 1949, 42: 1185," an
8-page pamphlet, and a reference you may not have.

My daughter, Dr. Marian Kelan, and her brood
of 3 plus dog are settled at Rochester, Minn., where her
husband has a 3 year fellowship in medicine.

The best to you and your v.m.b.h.,

John
pell

WWF:cd

(John at Louvain. monkey-captivity.)

1 Davison
Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

21 June 1951

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your letter of 13 June.
I was greatly intrigued with the additional
information about the South African-Australian
Oslers. Those in Calcutta seemed exceedingly
prosperous. It was a huge firm.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W.C. Davison

Wilburt C. Davison

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

May 2, 1955

Dr. Wm. W. Francis
Faculty of Medicine
McGill University
Montreal 2, Canada

Dear Bill:

One of our pathology residents, Dick Blaisdell, when he was in charge of the laboratory of the Fourth General Hospital of Chiang's Army in Formosa, named the medical library the William Osler Medical Library.

When he returned to this country, he notified the Army Post Office to send any books and pamphlets addressed to him to the William Osler Medical Library of the Fourth General Hospital, Tainan. He has just received the following reply:

"Dear Sir:

The above mentioned mail cannot be turned over to Mr. William Osler. This person does not have APO privileges at APO 63 and is not authorized to receive any mail through the APO."

Who said that the Army did not have a sense of humor?

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Sam

Wilburt C. Davison

OSLER LIBRARY,
5 May, 1955.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Duke University,
Durham,
North Carolina,
U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

Thanks for the Army's repudiation of Mr. Wm. Osler's
mail! It reminds me that:-

1) A Mr. Wm. Osler, born 1921, of N. J. has published a novel,
"Premature angel", which doesn't look nearly as good as Wilder's
one about you ("Du-du") and Abraham;

2) W. O. was ^{amazed} once to see his monograph on Chorea classed
under Geography;

3) A Swiss mathematician thought it quite a joke that a skit of
his on Klebs's 70th-birthday should have found its way into the OSLO
Library;

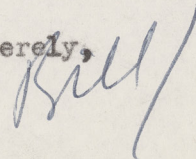
4) As I may have told you, one of our ex-Osler-Society boys was
consulted in British Guiana by a native Indian: "Name?" "B-O-B-B."
"Surname?" "That's it." "Christian names?" "Wm. Osler." "How the
deuce?" It seems that his mother was so proud of being delivered in
an emergency by a British Army surgeon that she wanted to call the
baby after him, but the wily surgeon persuaded her to give him the
name of "the greatest doctor who ever lived," and who had just died!
Wouldn't W. O. be amused?

Gorgeous pictures of you and Duke in Time. You look a bit
grey, but positively thin! An 80-year-old J. H. classmate, '02,
of mine wrote me that he had only the last of the 3 B's of senescence,
Baldness, Belly, and Bifocals. *I hope the ones he missed.*

The old pump has worked well for a year now, but I've had
a lot of bronchitis, with a perpetual wheeze in the weasand.

Greetings to you and yours,

Sincerely,



W. W. Francis, M.D.

WWF:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
17 August, 1956.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Dean of Medicine,
Duke University,
Durham,
N. C., U. S. A.

Dear Davy,

I hope I thanked you for your kind Tribute in that staggering booklet. Before I have recovered from that unexpected honor along comes another in the shape of a vellum (not ordinary parchment) Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine, London. I don't know who told them what about me, John Fulton denies having done it.

Please note that next week you are getting a most desirable addition to your flock in the shape of a really beautiful and brainy and dove-eyed daughter of Israel, whose father Dr. Berger is an old friend of mine. She is Irene Fabrikant, wife of Jack Fabrikant who took the prize for the best essay in our Osler Society this year/a surgical intern at Duke.

and is now

Irene has been finishing her McGill M.Sc. thesis on - so help me - methods of differentiating virulent and seprophytic mycobacteria by the slide-culture technique. What some girls will do for a degree, as the darkie didn't say of Popsy digging up the typhoid pigs! Down your way she'll be working for a Ph.D. under Dr. David T. Smith.

