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Chapter XVIII
Cyfra twenty five years
1899

Early in the year he wrote to J. G. Adami in Montreal: "I am so grieved to hear of Kanthack's death - it is a grievous loss to all of us. Poor fellow! ^{So Osler wrote early in the year in a note to Adami in which he wrote} and he had so much to live for and so much to do." But he adds, ^{But he adds} "I am out of the question." ^{Apparently both he and Adami had been asked to apply for the} Chair in Pathology at the University of Cambridge, rendered vacant ^{by the death of the man} of the lamented Professor A. A. Kanthack. ^{He was a} man after Osler's own heart, brought up in a pathological laboratory, who had filled the ^{post} in Cambridge for only a short few months ^{before his death at the age of thirty-five.} And in another ^{note} sent later the same day ^{he begs} Adami to send ^{a note about} Kanthack ^{for} to the Philadelphia Medical Journal, ^{"If you send it by Saturday} eve it will be in time."

^{It is tempting to surmise an Osler habit of informal note writing:} Thus he ^{would have others read} needed 'the flighty purpose'. ^{for} Whenever ^{in his reading,} something suggested itself to his mind, a card always convenient to his hand was scribbled and posted. Even when he received reprints of other people's papers, - instead of the ^{usual} perfunctory acknowledgment, ^{if any at all,} steel-engraved as is the custom with some - he would ^{invariably} send a warm though brief note ^{of greeting.} Thus, ^{Some sort of personal message.}

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in an undated note of this time to H. P. Bowditch:

Dear H. P. Greetings to you and yours! I have just been reading your "Reform in Medical Education" with every bit of which I fully agree. To one relief of the early congestion you did not refer - viz. the exclusion of Chemistry (Gen. & Lab.) from the strictly Medical curriculum. We found here that it is a great boon - the students have a three months course only on Physiological Chemistry. There are schools in the country (U. P. for ex.) in which the Chemistry takes up more time in the first two years than any other subjects. I have abandoned didactic lectures altogether - but I talk a great deal (with my feet dangling from a table which I find is a great help). Your lecture will do good. Love to all at home. Ever yours

W^m Osler

~~It is tempting to dwell on this habit of impulsive note-writing.~~

brief messages

Even his ~~notes of invitation~~ were apt to have some twist out of the ordin-

ary like the following on the back of a calling-card left for one of the

nurses who had come down from Hamilton Ontario to enter the training school.

Will you please if you can get off (without disturbing the equanimity of the Vestalia, and without distress to any of your youthful companions) come to tea at 4.30.

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~~During this January there were a succession of messages sent to Dr. and~~

Mrs. John A. Mullin or to their son, in Hamilton Ontario. His acquaintance

with the old doctor dated back to the days of ~~his early interest in tri-~~~~chinosia~~, when as a medical student he had gone from Montreal to Hamilton*tuberculosis*
to see a case of ~~this rare disease~~ with Archibald Malloch Sr. who wasMullin's friend and contemporary. ~~He must have seen Dr. Mullin during~~*These are friends*
to Toronto he must have stopped off to see Dr. Hamilton (and on his return
Dr. Mullin who wrote)
his recent Christmas visit, ~~and early in January he writes encouragingly to his wife~~*Cherwell*
~~and asks nothing for me.~~ And almost every Sunday a ~~message~~ goes to the old doctor:
if true but

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1 West Franklin Street,
Monday

Dear Mrs. Mullin I have been encouraged by what Dr Malloch has written of your good old man; but your account is not so favourable. I am afraid that he does not take food enough. I would tempt him with all sorts of digestible things - birds sweet-breads oysters &c, and make him take the milk - or butter-milk - in the intervals between meals. He should rest on his back quietly for at least half an hour after eating. Do not let him go out at night - it is a useless waste of his strength; insist upon this point. I am very sorry to hear of the continued loss in weight; it means that his stomach is not doing its work well. I have written the young Doctor today. Do let me hear from time to time how he progresses. Harry Wrights death was a great shock. He was a fine character. With love to the Doctor, Sincerely yours

W^m Osler

~~And on a Sunday a brief note, postmarked January 15th:~~

Dear Mullin How goes the battle? With Israel I hope. I left you in bed & rather wretched after a sharp attack of pain. I hope you are up again and doing what you can in the way of work without tiring yourself. Let me hear soon how you are. . . .

~~And again the next Sunday:~~

Dear Mullin I was very glad to have your letter today - to hear the more cheerful news of your breadbasket. Do take it easy & make the young Doctor do most of the work. I should have answered Mrs Mullins letter which I was very glad to have, but I have been very much driven for the past ten days. . . . With love to all at home.

as
~~was~~ *is* evident from his mother's letter which expresses concern
about his 'Benjamin' and which admit that she herself
because of the information ~~given~~ *given* 'often feels the first of a burden'
(94 years)

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An epidemic of influenza was prevalent at the time ^{which later} ~~and he~~ did not escape.

But when housed by temporary illness his wheels nevertheless continued to re-
volve. On January 9th he writes to H. M. Hurd, who for years had shouldered
the responsibilities of editing the Hospital ^{publications.} ~~Bulletin.~~

We should have a meeting at an early date about the Bulletin. I
have asked Mall to have a chat with you about it. I think there should
be an Editorial Committee composed of you and Mall and Abel and Howell and
a couple of the younger men, with Smith as secretary, to do the proof
reading and to relieve you of all the worry of it. There should be not
the slightest difficulty in arranging for the Medical School fund to stand
some of the expense, as it has practically been the organ of the Medical
School since the School started.

I hope to take up work tomorrow. I feel quite myself today.

He was sufficiently himself to put together a stirring address

On January 11th his mother, now ninety-four, writes concerning her
'Benjamin', to Mrs. Osler.

As the days pass I feel more and more the infirmities of old age,
sight dim, and hearing very low. "The Grass-hopper a burden" often - when
a note should be written I postpone till I am a little brighter, &c, &c.
I know that you and Willie should have heard from me before, but for this,
and I would have acknowledged ^{to} ~~Revere~~ the receipt of the Picture Book -
Thank him for it with my love and many kisses - there is evidently some

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hidden meaning in it which might be difficult for him to explain to me if I asked him, so I'll let him enjoy his tacks and hammer and not puzzle his brains just yet. When I heard of W. F. having Grippe I felt sure others would follow suit but I do sincerely hope it may not spread - I am glad that my Benj. was well enough to be up and enjoy the fireside comfort; the epidemic seems everywhere Toronto is indulging freely in it. . . .

And later in the month this lively and unforgetting old lady, in acknowledging the weekly letter from 1 West Franklin Street, writes:

I wonder has that precious Revere given up the musical hammer and nail amusement, if indulging in it still Willie had better let Morris get him brass-headed nails to ornament the furniture in the Drawing Room - perhaps this nail-driving may indicate firmness of purpose in any thing he undertakes, bestow many kisses on the dear boy for me and tell Willie to study up some of the precepts of Solomon about the bringing up of children - but there is a proverb of later date about Pebbles and Glass Houses &c &c so I will no more or may get the worst of it.

~~And again this admonition of a grandmother in the middle of a long letter:~~

Thank my precious Revere for his letter, it must be veritable Indian the words are so long - all I can decipher is o s l e r in two places. What a fund of amusement he must afford the house. Pet him, love him, but do not spoil him.

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On ~~February 1st~~ in Albany, before the New York State Medical Society, he ^{association}

~~gave a stirring~~ address on "The Problem of Typhoid Fever in the United States"

~~an~~ ^{arranging} arraignment of the national shortcomings in matters of public hygiene and sanitation. ^{Sum. at Albany on Feb. 1st before the New York State Medical Socy.} Today, ^{in spite of} with all our ^{many} schools of hygiene and special la-

boratories and princely funds devoted to the purpose, there is no voice or

pen comparable to his, ^{in this fashion} able to rouse the profession and the people to their

duties. He said that the very staleness of his subject was a warrant for re-

petition, that its triteness made earnest reiteration necessary, for the coun-

try had had a very bitter lesson in the war - a sad conclusion to a brilliant

victory. He reviewed the history of typhoid in the country; ^{total of} the labours of

Louis's pupils and their writings on the subject; ~~such as Elisha Bartlett's~~

~~essay in 1842~~ ^{and outlined} the progress of our knowledge leading up to the triumphs of

sanitation. "That imperfect drainage and a polluted water supply means a high

mortality rate from typhoid fever is the very alphabet of sanitary science."

