

BURNDY LIBRARY

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

OSLER LIBRARY,
26 Feb., 1953.

Mr. Bern Dibner,
Director,
Burndy Library,
Norwalk,
Conn., U. S. A.

OSLER LIBRARY,
18 Feb., 1953.

Dear Mr. Dibner,

The four magnificent publications have arrived at last. It apparently took our postmaster two weeks to make up his mind to part with them and let them in free. One can't blame him. They do look luxurious; but they read like solid and useful contributions. Miss Desbarats insists on throwing out a pathology exhibit from the Medical Library show-cases and filling them with the beautiful Stradanian "Discoveries".

Officially: please accept the thanks of the McGill Medical Faculty and the "Curators" (trustees) of the Osler Library for the splendid gift of your "Dr. M. Gilbert", "Stradanius", "Galvani-Volta" and "Faraday", publications of the Burndy Library.

As a very bronze quid for your golden quo, I am sending you a pamphlet on Léo Pariseau (1882-1944) our X-ray martyr, who had an excellent collection of old books on medical electricity. Unfortunately, they are not yet shelved at the University of Montreal to which they were given.

He and a botanical monk, Brother Marie-Victorin, fought and won the battle for science at our French Catholic university. At a celebration of the 200th anniversary of Galvani's birth, I helped to the extent of showing our De viribus electricitatis, when Pariseau put on a really masterly repetition of Galvani's experiments. The great hall was packed and, to my astonishment, largely by black-cassocked seminarians and older theologs who, to my still greater astonishment, roared with laughter at his blasphemous clowning. He had a huge green porcelain frog on the table and before each experiment he struck a pious attitude, or even went down on his knees, and said a prayer in Latin to Sancta Rana or in French to Sainte Grenouille!

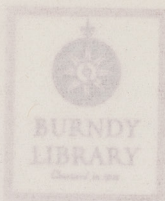
I wish he could have seen these gems of yours.

Gratefully,

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

WWF:cd
Encl:-

BURNDY



LIBRARY

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

February 6, 1953

OSLER LIBRARY,
18 Feb., 1953.

Mr. Bern Dibner,
Director,
Burndy Library,
Norwalk,
Conn., U.S.A.

Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec
Canada

Dear Mr. Dibner,

Att: Librarian

I was very sorry to miss your visit, especially as my knowledgeable secretary, Miss Desbarats, tells me that she learned so much from your visit. We thought I had best let you know that the item mentioned in your kind letter of the 6th as being separately sent, has not turned up. We know from experience that perhaps it is being mishandled in our Montreal Customs House. The enclosed may be of interest to you.

I hope you may pay us another visit, and I wish my visits to New Haven were not a thing of the past; I should like to look up Norwalk and your Library.

Yours sincerely,

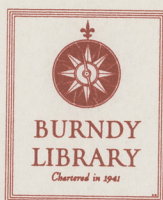
Bern Dibner
Director

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

Sent under separate cover.

WWP:cd

BURNDY LIBRARY



NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

February 6, 1953

Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec
Canada

Att: Librarian

It was a great pleasure to visit you the other day and to be shown the magnificent collection that Dr. Osler assembled during his long and useful lifetime. To think that he was able at the same time to rise to the top of his profession indicates what a massive intellect he was.

The enclosed may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

BURNDY LIBRARY

Bern Dibner
Director

BD/ag

Sent under separate cover.

OSLER LIBRARY,
19 Feb., 1954.

Mr. B. Dibner,
Burndy Library,
Norwalk,
Conn., U. S. A.

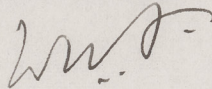
Dear Mr. Dibner,

Another of your generous masterpieces of
history-writing and of printing. Many thanks, from me
and from our Medical Faculty.

I only wish it had arrived a month ago
and then I could have explained to my wife the difference
between an ohm and an ampère. My electrology was rusty.

We have a show-case full of your Stradamus
prints which are exciting a great deal of interest.

Gratefully yours,



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

WWF:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
14 April, 1955.

Dr. Bern Dibner,
Burndy Library,
Norwalk,
Conn., U. S. A.

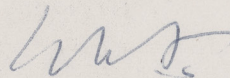
Dear Dr. Dibner,

Many thanks from me and the University authorities for the sumptuous "Heralds of Science", one other of your magnificently written and printed contributions to the history of science. Both pictures and text are instructive and it is a pleasure to turn the pages and enjoy old friends and new.