My best to you and yours.

As ever,

Bill

W. W. Francis

WWF:cd

Duke University

DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

August 21, 1956

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

Dear Bill:

I was delighted to receive your letter of 17 August and send you my hearty congratulations on the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine in London.

I was also very glad to have news of Dr. Jack Fabrikant and of his wife, Irene. Needless to say, my wife and I shall do everything we can to make their stay here enjoyable as well as profitable.

I have just returned from the International Pediatric Congress in Copenhagen, and spent a weekend at Oxford. As you probably know, 13 Norham Gardens has a tablet indicating that Sir William lived there. The workmen were all over the place converting that delightful home into three or more apartments. It brought tears to my eyes.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Davison

W. C. Davison

✓
W. C. Davison

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

Sent him
Upde doot
spatist
"Memorial"

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

17 September, 1957 W.C.7

Dear Bill:

There must be something in extra sensory perception because I, in the same mail, received the delightful sketch of you in SCOPE, and your letters and books which Mary Trent Semans loaned me. I am talking to the first year students on Saturday morning on Sir William and the History of Medicine and the SCOPE article and various letters and books will add greatly to the talk.

I enjoyed being on the same program with Wilder Penfield last month at the West Virginia Medical Society and wish that all of us could get together more often.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dave

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

26 September, 1957

Dear Bill:

Many thanks on your delightful reprint on "The Death of Harvey" (if an article on anyone's death can be delightful), and also for your catching me out on "memorial". I know how amused Popsy was over the Welch "Memorial Library" and also how shocked he was to find that we had named one of our wards for him. He said that that was the first time that anyone had named anything alive for him.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dave

W. C. Davison

Dr. William W. Francis
The Osler Library
McGill School of Medicine
Montreal, Canada

C O P Y

C O P Y

7 Louder's Lane

Jamaica Plain, 30

August 22, 1958

Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Davison,

I am sending this quaint little knocker that my sister, Lady Osler picked up for you in Durham, a year ago last summer. We were visiting the Cathedral there - soon after she had heard of your appointment to Duke University - you may know the myth of the Cathedral being built on a spot where St. Cuthbert was buried - his burial place being ordained by some miraculous message as to a "dun-cow" and that there is a huge knocker on the door like this. I fear I am rather vague as to the tale, but at any rate Lady Osler said, "I must get one of those for Davison when he goes to his new home in Durham". In the unpacking of her trunk this was mislaid and when I was distributing her things in her room I found it. She really got it as a joke but I am tempted to send it on to you to show you of her thought and hoping you might like it as a memento.

It is very sad to feel that those wonderful days of the "Open Arms" are over - but the influences therefrom - is spread over the world! Hoping all goes well with you and yours in your tremendous work.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

Susan R. Chapin

W. C. Davison

March 23rd, 1929

COPY

August 22, 1956

Miss Judith Farrar
Duke Hospital Library

Dear Miss Farrar:

I enclose a letter from Mrs. Chapin, Lady Osler's sister, and I am greatly intrigued by the reference to the "dun-cow". Atala and I visited the Durham cathedral and made inquiries about the "dun-cow" message but was not enlightened. There are many "pubs" in different parts of England with a "dun-cow" sign, but none of the keepers thereof seemed to know what the "dun-cow" meant.

We saw in the cathedral wall a monument to a cow leading someone whom I assumed to be St. Cuthbert, but there was no legend.

We also saw the original of the knocker of which Mrs. Chapin sent me a copy. Apparently anyone who could reach the Durham cathedral and put their hands on the ring in the knocker could claim asylum and be tried by ecclesiastical law instead of city laws. It is called the "asylum knocker" rather than the "dun-cow" knocker, but any information you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you for everything you are doing for us and with best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Davison

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Davison.

P.S. - I enclose a copy of the legend, which Miss Farrar found for me.

W.C.D.