Let us turn from this picture with its glowing colours to a more sombre canvas. Last autumn this nation, in the moment of victory, had a rude awakening, a sudden conviction, a hard lesson. A voice like that heard in ^{Ramah} Ramah went up throughout the land - 'lamentation and weeping and great mourning.' From Montauk Point to San Francisco, from Minneapolis

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to Tampa, Rachels were weeping for their lads, cut off by a cruel disease. The most bloodless campaign in history was followed by a relatively greater mortality from disease than in any recent war, and chiefly from this very disease over which I have been chanting the paeans of the triumph of our profession. To us these autumnal dirges rang no new tune; we had heard the same in the palace of the rich, in the crowded tenement, in the hospital ward, in peaceful New England valleys, in the settler's shanty of the far West, in the lumberman's shack, in the mining camp. Year by year we had listened to the Rachels of this land weeping for their fair sons and fairer daughters, not killed by any pestilence that walked in darkness, but by a preventable sickness that destroyed in the noon-day - the noon-day of the intelligence of a civilized people. People asked each other, what did it all mean? Nothing more than a slight extension of the judgment upon criminal neglect of sanitary laws. The number of soldiers who died of typhoid fever during and after the war was a bagatelle in comparison with the total annual deaths from the disease in this typhoid-stricken country. Throughout the length and breadth of the land typhoid fever prevails so extensively in township and county, in village and city, that any large body of men aggregated together was almost certain to become infected.

This is a nation of contradictions and paradoxes. A clean people, by whom personal hygiene is carefully cultivated, displays in matters of public sanitation a carelessness which is criminal. A sensible people, among whom education is more widely diffused than in any other country in the world, supinely acquiesces in conditions shameful beyond expression. I do not propose to weary you with statistics, of which our Journals and Reports are full, but I will refer to a few facts drawn at random from three cities and three States, illustrating this shocking neglect.

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And he went on to expose Philadelphia, Baltimore and the National Capitol as examples of how in sanitary measures we were a generation behind Europe.

The solution of the problem is easy. What has been done in many parts of Europe can be done here; the practical conviction of the people is all that is necessary. Upon them is the responsibility. Let us meanwhile neither scold nor despair. The good-natured citizens who make up our clientèle, pay our bills and vote the straight party ticket, have but little appreciation of a scientific question, and are led as easily (more easily) by a Perkins or a Munyon than by a Lister or a Koch. Under the circumstances it is marvellous that so much has been achieved in fifty years. 'The larger sympathy of man with man', which we physicians are called upon to exercise daily in our calling, demands that we continue our efforts - efforts often fruitless in results, but very helpful to ourselves - to educate this foolish public. What is needed seems so easy of accomplishment - the gain would be so enormous! We ask so little - the corresponding benefits are so great! We only demand that the people of this country shall do what Elisha asked of Naaman the Syrian - that they shall wash and be clean - that they shall scour the soil on which they live, and cleanse the water which they drink.

On the same day in an extemporaneous address to the ^{Albany} medical students, he

Albany Medical Annals 1899, xx, 307.

emphasized three things: the good fortune which was their's in entering medicine just at this time; doing the day's work without too much thought of the ^{Morrow which gave a chance for} ~~future, emphasized by~~ his favourite quotation from Carlyle; and lastly, the need of cultivating equally the head and heart.

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There is [he is quoted as saying] a strong feeling abroad among people - you see it in the newspapers - that we doctors are given over nowadays to science; that we care much more for the disease and its scientific aspects than for the individual. I don't believe it, but at any rate, whether that tendency exists or not, I would urge upon you in your own practice to care particularly for John and Elizabeth, as George Eliot says, - but I will not add, especially for Elizabeth - but to care more particularly for the individual patient than for the special features of the disease. . . . Dealing, as we do, with poor suffering humanity, we see the man unmasked, exposed to all the frailties and weaknesses, and you have to keep your heart pretty soft and pretty tender lest you have too great a contempt for your fellow creatures. The best way is to keep a looking-glass in your own heart, and the more carefully you scan your own frailties the more tender you are for those of your fellow creatures.

Science however was by no means forgotten, for the staff ^{at the Hopkins} one and all

were busily engaged in forwarding knowledge as best they could. This ^{spirit was} ~~was~~

~~permeated the undergraduates, and such a discovery as had been made by~~
~~true even of the junior house officers he was training, one of whom, T. R.~~

~~an undergraduate two years before had regarding the Eosinophilia~~
 Brown, ~~at this time made a new observation upon the blood picture~~ of trichi-

nosis, ~~a discovery which alone well atoned for the hours over the micro-~~
 scope counting blood-cells to which the Hopkins students of the day were

subjected. Brown at this time had just reported his fourth case and later

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Osler's interest in trichinosis and parasitology in general dated back as will be recalled, from his detection as a student in Toronto, of the parasites in the body he was dissecting, examples of which went enthusiastically to Father Johnson in Weston. By this time Brown's discovery had been confirmed by other observers and he was led to put together an article in which his personal experiences with the disease were assembled*, and to his former

*"The Clinical Features of Sporadic Trichinosis." American Journal of Medical Sciences, March 1899.

assistant C. N. B. Camac wrote as follows.

1 West Franklin Street.
2.9.99

Dear Camac So glad to hear from you. I am sure the Clin. Microscopy work will tell. It is most attractive for the students and young doctors. So glad of the gall-bladder article. It will do too for our third Typhoid studies at which I am at last at work. I have been much driven this winter - so much on hand and so many calls. By the way look out for the mild cases of trichinosis at Bellevue - The eosinophilia is most remarkable. Thayer has just found a 6th case in a nurse in town. It is really a very good blood find. You remember one of the cases when you were here. The associate Professor is doing so well - a good many calls out of town. We still miss you & your good system - The new school I hope will make progress Schuman was here a few weeks ago - full of hope & plans. Mrs. O & Ike are well - I hope to see you at an early date ~~I have only passed thro N. Y. in my past three visits.~~ Mrs Osler sends love. Yours ever

W^m Osler

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'So much on hand and so many calls.' From January to May of this year consultations were incessant - his afternoon hours filled, and many demands from out of town. Yet his other activities did not suffer ~~nor his literary productivity fall off~~, and one or two papers each month ^{were} ~~are~~ sent off to rejoice the editor of some ~~of the~~ struggling medical journals of little more than local reputation, to many of which he permitted his name to be attached as collaborator. By this time, also, announcements ^{had} ~~have~~ begun to appear regarding the coming Centennial Anniversary of the Maryland 'Faculty', for which a liberal sum of money ^{must needs be subscribed -} ~~was needed to carry through the plans~~ - "contributions to be sent as soon as possible to Dr. William Osler at 1 West Franklin Street"; and he took advantage of every possible occasion to appeal for funds, as he did on January 25th before the Book and Journal Club of which he was President - a meeting at which he described his visit of the summer before to Sydenham's birthplace.

February was the month of the memorable blizzard, and on the 18th he writes Dr. Lawrason Brown one of the students who during his third year had contracted tuberculosis and gone to join Trudeau:

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P.S. Adirondack drifts at - 1 West Franklin Street
2.18.99

Dear Brown Greetings! & best wishes for your pulmonic health! A nephew, Rev. H. C. G---, of Toronto, has just developed Tub. laryngitis 8 weeks duration. No trouble evident in lungs - condition good - no fever but bacilli found. I wish him to go to the Adr. at once. I have written Trudeau asking about the Sanitarium's private rooms but I tho't it would save time to ask you to let me know of some good boarding houses - with prices, &c. Love to Oliver - I hope you are both on the primrose path! Yours

W^m Osler

And lest this sound flippant, a letter sent at the same time to his nephew, ^{helping} him to cheer up his mother ^{for} "to know one enemy is half the battle", may be given to show that he was serious enough and overlooked nothing in his behalf.

2.18.99.