I love your gracefully grateful dedication to the booksellers!

The folder, "Burndy, a unique institution", is just what I wanted to clear up some of your mystery, though it fails to explain how you manage to do it.

Yours sincerely,



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

WWF:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
18 Feb., 1959.

Mr. Bern Dibner,
The Burndy Library,
Norwalk,
Conn., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Dibner,

Many thanks for the splendid account of "The Atlantic Cable."

For me it brings back memories of childhood; we used to pore sadly over an album of photos of the "Great Eastern" at her last anchorage. My mother's first husband, Henry Bath, very much her senior, was one of the Swansea syndicate that bought the monster for scrap.

Here in the Osler Library we have extracts from the diary of a famous veterinary surgeon, Griffith Evans, who came to Canada about 1862 with a Guards regiment. He records that it was the first time horses had ever been exercised at sea, and that the captain would allow not more than twenty horses on deck at one time, the leviathan was so top-heavy.

Gratefully yours,

W. W. F.

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

WWF:cd

The Osler

THE CLEVELAND MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

11000 EUCLID AVENUE

CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

HOWARD DITTRICK MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL
MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM

OSLER LIBRARY,
28 Sept., 1949.

Dear Doctor,
Dr. Howard Dittrick,
3520 Euclid Heights Blvd.,
Cleveland Heights 18,
O., U. S. A.

Dear Howard Dittrick,

"Tit for tat"
Butter for fat"

I send you mine.

I've pocketed your Canadian 3¢ excise stamp and enclosed your Abbott letter in one of my own to Mrs. A., c/o her son Dr. Osler A. Abbott, Emory University, Ga., where he is on the surgical staff. She lives in Lexington, I think, where her husband was bishop (after leaving Baltimore).

The only other spots where you've got a little off the track (or one of us has!) are 1) your Birchall (in my source, a legal obituary, Birchall was the murderer, not the victim); 2) Hyams, I think, was B. B. O.'s only failure - the jury thought he hadn't proved it, though everyone knew they did it; and 3) surely Crippen was the London (England) dentist murderer, arrested as he got off the boat here in Montreal, the first to be "pinched" by wireless, and after B. B. O.'s death. But who cares for these pettifogging legal technicalities?

Pay me another visit and see my oval face light up and burst into a grin from ear to ear.

Yours sincerely,

W. F.

WFF:cd
Encls:-

Cult 5-01#?? ME??

Howard Dittrick

The Dean

THE CLEVELAND MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
11000 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

HOWARD DITTRICK MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL
MEDICINE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM

Oct 28/48

Dear Doctor Francis:

Before you have had a chance to forget all about the anaesthetists who recently visited your library, I wish to thank you for the many courtesies extended to us. The display of books, dealing with anaesthesia in early days and paradoxically even before it was discovered, were much appreciated by our members. I was impressed also by the splendid cooperation of the faculty of McGill and the cordial hospitality of the Canadian members. Some the high spots were 'Mornings with Francis' and Tea with Dr. Clerpman.

I have not been able to find that very flavorful article by Dr. Martin Fischer of Brunswick on *De Spiritibus Naturalibus et Destillatis*. As soon as it turns up, I will forward it.

There were many inquiries about you in Washington at the meeting of Honorary Consultants. Pat Cushing, John Hutton, Henry Veto, Ballard and many other old cronies of yours were happy to learn that you were back on the job. I learned that Joe Hunt is having a return of his old trouble.

Cordially yours,

Howard Dittrick

OSLER LIBRARY,
5 March, 1953.

Dr. H. Dittrick,
3520 Euclid Heights Blvd.,
Cleveland, 18,
Ohio, U. S. A.

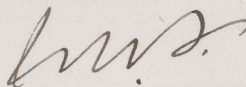
Dear Howard Dittrick,

I failed to thank you for a pleasant batch of reprints that helped to un-flu me a few weeks ago. Those comical clyster-buttons of Henry Viets put me in mind of my neglect. One can hardly accuse him of having concocted them, but despite the costumes and apparatus they suggest modernity; so I favor the Parisian bimillennium theory.

A local lady gave us last year an extraordinary pseudo-gold-headed, steel cane, carried for years by her grandfather, Dr. Houser, in Iowa City. A cap on the handle unscrews to accommodate the old aromatic or antiseptic sponge and the shaft unscrews to reveal a tin trough into which fit snugly eleven phials of "parvules", pink pills, respectable drugs of yore in allopath dosage! Round the neck of the handle, Patent 1886 / Dr. W. J. Conners.