FUNDATION AND EARLY LIFE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The early history of the cathedral is associated with S. Cuthbert
 of Lindisfarne. The monk Cuthbert had left Melrose for missionary work
 28 August 1956

Mrs. Susan R. Chapin
 7 Louders Lane
 Jamaica Plain, Mass.

and after his death two years later, his body
 became the most prized possession of the monastery on Holy Isle. When

Dear Mrs. Chapin:
 the Danes seized Lindisfarne in 875, the monks fled to the mainland carrying

Ever since you sent me the knocker which Lady Osler bought in Durham, I
 have been intrigued by its history and with the "Dun-Cow" legend. Therefore,
 my wife and I stopped off in Durham on our way to Copenhagen and tried to obtain
 more information. We were astounded that no one in Durham seemed to know
 anything about the "Dun-Cow", except that she had something to do with St. Cuthbert.
 There is a statue of the "Dun-Cow" leading someone, presumably St. Cuthbert, but
 everyone there seemed very vague about it.

The knocker itself, has a tradition that in the old days anyone who could reach
 it and hold the ring could be tried by ecclesiastical courts instead of the city
 jurisdiction.

I am asking our medical librarian to start a historic research on the
 origin of the "Dun-Cow". Apparently she is an important animal because many
 pubs carry her name.

We also spent a weekend at Oxford, and were very happy that the "Open Arms"
 carries a tablet stating that Sir William lived there. However, the house was covered
 with workmen who were converting it into three or more apartments for younger members
 of the faculty. It brought tears to my eyes to realize the great change that had
 occurred since Lady Osler's death.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Davison.

P.S. - I enclose a copy of the legend, which Miss Farrar found for me.

W.C.D.

of their treasured Saint.' (Notes of Durham)

FOUNDATION AND EARLY RISE OF THE CATHEDRAL

3 8

The early history of the cathedral is associated with S. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. The monk Cuthbert had left Melrose for missionary work in Northumbria and was made Bishop of Lindisfarne in 685. His sanctity endeared him to all men and after his death two years later, his body became the most prized possession of the monastery on Holy Isle. When the Danes sacked Lindisfarne in 875, the monks fled to the mainland carrying with them the precious relic. They wandered over the greater part of northern England and in 882 settled at Chester-le-Street, where the body of S. Cuthbert remained for a century. The many churches in the north which are dedicated to the Saint are said to mark the places at which the monks rested with their burden from time to time. Another Danish invasion in 995 caused S. Cuthbert to take to the road yet again, until the waggon in which his remains were being conveyed came to a sudden halt and remained immovable at Wardilaw near Durham. 'They (the monks) could not with all their force remove his body from thence, which seemed to be fastened to the ground; which strange and unexpected accident wrought great admiration in the hearts of the monks and their associates and ergo they fasted and prayed three days, desiring to know by revelation what they should do with the body of S. Cuthbert; which thing was granted unto them and therein they were directed to carry him to Dunholme And as they were going, a woman that lacked her cow did call aloud to her companion to know if she did not see her, who answered with a loud voice that her cow was in Dunholm, a happy and heavenly echo to the distressed monks, who by that means knew that they were at the end of their journey, where they should find a resting place for the body of their treasured Saint.' (Rites of Durham)

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Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

30 August, 1956

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

Dear Bill:

he didn't

did 1928
I enclose some correspondence which I thought would interest you, as an Oslerian, on the "Dun-Cow" and the replica of the knocker on the Durham Cathedral which Lady Osler bought in 1929 and which Mrs. Chapin kindly sent to me, *and is now on our front door*

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W.C.

W. C. Davison

OSLER LIBRARY,
10 Sept., 1956.

Dr. W. C. Davison,
The Dean,
The School of Medicine,
Duke University,
Durham,
North Carolina, U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

Thanks for the "dun-cow" correspondence which didn't get enclosed the first time. Remember me to Judith Farrar; her page from the "Rites of Durham" interests me. Has no one ever succeeded in depriving your school, via matrimony, of her services? I have a vague recollection of the sanctuary knocker at one or the other, perhaps at both Durhams and I think we never learned how the Cuthbert cow came to be "dunned"; perhaps shortened from the old name of Durham and really the Dunholme cow? I see that the "donne kowe" was one of the heraldic "king's beasts" in 1548, and that she was a "cognizance of the earldom of Richmond". How she ever took to the "pub crawl" is not explained.