Dear Herbert, Norman tells me that they have found tubercle bacilli in the sample you gave me - the first one. This confirms McKenzies suspicions that the trouble is serious, & explains its chronic course & resistance to all treatment. The only thing to do, under these circumstances, is to face the music, & take the climatic measures necessary to fight the disease. Of all places the Adirondacks is the most suitable & gives the best prospect of permanent cure. Dr. T. Mclean is a personal friend of mine and will do everything for you. You will be able in a year to undertake some work - tutoring &c. & the class of people who go there in the summer give an opportunity for remunerative work in

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that line You must not however feel in any way hampered about the
f.s.d. That will be arranged. With lungs healthy - so far as we can
judge - the outlook should be very good. Cheer up your mother - who
will of course feel very badly about it, but good may come of it, &
let us be thankful that the condition is not worse. I have written
to Dr. Trudeau & to Dr. Baldwin. I will write again so soon as I hear
from Dr. T. To know ones enemy is half the battle & you have an A.I.
constitution Your affec uncle

Willie

Early in the year he had accepted the invitation from the West London Medi-
co-Chirurgical Society to give the Cavendish Lecture, and plans for another
summer abroad were ^{already} being made as he indicates in ^a ~~this~~ note of March 24th to one

of the Francis ^{seems fun 'his loving old doctor' saying:} 'nieces' living in Swansea.

Dear Gwen I enclose M.O.O. for £12. It is a bit late but I have been as
usual so much driven that I neglected to send last week. I am so glad to
hear that you have had a happy winter. We shall be anxious to know more
about your summer plans. We have taken passage by the St Louis on the 31st
of May which will bring us to London early in June "We shall spend July &
August somewhere by the sea, quietly & if you are in England it will be very
jolly to have you with us, with sister too - the bad thing. We must have a
jolly time in London again. Love to Maizie & Charlie & the
little lambs. Revere is fun now, & so full of mischief" Your loving

Old Doctor

But listen

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Meanwhile the letters from his mother tell of ^{relatives back} relations who have returned from Baltimore who say 'Revere is the model of a good child, his hammering mania still strong; if God spares me to see him in May what a happiness it will be to me. My Grandmotherly love, kisses & thanks to him for the Missionary shilling, it will be sent to an Indian-boy school.'

Lest one lose track of Osler in his daily rounds in the hospital wards during ^{the recital of} ~~ing~~ all ^{these} the extra-curricular ^{interests} ~~activities to be recounted~~, a bedside incident of the period recalled by Dr. Joseph Walsh may be related.

In the Spring of 1899 [he writes] shortly after my return from two years' medical study in Europe, I ^{first} met Osler in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and he invited me to his house ^{for} ~~for~~ lunch. The baby, then about two and a half, sat next me. On inquiring his name he answered, "Revere Osler, but Dad always calls me Scalawag." ^{***} I, also, accompanied him on his ward rounds next ^{morning} morning. One of the cases he showed me I have quoted frequently since, on account of its encouragement to people afflicted with less serious ills. She was an old woman of seventy-five, in the hospital for acute rheumatism, ~~and~~ who also showed a wind tumour of Steno's duct the size of a walnut, which she could inflate and deflate at pleasure, which Osler said was the second one he had seen. Both of these conditions, however, were incidental to her general history.

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"Mother" said Osler, "I would like you to tell Dr. Walsh something about your past life. When were you first in ^athe hospital?" "At twenty-seven." "What was the matter?" "I had sarcoma of the right knee." "What did they do for it?" "They cut off the right leg at the hip." "Did you get entirely well?" "Yes, entirely well." "When were you in again?" "At forty-two." "What was the matter?" "I had cancer of the left breast." "What did they do for it?" "They cut off the left breast and left arm." "Did you get entirely well?" "Yes, entirely well." "What are you in the hospital for, now?" "For rheumatism, and Doctor," she said, with tears in her voice, and catching his hand, "I do hope you will make me well in a hurry, because I have to go home to take care of my grandchildren."

~~Hardly a day passed when something of this sort did not occur, with one or~~
Osler in short never forgot the patient in his mind ~~the~~ in the malady and (this)
~~more chance visitors, taken home to lunch, and the incident in the ward which has~~

stamped itself on Dr. Walsh's memory could be reduplicated a ^{hundred} ~~thousand~~ times over by the students. There was a tradition among the clinical clerks that if you wanted to see the Chief at his best watch him as he passes the bedside of some poor old soul with a chronic and hopeless malady - they always get his best story.

It is evident from the following note to President Gilman that someone had offered a hospital ship to go to the tropics, but more important at this juncture is the allusion to a missionary tour nearer home.

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To D. C. Gilman from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street.
3. 29. 99.

Dear Mr Gilman It does seem a thousand pities not to do something with such an offer & such a ship - but what? She would be invaluable as a floating Hospital in Manila. In Cuba the Government will doubtless feel that private charity of this kind reflects somewhat on the War Dept.

A three months' study of the malaria problem in the West Indies would be worth undertaking. We could supply the men for such work. I am off with Tiffany on a missionary tour to Garrett & Alleghany counties & will not return until Friday noon. I should be glad to meet you & Mr. Baker at any hour after that. Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

The 'missionary' tour was for the purpose of arousing in these counties an interest in the coming Centennial Anniversary of the State 'Faculty'. ^{that} Osler

~~during his entire Baltimore period gave a large share of his time to the affairs of the Society, but~~ During this year he and a few others of the more active mem-

~~bers~~ with renewed ardour endeavoured to elevate the ponderous and inactive old Society by its very boot-straps; and by trips to the counties such as he mentions making with McLane Tiffany, who also was a member of the Executive Committee,

they succeeded, ~~by the time of this meeting,~~ in enrolling one hundred new members. ~~He~~

~~even appears to have entertained the idea~~
~~As early as February he had written James B. Chadwick urging his attendance. At~~

~~that time he was even entertaining the hope that an endowment might be raised, or~~

shown by this ^{note} letter to James B. Chadwick

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1 West Franklin Street.
2. 10. 99.

Mr. Chadwick

Dear Chadwick. I am very sorry that you cannot accept our invitation to talk - but you will ^{come and} ~~to~~ listen & to dinner-chats. You stirred up the brethren here & they have not forgotten it. We are progressing, and perhaps the Centennial may give us an endowment for a new building. With kind regards,

Sincerely yours

^m
W Osler

It was a vain hope. It was difficult indeed even to raise funds sufficient to cover the expenses of the meeting, which was planned on a generous scale fitting such an anniversary. In the local journal of April 22nd, three days before the meeting, appeared ~~this~~ notes ^{saying that}

"Dr. Osler states that so far only 137 members of the 'Faculty' have subscribed to the Centennial Fund. The expenses of the entertainment will be quite heavy and no doubt a number of those who had intended to subscribe have overlooked the notice.

The responsibility of the affairs and general policy of the Society rested largely upon the shoulders of the small Executive Committee of the 'Faculty', of which for some years he had been Chairman. But in addition, he was this year on the Board of Trustees, on the Library Committee, and President of the Book & Journal Club, through whose agency most of the book-purchasing funds were raised.

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For months there had been advertisements in the journals to the effect that anyone knowing of any old portraits or relics of interest in connection with the 'Faculty' or the profession of Maryland were requested to notify Dr. William Osler at the earliest possible moment - and that every physician of the State, of whatever Society, creed or School, was urged to attend ^athe meeting which had such historical significance. Osler, of course, did not do all this alone, but those who participated, ~~with him in the committees of arrangement~~ ^{affairs of the} recall that he was the chief moving spirit, ~~though~~ ^{about him} there is little in the printed records* except that he gave on the opening night a dinner at the

*There is a long account of this successful meeting in E. F. Cordell's large Centennial tome - The Medical Annals of Maryland, ^{finally} Baltimore, 1903.
^{issued in}

Maryland Club to the Trustees and officers and chief guests, and a large reception at his house on another evening, and a clinic on Cerebrospinal Meningitis one morning, but then, others did ^{similar} ~~these~~ things too.