I suppose your Museum has one; if not, I regret I can't offer you ours. Anyway, I'd hate to part with it; it excites so much interest. I've seen prohibition canes concealing one long bottle, or a rapier (when gentlemen, were prohibited from carrying swords), but never before a practitioner's armamentarium!

Yours sincerely,



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

WWF:cd

THE CLEVELAND MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
11000 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

HOWARD DITTRICK MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL
MEDICINE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM

March 21, 1953.

Dear Doctor Francis:

Like the man when proffered a gift of a book replied, I must answer in kind, "I have a cane." My reply is dictated by your intimation that I couldn't have it anyhow. Otherwise I would have approached you on bended knee.

There are three canes in our collection. One has fourteen vials fitted into a tin trough that extends the entire length of the cane. The bottles contain allopathic remedies. The second contains only five vials with their homeopathic labels on the corks. One of these little vials contains a dirty greyish-white powder and is labelled XYZ. I believe that the powder is morphine. The third is a delicate bamboo specimen, about the length of a swagger stick. But the head is of ivory decorated with silver. In this head is a cavity for a sponge to retain aromatics to ward off such scourges as jail or hospital fever. This dates back before 1800.

Confidentially any time that you are looking for a last resting place for your stick, remember our Museum.

An encouraging note.- Mrs. Dittrick has had no return of her coronary embarrassment since the Sigerist dinner in New York. I take it that you also have had no further trouble. We both hope so.

Cordially,

Howard Dittrick

OSLER LIBRARY,
2 April, 1953.

Dr. H. Dittrick,
Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine,
11000 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland 6,
O., U. S. A.

Dear Howard Dittrick,

You would have three of them! I might have known!
You remind me of an older brother who if I had a splitting
headache always had a far worse one, but wasn't saying any-
thing about it, &c. At least our vial of dirty greyish-
white powder is honestly labeled Morphine not XYZ, which
reminds me that I ought to empty it before the vice-squad
overtakes us.

Kind regards to you both. So glad to hear that
Mrs. D. is behaving as uncoronarily as I am.

Cordially (not cardially),

W.F.

WWF:cd

P.S. I suppose you also have U. S. Patent 11,942,
granted in 1854 to Alpheus Kayers of Logansport,
Ind. (when the State Asylum was subsequently
founded) - a tapeworm trap. You bait the
hook with it & spring it when Taenia nibbles
and you haul me up by the neck!

U. S. Patent of 1903

SE/LF:

W.F.

THE CLEVELAND MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
11000 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO

HOWARD DITTRICK MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL
MEDICINE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM

April 18, 1953.

Dear Billy Francis:

What library has the best collection of Daniel Drake? The Cleveland Medical Library of course. We have all of Drake's journals. Pat Cushing presented us with many desirable items. All in all we are proud of our Drake collection. However Louisville and Cincinnati probably have more and I feel sure that Dave Tucker in Cincinnati would be delighted to have the Samuel Drake number. Dave deserves any little appreciation like that because of his action at Columbus.

Years ago Krumbhaar obtained a seal for the Association. After Sigerist took over the seal disappeared and there has been a lot of buck passing between the College of Physicians and Hopkins ever since. Dr. Krumbhaar has kept the matter alive at most every Annual Meeting since. At Columbus Dave Tucker generously undertook to sponsor the purchase of a new seal. I am sure that Dr. Krumbhaar will be pleased no end.

Next year we meet at New Haven. Has McGill any desire to have the group meet there? I believe that the men would like to come.

Cordially,

Howard Dittrick

OSLER LIBRARY,
15 April, 1953.

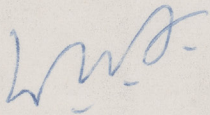
Dr. H. Dittrick,
Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine,
11000 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland 6,
O., U. S. A.

Dear Howard Dittrick,

What library has the best collection of Daniel Drake? I've been offered the free disposal of what may be a rare (though certainly remote) item, "Drake of Hampton, New Hampshire", a large single sheet, folded and bound, printed in 1867, and signed in MS. by the compiler, Samuel G. Drake. There are several Daniels but no demonstrable connection with the Daniel.

Kind regards to you and Mrs. D.
I hope things went well at Columbus. Did I tell you that a friend of mine here has been given a telephone number ATLantic 1492?

Yours sincerely,



WWF:cd