I had an exciting day at Durham in 1901. The Chief had told me to look up his "friend" Richard de Bury, bishop of D. in the 14th century, author of his favorite "Philobiblon", collector of manuscripts, and founder of one of the first libraries at Oxford. The verger didn't know where R.'s tomb was, but referred me to a grumpy old canon who didn't quite tell me where to go, but made it clear that he had no interest in anything medieval. The kind verger saw how disgusted I was and took me up to the library after hours and showed me the Cuthbert relics which I was fain to worship, including the fine-toothed, double-sided wooden comb which a Saxon princess made for him with her lily-white hand and which he doubtless needed but never used (few teeth broken!). We found that Richard had been buried beneath the northernmost of the seven altars in the Lady Chapel. Thanks to the blowsy canon and his like all the altars had disappeared, but in 1938 I was glad to see that the Grolier Club of N. Y., which got out a beautiful edition of Philobiblon, had since marked the spot with a handsome tablet.

Dear old Sue Chapin, the Oslerian spirit and New England sense of duty will doubtless bring you an answer to yours of 28 Aug. last, even if her hand is much too unsteady to be entrusted with the address on the envelope. Only lately has her writing and memory

become erratic. She's ninety or ninety-one.

If I get any more light on the dunness of that cow I'll let you know. Meanwhile, my kind remembrances to your Atala - now that I see again how she is spelled. She is not to be compared *fused*! with Attila the Hun!!

*Yrs ever
Bill*

WWF:cd

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

13 September, 1956

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your most interesting letter of 10 September. I was delighted with your search for Richard de Bury's tomb. Apparently the Durham Cathedral people do not take as much interest in their treasures as you and I.

I had a delightful letter from Mrs. Chapin's niece saying that Mrs. Chapin had read the "dun-cow" correspondence with interest, but because of failing eye sight could not answer personally. Her niece, Mrs. Revere said that Mrs. Chapin was now ninety-one years old.

Knowing your interest in poetry and Sir William's interest in the BIBLE, I thought that you would be amused at the enclosed writings of the Reverend John Cotton who was the Vicar in the village in which the Sixty-fifth General Hospital, the Duke unit, was stationed during the war.

Atala and I visited the village in August on our return from Copenhagen. The hospital, which I had not seen since 1945, was unchanged and John Cotton and his wife were as delightful as ever.

Seeing that I was driving a rented English Ford, he presented me with his version of the Twenty-Fourth Psalm and then because I refused a drink during the visit that morning, he presented me with the enclosed poem on the evils of temperance.

Yours sincerely,

Gav

W. C. Davison

7

Third
Twenty-Fourth Psalm:

The Ford is my car I shall not want another,
It maketh me to lie down in wet places;
It soileth my clothes
It leadeth me into ^{the} paths of ridicule for its namesake
It landeth me in deep waters
It prepareth a breakdown for me in the presence of mine enemies
Yea, tho I run down the valleys, I am towed up the hills
I feel much evil whilst it is with me
Its rods and its engines miscomfort me
It anointeth my face with oil; its tank runneth over
Surely to goodness, the damn thing won't follow me all the days of
my life or I shall dwell in the habitation of the insane forever.

Re Rev. John Cotton

via W.C. Benson

Duke University.

Sept 5-6.

The cow and horse live thirty years
and nothing know of wine or beers;
The goat and sheep at twenty die
without the aid of rum and rye;
The sow drinks water by the ton
and at eighteen is nearly done;
The cat in milk and water soaks
and then in ten short years it croaks;
The dog at fifteen cashes in
still ignorant of scotch and gin;
The honest bone dry thrifty hen
lays eggs for years then dies at ten;
All animals are strictly dry
They sinless live and swiftly die
But sinful ginful beersoaked men
Survive for three score years and ten
And some of us the mighty few
Stay pickled till we're ninety-two.