The Centennial Exercises were more like those of the great Congresses, which have been successfully staged in later years but which were then less common - with clinics arranged at all the hospitals, demonstrations, lectures,

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exhibits, at set hours, day by day, in the hope of arousing the interest of the profession at large, in their State Society. An immense amount of labour had been expended on the exhibits which, for lack of space in the small 'Faculty' home, were put up in McCoy Hall, one of the Hopkins University buildings - the published works of the Maryland profession, works relating to the chief epochs of medical history largely borrowed from the Surgeon General's Library, portraits of distinguished Maryland physicians, and so on - for all of which Osler and Welch were chiefly responsible. And a memorable occurrence at one of the evening meetings, which had a thin programme because of the non-appearance of two out-of-town speakers, was when Welch stepped in to the gap and gave, extemporaneously, a résumé of medical history as illustrated by the exhibits in the hall. How the local profession felt about the man in the background of all this, can be surmised by the fact that after the fully-attended annual dinner held on the last evening, with its many set speeches, - by General Sternberg who gave an apologia for the Army Medical Corps, by James Tyson and H. C. Wood of Philadelphia, by D. C. Gilman and others - the President-elect Dr. Clotworthy Birnie, a country doctor, in the course of his remarks re-

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ferred to the new county members who had been drawn into the State Association and to the good-will existing between them and the Baltimore profession, ^{saying} and said, "The tact that was necessary to bring this condition about and the industry to apply it, is due in great measure to one man, I mean Dr. William Osler." There is said to have been 'loud and long-continued applause.' When he had taken his seat there were ^{insistent} calls for "Osler!"; he arose, and said:

It may not be known to the members of this Faculty that part of the reason why I love my fellow practitioners in the country rather more than my fellow practitioners in town is that I narrowly escaped being a country doctor. I was brought up in the office of a country doctor, and he has told me that the saddest hours of his life were those he spent while I was his office student. I never did appreciate drugs, and didn't even understand the importance of keeping each one in its proper place, but generally managed to put the morphia bottle where the quinine ought to be, so my preceptor had difficulty in the dusk to find them, and on one occasion he nearly poisoned his best patient.

All of which probably refers to his days in Dundas assisting Dr. A. H. Walker, and the 'speck in cornea - 50 cents' entry. But he went on in more serious vein to tell of the growth of the Library and the needs of the Faculty, and the necessity of an endowment and the importance of a new building in some

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degree commensurate with the age of the Society and its importance to the city and State. There was no reason, he said, ^{why} ~~that~~, with united effort, they could not have a first-class, well equipped home for the State Faculty, and that there was no reason why it could not be obtained within a short period. "I would urge the members of the Faculty" he said in closing, "to take this to heart, and I intend to ask at the business meeting tomorrow evening that a committee be appointed to take this matter in hand and work it systematically during the next year."

Following the Centennial came a visit from Trudeau, who took Osler's class and talked to them on some questions relating to tuberculosis. And together, they went over to Washington for the annual meeting, held May 2nd to 4th, of the Association of Physicians. ~~This he attended~~ while Mrs. Osler took Revere for a visit to his grandmother's in Toronto. ^{Then a} ~~As~~ usual, he took an active part in the discussions and was down on the programme for a paper on a peculiar form of bronzing of the skin (Haemochromatosis), and presented a patient with this rare malady which was beginning to excite attention.

^{He} ~~But~~ ~~He~~ was evidently hard pressed and used the same material for ^{his paper before} the British Medical Association meeting later on, ^{then} in which he gave due credit, ^{as was his} ~~as was his~~

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1899

^{recent}
~~former~~
want, to his house officer Dr. Opie for the special studies he had made on the subject. *This was something he never forgot to do.*

There is a story told of a visit William Pepper made to Baltimore to see the clinical laboratory at the time he was planning ^{*in memory of his father*} to erect a similar la-

^{*in memory of his father*}
boratory at the University of Pennsylvania, and in the course of their con-

versation, according to a by-stander, Pepper said, "Osler, if discoveries are

made in such a laboratory as this, does the Director get the credit?"

The answer
~~Osler~~

Came

immediately replied, "Why Pepper, no; the worker of course."*

*In an article published early in this same year describing the course in clinical microscopy given in the laboratory at the Johns Hopkins, at the time under T. B. Fletcher's direction (British Medical Journal, Jan. 14, 1899), Osler ends with this note: "A place in the laboratory is set apart for each fourth-year student. No systematic instruction is given but the clinical clerks and surgical dressers make here the special examinations, cut sections, and use the laboratory for general purposes. Some of them are able to carry out research work. The studies of MacCallum and Opie on the Haematozoa of Birds, MacCallum's studies on the Flagellate Forms of the Malarial Organisms, T. R. Brown's work on Trichinosis, illustrate the character of the work which the senior students can do."

It made no difference whether or not the worker was ^{*a member of his*} ~~on Osler's~~ own ~~or~~ *of his* staff. ^{*a member of his*} The Surgical Resident of the day recalls the readiness with which Osler without question would put responsible tasks into his untried hands.

^{*in the wards*}
There had been a case in which Osler had made an erroneous diagnosis, one

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fortunately corrected before an operation ^{which} ~~consisting of~~ ^{the} removal of
a large spleen for Banti's disease* - was undertaken. The matter was left

["**Chronic Splenic Enlargement, &c." Edinburgh Medical Journal,
May, 1899.

entirely to the judgment of the young surgeon, to do exactly as he saw fit,
and when the condition proved to be one which was rare and important the case
^{junior} was ^{the junior} turned over to ~~him~~ to report.

He must have busied himself during May with at least the assembling of
the material for his Cavendish Lecture* which contained an elaborate résumé

["On the Etiology and Diagnosis of Cerebrospinal Fever."
The West London Medical Journal, 1899. Reprinted by W. O.

of the experiences with all forms of meningitis in his clinic. The paper,
however, was given over largely to the ^{epidemic form of} ~~experience of~~ the disease which had
so widely prevailed in the ^{United States} ~~country~~ with a very high mortality - as high as
68.5 per cent in some localities. Such diagnostic procedures as lumbar punc-
tures were at this time only just being introduced, and a serum treatment of
the disease was hardly dreamed of - indeed, the man who was to elaborate it
was at this time serving on a commission in the Philippines.

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Their passages had been taken for May 31st, and he wound up his curtailed school year with notes like the following ~~dictated~~ to John H. Musser:

~~May 23, 1899.~~

Dear Musser: Janeway had appointed you and Fitz and me a Committee to get up a memorial to Dr. W. W. Johnston on the occasion of his retiring from the treasurership of the Association. I am sending out a little circular, and my secretary will collect the money. Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.

Like as not, the memorial to his friend Johnston had been his own suggestion, and E. G. Janeway* of New York, who was President of the Association of

*It was Janeway who a short time before had, as the British papers put it, saved 'to the cause of letters and mankind the life of Rudyard Kipling.'

Physicians had, as is usual under such circumstances, put ^{the Suggestor} him on the committee. ^{And} there were other brief notes such as "Dear Mr. Coy. Please call a meeting of the Medical Faculty for Friday May 26 at 4:30. Sincerely yours W. O." ^{of Osler's} short service as Dean of the Medical School there is little trace, ^{after that time,} and after holding the position for ^{the} a single year he was succeeded by

W. H. Howell the Professor of Physiology, the office of the Dean being installed in a small room in the ^{new} physiological laboratory building. Indeed the Medical School had a way of running itself, with the aid of one person, ^{the self same} Mr. George Coy ^{J.} to whom ^{this request had been} passed ~~brief notes like the following, dictated to, signed, and initialed~~ by Miss Humpton his secretary.

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1899

May 24, 1899.

Dear Mr. Coy: Please call a meeting of the Medical Faculty for Friday,
May 26th, at 4.30. Sincerely yours,

Wm. Osler.
H.

His mother's steamer letter contains a reminiscence of Bond Head days and
also a dig at the brevity of those she receives from a certain source. And
though her eyes are dim and she knows she will soon have to give up writing,
she sends a long letter also to ^{her daughter in law} ~~Mrs. Osler~~, and hopes that 'Revere will come
back home with English roses in his dear cheeks.'

83 Wellesley Street,
May 26, 1899.

My dear Willie A word of goodbye to my dear Benjamin. I know how you
must be just tired and weary, if not worried with the rush of work in
these few days before leaving. You need the rest and I hope will find
some quiet nook where the Medicos will not find you out easily. May you
and Grace thoroughly enjoy yourselves and the blessed Revere share all to
his heart's content. I shall often be with you in spirit and though not
able to drink in the seashore breezes I shall be happy in the feeling that
you are being benefited by the perfect rest and change. . . .
I had two Tecumseth Boys!! to see me yesterday; boys they were but now are
men in their sixties - you may remember the Wilson family on the ^{Bond Head} Scoch
Line. Their sister was my only S S teacher for a long time.

You will tire of this long note (long in comparison of some notes I
get my dear). God's blessing rest on you. Ever your loving Mother

E. Osler

June
1899

From London, June 8th, he writes Ogden of a delightful voyage, and adds:

"Very interesting meeting of the Royal Society this afternoon. I was ad-

mitted and had to sign the book and be cordially shaken by the hand by Lord

Lister." * And a few days later ^{to} he writes W. S. Thayer *from 36 Half Moon Street*:

*On June 10th he was given an LL.D. (in absentia) by the University of Toronto at their commencement exercises.

~~36 Half Moon Street, Picadilly.~~

~~Monday~~

Dear Thayer We had a jolly trip over - fine skies & smooth seas. I really enjoyed it. We did not get in until Wednesday night. I finished my address on the S. S. & it is now in type. It will come out in Lancet & B M J of the week after next. I have been loafing since coming here & have seen very few Doctors except at the Royal Society where I heard Haffkine talk in very good form on India & the plague inoculations. Glorious weather - hot for the Londoners. We had a jolly day with Schäfer in the country yesterday. He hopes to get the Edinboro appointment in Physiology Revere & Mrs Osler keep well R. had the time of his life on the S. S. Love to the boys, Yours ever

~~Wm Osler.~~

Revere had 'the time of his life' whenever he was with his father, and

June 1899

no child ever found a father a better playmate. Some weeks later from

Swanage on the Dorset coast the boy of three summers ^{delated} sent to H. B. Jacobs

^{dictated}
this laboured note.

Dear Dr. Jacobs. I am having a good time. We have been in London very hard. I like London. I got lots of toys at London - some blocks too. We are at the seaside now. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. We have a nice little house and a bathing tent and a pony.

E. R. Osler

They were in London 'very hard'. The Cavendish Lecture was delivered in the Town Hall, Hammersmith, on June 16th, at the conclusion of which, after being subjected to the more than usually flattering and fulsome votes of thanks, moved and seconded, in which he was likened to a modern Hippocrates and his great diversity of talent was pointed out, he briefly thanked the Society for their reception and added that whatever he had been able to do in his life had been accomplished by hard and persevering work. With this carefully prepared and technical lecture off his hands there began a round of book-shops and libraries, interspersed with dinners and entertainments from which there was no escape, and all his ^{old} friends, E. A. Schäfer, Sir Andrew Clark, Lauder Brunton, Stephen Mackenzie, Jonathon Hutchinson and others clamoured for him in turn.

The only cloud to the summer happiness was the nearness of the death

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1899

Aet. 50.

~~With all this going on, word came of the death~~ on July 7th of his old schoolmate James E. Graham, Professor of Medicine at Toronto, ^{whom he knew to} who in recent years had selected for him from among the promising Toronto graduates a number of ^{the} men who had become ^{his} assistants in Baltimore. ^{They had spent happy hours together.} ~~Barker, Ramsay, Cullen, Fletcher,~~ ^{Barson} and the two McCraes. ⁽²¹⁾ Osler promptly sent off an obituary notice for the British Medical Journal, in which he ~~says~~ ^{said in part:}

[he wrote]

Dr. Graham was one of my oldest friends in the profession. During the session of 1868-9 he was a senior student in the Toronto school when I was a freshman, and every Saturday morning throughout the session we met at Dr. Bovell's to work with the microscope. To both of us the memory of those happy days was ever dear. It was a great privilege after the dry programme of the week, to be brought into contact with a genuine enthusiast who loved to work at as well as to think about the problems of disease. On these occasions the only annoyance to Dr. Bovell was the 'damned guinea' in Hunter's phrase, and how often have we laughed at the involuntary anathema which would escape the lips of the good pious man when the maid announced a patient! With the exception of the four or five succeeding years my associations with Dr. Graham have been very intimate, and my regard for his personal and professional worth have deepened with the passing years. . . . ~~In 1881 he told me he had glycosuria, but with diet the condition was kept readily in check until a few months ago.~~ . . . *

*Cf. British Medical Journal, July 29, 1899, ii, 317.

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1899

They had gone out to Hazelmere to pay a visit on Jonathon Hutchinson, and to see the educational village-museum and the Memorial Holiday Home for London Children which that high-minded old man had established. It was Hutchinson who suggested Swanage to them as a suitable place for their summer outing, possibly because it was near Winford Eagle. However, this may be, it proved a great success as the following portion of a letter from Mrs. Osler to Dr. Jacobs testifies.

. . . I wish you could see the dear little house and garden we have taken for six weeks. Swanage is below Poole and Bournemouth, a quiet little place on a pretty bay with cliffs at either end - no mosquitoes - no flies - no invitations - no southwest wind - no one to bother us. We have two servants with the house and all the trades people call at the door, so housekeeping is no trouble. I am enchanted with the garden. One end of the house is covered with a rose vine and I am having a perfect treat. We are about one minute from the beach where we have a bathing tent. Dr. Osler is very happy. He has golf in the morning - then a swim and loafs all the afternoon. We hope to have Dr. McCrae here for a few days and perhaps Dr. Halsted for a night. We were ready to leave London - we had lunched and dined until we were nearly dead. Revere is so happy, it is a joy to see him. We will stay until August 25th - then have a week in London before sailing on Sept. 2nd. . . .

July
1899To H. B. Jacobs from W. O.The Gwyle, Swanage, Dorset.
20th

Dear Jacobs Many thanks for the chart. I am going to discuss endo-
carditis at the B. M. A. I would try to get ^{Mr. S's} ~~MSS?~~ early record if poss-
ible. You should report the case - the symbolic features are remarkable.
Poor lassie! It was a sad business. I hope Mr. D. has paid you. I
had not sent him any bill & I forget whether I put it on the July list
for Miss Humpton.

We are enjoying this place greatly - fine bathing, good driving,
beautiful country, superb downs (R. calls them 'ups') & a most comfortable
little house with good servants. Mrs. Osler says it is a god-send. I
sent a reprint of the Cavendish Lecture to 3 W. Fr. I hope T. has for-
warded it. Revere looks well, badly sunburnt on his bare legs. We have
had one day's rain in six weeks. The country is very dry - an occasional
fog here keeps the coast line green. Kindest regards to your mother,
Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

July
1899

That Thomas McCrae, then Osler's Assistant Resident Physician, paid his expected visit is evident from a pocket note-book of the period in which this has been scribbled:

A game of Sixes on Poundburg Ring. Players: Tom Lovell, Ed Rowe, Dave Hayes, E.Y.D., T. McC. and a wall-eyed sheep dog.

On the north side of the celebrated Poundburg Ring, on the turf-walk of the rampart at 3 p.m. July 26th lay three boys, two men and a venerable dog. The positions were as in annexed diagram. Tom, a tow-headed lad of 16, bossed the party and had the cards - a small dirty, dog-eared but

Tom	Ed
Dog	Dave
T.McC.	E.Y.D.

complete pack. The game he said was sixes, which I did not know, so I put up 3d. in middle to be played for by the boys, and that we could catch the trick of the game. Tom dealt one first then two, then three, not always in order and it was evident that so long as each boy got six it did not matter how the cards came. Ed. led off with the ten of hearts, which he called spades, in ignorance I thought as he was young and looked a green hand; Dave covered it, trumped it he said, with a four or six of spades, and Tom took the trick proudly with a face-card - the knave of hearts.

It was an episode which Osler might have used to adorn a tale and point a moral, but what was in E. Y. D.'s mind does not appear, though it shows an interest in children and a capacity for amusement. *Are other notes which* There ~~is another note of~~

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indicate that he has been reading Jessop's "Life of John Donne", T. Longueville's "Sir Kenelm Digby" the 'arch amateur of all history,' and the "Letters and Unpublished Writings of Walter Savage Landor" by Stephen Wheeler. And on August 12th there is a long note which describes ^{and it is} the house of Benjamin Jesty the pre-Jennerian vaccinator - a note subsequently turned over to McCrae who incorporated it in his interesting account of Jesty, read before the Hopkins Historical Club.

Downshay (pronounced Dunsai). The farm occupies a delightful situation in a valley between the Purbeck Hills and Nine Barrow Downs, four miles from Corfe Castle. Leaving the Kingston Road the house is reached by a rough and rutted road through the fields, with many steep descents. It is not seen at first, indeed we did not look for it as our whole attention was centred on the superb outlook; to the left in the setting sun the ruins of Corfe Castle, guarding the gateway to the Isle of Purbeck, - to the right the town of Swanage with its fine blue bay and far off on the horizon the white cliffs of the Isle of Wight (the Needles) while across the valley rose the fine sweep of the Nine Barrow Downs. Encircled by trees and in a depression we did not see the house until we reached the barn-yard where we were cordially greeted by a jolly-looking dairyman who had just driven out one herd and was preparing to finish the evening milking. ... The entrance to the garden was through a fine old stone gateway by the side of which was the usual stepping for mounting. The house was of the type common on the Island - of two storeys and very well built, looking very fresh and clean after two hundred and fifty years. The date was carved on one side of the house.

made about this?