The Rev. John Cotton
via W.C. Davison
Durham University
Sept. '86.

DAVISON

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

air mail
postmarked 16th!
rec'd 18th.

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

9 September 1952

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your letter of the 28th on "decaloriation". I am having it mimeographed to present to my fat friends and am giving it to my wife as a placebo when she looks so ^{askance}scannable at my huge appetite, and my sometimes vain efforts to curb it.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Law

Wilburt C. Davison

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

OSLER LIBRARY,
2 June, 1952.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Duke University,
Durham,
N. C.,
U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

Glad you liked our W. O., midwife. You won't be so glad to get this, but you are a staunch enough Dean (I avoid the word "stout") to stand the hopeless excess of applications for admission.

I promised an unsuccessful fellow ^{pre-med.} I'd write to you. He's Robert M. Slack (but what's in a name?), 1802 D. St., Eureka, Calif. His marks at U. of Cal. were not good ^{enough} and he took an extra year here, but I gather that our climate got into his sinuses about exam times. Perhaps peirophobia, if the Greeks hadn't been too sensible to have a word for exams.

I recommended him to apply first to Nashville, where an old friend of his and mine, Robert Quinn, ex-president of our Osler Soc., has recently joined the faculty. Otherwise Duke would have been his first choice. He's determined to be a doctor. It's tough nowadays for his type.

Tell Miss Farrar I hope to get to the Lake Placid meeting and to see her there.

Yours ever,

W. W. Francis

(W. W. Francis.)

WFF:ed

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

26 May 1952

Dear Bill:

Many, many thanks for the reprint of your and Pierce Rucker's interesting article, Sir William Osler's Obstetrical Interest. I had not seen the article, and I am delighted to have the reprint. Hearty congratulations to both of you.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W.C. Davison

Wilburt C. Davison

6 June 1951

OSLER LIBRARY,
13 June, 1951.

Dr. Wilburt C. Davison,
Duke University,
Durham,
N. C., U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

What a pair of sky-trotters!

No trace here of F. C. Osler, Ltd. He could be descended from W. O.'s great-uncle Benjamin who used to sail boatloads of colonists to the Cape, fighting off pirates en route, and who finally settled there. Some of his descendants went to Australia, where there have been several good Osler cricketers and at least two good doctors. Others of his descendants, but not Oslers, are around Simsbury, Conn. Joe Pratt's daughter married one of them. None that I know of in India, except an Osler uncle of mine who died there as a young unmarried man. I saw a badly wounded South African Osler in 1917 who could scarcely speak English. His father died young and his mother was a Boer, but he knew he was descended from Benjamin.

"Electrical Supply business" suggests the Birmingham family, who pronounce their name the same way. W. O. was interested in them, but could trace no connection. They are chiefly glass manufacturers and very wealthy. The Osler who graduated recently in medicine at J. H. belonged to them. A brother of his went through here in medicine, but after one visit to the O. L. and learning that he was not an unremote cousin, he never came near me.

It is not an uncommon name. There are half a dozen unaccountable Oslers in the Montreal telephone book. A Dr. Osler was practising in Maryland in W. O.'s day. His daughter told me that W. O. claimed her as a niece when she was 17, but she admits that she was particularly goodlooking; so the name was not necessary!

Yours ever,

Wil

WWF:cd

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

6 June 1951

Dr. William W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill Univ. Medical School
Montreal, Canada

Dear Bill:

While I was in Calcutta I saw a sign of a big firm, F. C. Osler, Ltd., of India. They were in the electrical supply business. Were they any ~~kind~~ to Sir William?

My wife and I spent six weeks in Japan with the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, and then returned via Hong Kong, Bangkok, Calcutta, Delhi, Agra, Beirut, Damascus, Istanbul and London. It was a tremendously interesting experience.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Dave

Wilburt C. Davison

broth around 6. ix.

re Slack white as better
than if he went now to Duke
during his appreciation from
for next year. W. T. O.