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They made other expeditions - to see the Roman remains at Dorchester, where they spent the night, and there is an amusing story of an old man in the tap-room who was furious because they kept ringing the chimes in the church nearby, and whom W. O., to pass the evening, egged on to expostulate about chimes in general. From there they went to Winford Eagle, and it was on this visit that ^{he} ~~Osler~~ picked the 'rose from the vine over the door of Sydenham's birthplace.' And then to the little hamlet of Rampisham in Dorset where Glisson is supposed to have been born, and where they tried in vain to find the entry of his birth in the parish-church records of the sixteenth century.

Meanwhile, during the first week in August they attended the B. M. A. meeting at Portsmouth, and here in addition to giving his paper, he participated in the discussions which had been prearranged for two of the more important sessions of the medical section. *- a subject just beginning to be thoroughly ventilated -* The subject at one of them [^] was the Prevention and Remedial Treatment of Tuberculosis, in which Clifford Allbutt, Sir William Broadbent, R. Douglas Powell, Osler, James Tyson of Philadelphia who had just been appointed to succeed Pepper, and others, all took part. Another session was devoted to the Medical Tests for Admission to the Public Services, and in

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the course of his remarks on this occasion Osler referred to 'the beneficial effects of general military training on the young men of the nation, as seen in Germany, a benefit seen not less on their bodies than on their minds, which while plastic learned the all-important lesson of life - discipline.' Little did he realize that these plastic young minds and bodies were being so disciplined that they might react to a call to arms when 'the day' should arrive. *And*

~~And~~ during this very summer, it may be added, the delirium of the Dreyfus case was stirring France to its depths, and the ill-fated Czar was making proposals for a peace conference at the Hague.

Swanage proved, as the August letters testify, to have been a 'haven of rest,' and though with 'only one shower in seven weeks the cattle were suffering and the sheep being fed on the ill-grown carrots,' it had been perfect for the three who, before the summer was over were all 'as dark as Rebecca, Mammy's substitute.' Leaving his golf-clubs behind, which 'looked like another summer in Dorset', toward the end of August Osler went for a week-end to visit the Allbutts and Nuttall in Cambridge while Mrs. Osler took Revere who 'had not cried three times this summer' to London, preparatory to their sailing September 2nd. There, while W.O. was grubbing in the British

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Museum, a Scotch nurse was engaged who was 'to come out in October and take the place of the boy's Mammy' whom he had now outgrown.

The last entry in the pocket note-book of the summer reads as follows:

Brown, Sir Thomas, bought the 1st authorized edition of the Religio Medici 1643, from Quaritch, August 1899. £7. 7.

Aug. 29th. Saw to-day the two unauthorized editions: - (a) British Museum. Same publisher as authorized, Andrew Crooke, 1642. Same figure on title page, but between the extended arm and the rock are the words "Religio Medici", and at one corner, Will, Marschall Seul. There are 159 pages. K. Digby's Observations follow. (b) at Coll. Phy. Bound alone without Digby's observations. Title page same as B. M. copy, 190 pp. (on a slip W.A.G. [Greenhill] says "This is a copy of the first unauthorized edition and is probably very scarce.")

Like as not, it was the purchase of this ^{early} ~~rare~~ edition of the Religio that led him on into the bibliophilic pursuit of gathering a complete set of all the editions. He probably had seen a good deal of J. Frank Payne, an ardent book collector, while in Portsmouth, for Payne was President of one of the B. M. A. sections for the year, and it was during this summer, too, that an effort was being made to collect funds for the erection of a monument to Sir Thomas Browne to be placed in the shadow of St. Peter's Mancroft.

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From Canton, Mass., on September 12th he writes to Francis J. Shepherd in regard to an address he had promised to give at the opening of the McGill session; and *this day take from 1 West Franklin Street to Simon Flexner:*

Dear Shepherd I shall be so glad to stay with you, but you say the 25th. Ruttan said the 21st. ~~or you may mean the 20th.~~ I shall hear when I get back. We returned today and came on to Mrs Reveres'. The passage was horrid but we escaped sea-sickness. I shall be so glad to see Cecil. It was a great disappointment to miss her in London. We have had a splendid holiday - a month in London & two at Swanage on the Dorset coast. Mrs Osler will be with her mother & thinks she will not come. I return to Baltimore on Thursday. . . .

1 West Franklin Street,
Sept. 15, 1899.

Dear Flexner Welcome home! with, I hope, an undefiled liver and a smooth colic mucosa. We were on the look-out for you in London, but I suppose you hurried back via Frisco. I am most anxious to see you and hear of your doings. What a delightful experience! We had a peaceful summer on the south coast. I have just returned and have not seen anyone. Let me know if I can be of any use to you in the way of introductions. Yours ever,

W^m Osler.

I saw Nuttall who has taken Cambridge by storm.

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The Spanish War, the responsibility of the Philippine Islands, Leonard Wood's great success as Governor General in rehabilitating Havana and the Province of Santiago had aroused Americans to some conception of the importance of 'the white man's burden'. A very important part of the load in Cuba, the Philippines, and soon in the Canal Zone, had to fall upon the medical profession, and early in the year a commission headed by Barker and Flexner had been sent to the Philippines to investigate and to make a report upon the diseases of the archipelago.* To be sure, this was only ^{preliminary to} ~~a part of~~ what had to be done ~~there~~,

*Barker, with J. M. Flint one of the undergraduate members of the commission, had returned home by way of India in order to study the plague which was then rampant there.

and ere long Leonard Wood, though not in his medical capacity, volunteered to go to the Islands and persuade in one way or another the head-hunting Moros to engage in more peaceful pursuits - and incidentally to round up and tame a particular ^Filippino who from supposedly patriotic motives was stirring up a revolution in the Islands - Aguinaldo, himself a graduate in medicine, who might have put his training to better purposes.

As a part of all this, great interest was being aroused in the comparatively new specialty of tropical medicine. A school had been established in Liver-

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pool. A course to be devoted especially to the study of tropical diseases was announced by Osler, to be given at the Hopkins in the fall. Guitéras, a Cuban, had resigned from his position as pathologist at the University of Pennsylvania so that he might go to Havanna and work with the American Commission who were investigating yellow fever. To his post Flexner was to succeed, and hence Osler had asked if he might be of use in the way of introductions.

To John H. Musser from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street.
Sunday

Dear J. H. I was on the point of writing to you last eve, when someone came in. We returned last Sunday & I took Mrs O & Ike to Mrs Reveres & came here on Friday. The summer was a great success. We took a house at Swanage on the Dorset coast & had two months of peace, sunshine sands & sea. The first month in London was very pleasant. I saw many of our mutual friends Pye-Smith asked very warmly after you. I have been book hunting & grubbing in the British Museum & Record Office. I go to Montreal on Wednesday to give the opening address at the college. I have not a copy of the B.M.J. article. So glad to hear that the prospects are good at the University. I forgot to congratulate you on your appt. I did not hear definitely until I saw Tyson at Portsmouth & after that forgot. I am sure you will be able to arrange the work very comfortably. Do come down soon Mrs O gets back Oct 1st. Love to the family all. Yours ever

W^m Osler

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On September 21st he gave before the assembled McGill students at their opening session, the address - "After Twenty-five Years"* - from which the

[*Montreal Medical Journal, Nov. 1899, xxviii, 823-33.]

long introductory paragraphs, reminiscent of his days in Montreal, have in an earlier chapter already been quoted. He went on to discuss medical studies - a perennial subject for discussion - and of the many and different ways in which successful teaching may be carried out, one of them, when classes are small, being the elbow-to-elbow method under trial at Baltimore.

Undoubtedly the student tries to learn too much, and we teachers try to teach him too much - neither, perhaps, with great success. The existing evils result from neglect on the part of the teacher, student and examiner of the great fundamental principle laid down by Plato - that education is a life-long process, in which the student can only make a beginning during his college course. The system under which we work asks too much of the student in a limited time. To cover the vast field of medicine in four years is an impossible task. We can only instil principles, put the student in the right path, give him methods, teach him how to study, and early to discern between essentials and non-essentials. Perfect happiness for student and teacher will come with the abolition of examinations, which are stumbling blocks and rocks of offence in the pathway of the true student.