OSLER LIBRARY,
18 August, 1952.

Dr. W. C. Davison,
Duke University, N. C.,
Durham,
N. C.,
U. S. A.

Dear Dave,

About time I answered yours of July 17th!

I can't understand about Slack; sorry I bothered you with him. Strange that your letter should have come back from his home address! He came back here to spend the summer, but I've not seen or heard from him.

Nice of you to congratulate me on "The World's Best Doctor" in "New Liberty", but I had never heard of the writer (a Torontonian, Match) nor of the gaudy magazine. It was well done, and that's why I sent it to you.

Your alcoholic question is unsolved. "Milk of the aged" sounds like W. O. but I can't pin it on him. The reference (46) is Camac's Counsels to an speech by W. O. on alcohol, which Camac quotes, is a mystery. It is not in the Abbott or other bibliographies, nor is the occasion mentioned in the "Life", nor can I find "St. Elizabeth Parish Magazine, (London, 1905" in the Union List. It also escaped Archie Malloch's net. The not does not occur in three pages of notes by W. O. about his remarks at an undated meeting, where he spoke of alcohol and the human machine (MS. 7662, leaves 139-41).

It is thoroughly consistent with his preaching and practice. I think I told you once about his inducing his life-long teetotal mother to take a glass of sherry every afternoon in her nineties, and the comical farce we children always enjoyed if we visited the old dear between 4.50 and 5. "I wonder where your aunt Jennette is? What time is it now?" - every five minutes. "You

P. T. O.

I don't approve, but your uncle makes me take a little wine every day as MEDICINE. "Isn't it five yet?" It was certainly more than milk to her!

Yours ever,

Bill

Dr. W. C. Davidson,
Duke University,
(W. W. Francis)
Durham,
N. C.,
U. S. A.

WWF:cd

Dear Dave,

P.S. I had occasion to ask Dr. Radbill, who referred me to Camac, and who says that his wife remarked that everybody knows that expression, "Alcohol is milk for the middle-aged." I've not seen or heard from him, his home address. He came back here to spend the summer, but with him.

Also of you to congratulate me on "The World's Best Doctor" in "New Liberty", but I had never heard of the writer (a Torontonian, March) nor of the gaudy magazine. It was well done, and that's why I sent it to you.

Your alcoholic question is uninvolved. "Milk of the aged" sounds like W. O. but I can't pin it on him. The reference (48) to Camac's Gomosis to apocryph by W. O. on alcohol, which Camac quotes, is a mystery. It is not in the Abbott or other bibliographies, nor is the occasion mentioned in the "Life", nor can I find "St. Nicholas" (London, 1908) in the Union List. It also escaped Frodo's Malloch's net. The copy does not occur in three pages of notes by W. O. about his remarks at an undated meeting, where he spoke of alcohol and the human machine (MS. Y662, leaves 150-21).

It is thoroughly consistent with his preaching and practice. I think I told you once about his inducing his life-long medical mother to take a glass of cherry every afternoon in her nineties, and the occasional force we children always enjoyed it so visited the old den between 4.30 and 5. "I wonder where your aunt Langston is? What time is it now?" - every five minutes. "You

P. T. C.

Duke University
DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine
Office of the Dean
Reply to Undersigned

25 August 1952

28th
Aug 21, 1952
champagne 750
= 50 for dinner &
wh. 4000 under
6' fast & lunch.
Inayance.
C. L. N.

Dear Bill:

Many, many thanks for your interesting, amusing and informative letter of the 18th on alcohol. I certainly shall continue to use the quote, even though it may not be authentic.

I have been on a fast scramble to reduce my weight, and have found that the caloric content of wine, beer, and highballs is higher than that of milk. Perhaps I am not sufficiently well into middle age to shift.

Thanking you again, and with best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

W.C.D.

Wilburt C. Davison