And it is not so Utopian as may appear at first blush. Ask any demonstrator of anatomy ten days before the examinations, and he should be able to give you a list of the men fit to pass. Extend the personal intimate knowledge such as is possessed by a competent demonstrator of anatomy into all the other departments, and the degree could be safely conferred upon certificates of competency, which would really mean a more thorough knowledge of a man's fitness than can possibly be got by our present system of examination.

And he goes on to consider the congested state of the curriculum and suggests measures of relief that he 'would recommend particularly to the younger men, in whose hands alone such radical changes can be carried out. A man' he characteristically adds, 'who has been teaching for twenty-five years is rarely in a position to appreciate the necessity of a change, particularly if it touches his own special branch.'

Addressing himself more directly to the students before him, he urged them to start with no higher ambition than to join 'the noble band of general practitioners', who 'form the very sinews of the profession - generous-hearted men, with well balanced cool heads, not scientific always, but learned in the wisdom not of the laboratories but of the sick-room.'

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As to your method of work, I have a single bit of advice, which I give with the earnest conviction of its paramount influence in any success which may have attended my efforts in life - Take no thought for the morrow. Live neither in the past nor in the future, but let each day's work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your widest ambition. That was a singular but very wise answer which Cromwell gave to Bellevire - "No one rises so high as he who knows not whither he is going," and there is much truth in it. The student who is worrying about his future, anxious over the examinations, doubting his fitness for the profession, is certain not to do so well as the man who cares for nothing but the matter in hand, and who knows not whither he is going!

Then, after referring to the cultivation of interests other than purely professional ones, he urges outside reading and says, perhaps with his summer's purchase in mind, that 'the Religio Medici, one of the great English classics, should be in the hands - in the hearts too - of every medical student.'

As I am on the confessional today, I may tell you that no book has had so enduring an influence on my life. I was introduced to it by my first teacher, the Rev. W. A. Johnson, Warden and Founder of the Trinity Church School, and I can recall the delight with which I first read its quaint and charming pages. It was one of the strong influences which

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turned my thoughts towards medicine as a profession, and my most treasured copy - the second book I ever bought - has been a constant companion for thirty-one years, comes viae vitaeque. Trite but true, is the comment of Seneca - "If you are fond of books you will escape the ennui of life, you will neither sigh for evening disgusted with the occupations of the day - nor will you live dissatisfied with yourself or unprofitable to others."

And, finally, gentlemen, remember that you are here not to be made chemists or physiologists or anatomists, but to learn how to recognize and treat disease, how to become practical physicians. Twenty years ago, during the summer session, I held my first class in clinical medicine at the Montreal General Hospital, and on the title page of a note-book I had printed for the students I placed the following sentence, which you will find the alpha and omega of education in practical medicine.

"The knowledge which a man can use is ~~the~~ the only real knowledge, the only knowledge which has life and growth in it and converts itself into practical power. The rest hangs like dust about the brain or dries like rain-drops off the stones."

'After twenty-five years.' It was a more mature Osler who spoke with experience and authority - but the ideas in the address were not very different - perhaps they never are in such addresses - from those in his first valedictory lecture of 1875 - even to the inclusion of ^{a quotation from} Sir Thomas Browne. It seemed, however, less necessary than before to warn against the temptations of drink, for 'nowadays' he said, 'even the pleasures of a medical student have become respect-

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able, and I have no doubt that the "footing supper", which in old Coté Street days was a Bacchanalian orgie, has become a love feast in which the Principal and even the Dean might participate.'

learned to express himself effectively and
There is no gainsaying that Osler had ~~come to write~~ with apparent ease,

appearing and written with apparent ease, which
~~which~~ merely means that he had learned to conceal the effort which all good

writing requires, even in the gifted. The remarkable thing is that he was

willing to take so much trouble for such an occasion, ~~as an introductory talk~~

for students,
~~to students, for~~ Hundreds of introductory talks, consisting as a rule of per-

functory admonitions, are being given every fall to the groups of young men

But this was an address of a different order, picturesque,
in all countries, who are entering medicine. ~~Of~~ Of his other doings in Montreal

there is no trace, but it may be assumed, that no old friend was forgotten,

that the Howard children were very much excited, and that 'Daphino Cook' was

looking very proud and circulating stories on the side to the newcomers, of the

good old days. 'Me and the Dean.' And there must, too, have been talk of

the South African war, for a small Canadian contingent had already been des-

patched and Strathcona's Horse ^{was} were being organized. *How* ~~Whether~~ this distant war

of none too happy ^{yet} origin touched Osler, does not appear. One of his house staff,

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however, at this time, Jack McCrae, newly appointed, was straining at the leash.

"If I can get an appointment in England by going I will go," he wrote. "My position here I do not count as an old boot in comparison."

On his way back to Baltimore, Osler stopped in Toronto and saw many people there, as the following note to his niece bears evidence.

1 West Franklin Street
9. 25. 99.

Dearest Gwen I have just returned from Toronto (with Bill). I went to Montreal to give the opening lecture at McGill & saw many old friends, including the Kerrys & the Taylors who asked after you most kindly. All in Toronto are well. I went to the Island. Ma is fat & robust in mind as usual. She had just had a nice long letter from you. Bea has grown so much & is so well & strong. I do hope you and May will come out in Jan. Tell May to send word about your passage money. I enclose a \$10. for Oct. 1st. Let me know about another nice Eve. Dress, towards Xmas. The boys look so well. They expect you - Bill and I are to meet you in N.Y. Do not disappoint us. A. Gr. is still with Mrs Revere. They return on Oct. 1st. Love to the blessed kids & to May & Charlie. Your affec

W Osler

at the Hopkins
The fall semester began October 1st, and a few days later* he sends this

*On this same day, October 5th, the Association of Medical Librarians held their annual meeting, a constitution was adopted and thirty-four medical librarians had become enrolled.

note to John H. Musser, which among other things records John G. Clark's appointment as Professor of Gynaecology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Oct.
18991 West Franklin Street,
10. 5.

Dear J. H. So glad to hear of the new Edition. I will show it at once to the class. What a nuisance that the publishers are always ten days late! Those new cuts are beauties. I began work this week - larger classes alas! but we have doubled the size of the 3rd year dispensary class room. They are after Futch for Grahams place but I cannot let him off until a year from this date. We are all delighted at Clark's success. You must have had the Provost's ear. I wrote warmly to DaCosta & to Tyson. The former sent a most encouraging reply. It was a brave move on the part of the faculty as C of course is not widely known thro. the state. He is a trump - we never had a better fellow about the Hospital. Barker is back - full of interesting information about the Plague in India. Do come & see us soon.

Yours ever

W.O.

Preparations at this time were under way for the next ~~great~~ ^{International} Congress which was to be held in Paris in connection with the World's Exhibition, and Osler had been called upon ~~in this connection~~ to act as Chairman of the American National Committee, as the following indicates.

To Russell H. Chittenden from W. O.Baltimore,
Oct. 7, 1899.

Dear Doctor: I have been asked by the General Committee of the International Medical Congress [Paris] to organize the American Committee, and after consultation with the Presidents of the American Medical Association and the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, it has been decided that

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the Presidents of the American Medical Association and the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, and of the national societies forming part of the Congress, and the Surgeon Generals of the Army, Navy and Marine Hospital Service should constitute the Committee.

You are hereby requested to serve on the Committee on behalf of the Society of which you are the President. You will be notified at an early date of the first meeting. Very truly yours,

Wm Osler

and even to many others back of forth.
There naturally was much more of this. But, meanwhile, ~~the fall term had~~
~~opened,~~ ^{hospital} the wards were filled with the autumnal crop of typhoids, and his pen was again busied with the subject. As usual, he combined the duty of his anti-typhoid propaganda with the pleasure of collateral reading and writing. Having promised to attend two society meetings, one in New York and the other in Rhode Island, he prepared for the first a succinct statement concerning "The Diagnosis of Typhoid Fever" and alongside of this, for the second, he was engaged in a task much more to his liking - the putting together of his sketch of Elisha Bartlett.

To Dr. F. C. Shattuck from W.O.

Monday eve

Dear Shattuck I have been enjoying a quiet evening with old Elisha Bartlett, W. W. Gerhard, G. C. Shattuck Jr., & James Jackson Jr. - delightful company after the Medico-Chirurgical Bulletin and trash of

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that kind! Your father's papers I found in the Med. Examiner for 1840 and Valleix gives a very full summary in Archives Generales for Oct-Nov 1839. The contribution is admirable. I had never seen it before. Stille too has a paper which he read at the Societe d'Observation some months before your father's. It has never been printed. I must get a copy from the old man for I should some day like to collect the essays of W. W. Gerhard, your father and Stille & publish them together. I see dear old Sam Wilkes (~~B.M.J. November 1st~~) is still under the delusion that Jenner in 1849-50 first clearly separated typhus and typhoid!

Very sorry not to have seen you. Love to all at home Yours

Wm Osler

P.S. Do come down this winter & spend a quiet week.
Soft old bed, breakfast in it at 9.30 Scotch (hot) at 10 P.M.

This was his form of taking literary recreation, just as in preparing his paper on the continuous fevers of the South he had turned to an account of John Y. Bassett. Unlike the "Alabama Student" however, Bartlett needed not to be rescued from oblivion, for he already occupied an important niche in the medical history of the State, and his name together with those of the group of Louis's American pupils was often at the tip of Osler's tongue and at the nib of his pen.

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The first of these papers ⁽¹⁸⁾ contributed to a general discussion on typhoid

at a meeting of the New York State Medical Association, held October 25th, ~~in~~

cf. N.Y. Medical Journal 1899 Lxx p 673

which he quotes from 'the remarkable work of Elisha Bartlett On Typhoid and Ty-

phus Fevers, 1842' a paragraph 'which expresses with slight modifications the

position of the profession today on this all-important problem.' And he went

~~he~~ ^{he} somewhat severely ~~to~~ ^{at} arraign certain members of the New York profession (one

of ~~them~~ ^{upon}, it may be added, in somewhat sarcastic vein, subsequently replied) ~~on~~

their evident failure in many cases to properly differentiate between malaria

and typhoid.

One has to sympathize a bit with him - clinical fetiches are given up with difficulty and regret! To many good, easy men it came as a shock, to find that malaria was really a well-defined, easily recognizable disease. Naturally, it was hard to abandon a word like malaria, which carried with it as much clinical comfort as did that blessed word Mesopotamia spiritual unction to the old lady. My sympathies have been deeply aroused by the distress which has been felt in many quarters of this city where you have been, until recently, with some notable exceptions, heretics of the worst kind. Nowhere, perhaps, has malaria ever covered such a multitude of diverse maladies. . . / . . .

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He proceeded to give clinical rules of diagnosis which should guide practitioners above Mason and Dixon's Line, emphasizing that in these regions an intermittent fever which resists quinine is not of malarial origin, nor is a continued fever due to malarial infection, even though for variability of symptoms the aestivo-autumnal infection takes precedence even of typhoid fever.

And he ^{drew} draws an amusing comparison between the temperature charts of the two forms of malaria - the remittent form which has a 'Pennsylvania-Railway-like' directness in marked distinction to the zig-zag 'Baltimore-and-Ohio-Railway' chart of aestivo-autumnal fever. He begged the hard-worked practitioners of the smaller towns and country districts, who find it difficult to ^{apply} ~~ape~~ the modern scientific methods of diagnosis, to use their common sense and learn to suspect typhoid and not malaria in every case of fever of six or seven days' duration.

In the course of the paper he spoke of the ^{the} country's experience with typhoid at the Chickamauga Camp, which was a wholesale demonstration of the ignorance among the profession of the essential elementary facts concerning the two diseases. It was at this ^{very} ~~same~~ time that steps were being taken to prevent a repetition of the experiences of the American army camps, for the Professor of

Some up in
M. J. M. J. M. J. M.
1899 Lxx 673

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Pathology at Netley, Almroth E. Wright, whom Osler must have seen at the Portsmouth meeting of the B. M. A. the summer before, was making his first tentative inoculations of the British troops being gathered for the South African war, among whom severe outbreaks of typhoid ~~fever~~ ^{already} had occurred.

The fall meeting of the Maryland 'Faculty' was held November 14th in Westminster, Maryland, with Osler as usual in attendance, and the ~~most interesting~~ ^{starred} feature of the programme was ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{undoubtedly} the report, by Barker and by Flexner, ~~who had come over from Philadelphia for the purpose, of~~ ^{upon} the medical conditions in the Philippines, Osler read a short paper on "The Home Treatment of Consumption", in which a strong plea was made for greater attention to the living conditions of consumptives. ^{Some may be overlooked for it is of historical importance. *Gray's Medical Journal 1900, XLIII, 8-12.*} ^{instancing the case of the woman he never forgot who was living out *Some may be overlooked, if doing at her own home and on his advice and still turn to black lung.*} He estimated that there were some

eight to ten thousand cases in Baltimore alone, of whom only a possible five per cent could receive sanitarium treatment, and he made

The campaign against the white plague was still confined to a few members of the profession, and had not yet reached the public. But the ball he had set rolling the year before in Baltimore was already gaining momentum. An active

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crusade of public enlightenment seemed to be the only way to conquer tuberculosis, and traces of the movement had already been apparent - the International Tuberculosis Congress at Berlin - the session at the B. M. A. the summer before - the subject brought up at a State medical meeting - finally brought home to a single institution which was among the first to gain recruits under the banner of the white cross on a red field. Out of all this, as will be seen, the Social Service movement took its origin.

As a result of his McGill address two months before, there had been a shower of letters from his old students - to all of whom, as was his want, a personal hand-written acknowledgment went in return. Thus he wrote to Dr. J. H. Darey whom in 1886 he had sent out to Iowa for his health:

1 West Franklin Street,
11. 17. 99.

Dear Darey I was very glad to hear from you. My address has called out letters from several of my old Montreal boys. What a hard road you have had to travel! I feel sure that you will settle down to peace & mental quiet as the years pass. A steady uniform life, 1/2 speed, as little stress & strain as possible should obviate the tendency to these recurrent attacks. You probably do not heed your domestic counsellor enough. I was delighted

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to see the progress at McGill - the outlook is good for a great medical centre. I am pegging away here, very interested in the teaching of which I have a great ^{deal}. I send you a bundle of reprints some of which may amuse you. Yours sincerely,

~~Wm~~ Osler

The address on "Elisha Bartlett: A Rhode Island Philosopher", a by-product as has been seen, of his historical studies regarding typhoid fever, which led to his great interest in the American group of Louis's pupils, was given in Providence on December 7th, before the Rhode Island Medical Society. *He*

Osler was forever arousing in people in different localities an interest in their local medical worthies. It was, for example, customary for him to ask anyone hailing from Cincinnati when they were going to put up a monument to Daniel Drake, for he had made a vow never to visit there until one was erected. It was usual for them to admit that they did not know who he was.*

*Osler's interest in Drake must have gone back to 1894, for there are two or three letters in October of that year indicating that he was in correspondence with certain members of Drake's family and had secured some letters and documents regarding him. These letters are inserted in ~~Osler's~~ ^{the} copy of Drake's "Pioneer Life in Kentucky" in his library. ~~Osler was offered a very large honorarium in 1918 (?) to go to Cincinnati and deliver the address on the occasion of the erection of the monument to Daniel Drake which stands~~

*See Long O.
Wm. House
H.C.*

So, on this occasion, in his introductory paragraph he mildly rebukes his audience for their neglect of Bartlett.

Rhode Island can boast of but one great philosopher - one to whose flights in the empyrean neither Roger Williams nor any of her sons could soar - the immortal Berkeley, who was a transient guest in this State, waiting quietly and happily for the realization of ~~the~~ ^{his} Utopian schemes. Still he lived long enough in Rhode Island to make his name part of her history; long enough in America to make her the inspiration of his celebrated lines on the course of empire. Elisha Bartlett, teacher, philosopher, author, of whom I am about to speak, whom you may claim as the most distinguished physician of this State, has left no deep impression on your local history or institutions. Here he was born and educated, and to this, his home, he returned to die; but his busy life was spent in other fields, where today his memory is cherished more warmly than in the land of his birth.

He had secured from Bartlett's nephew the letters and family papers that enabled him to put together a biographical sketch, in which he particularly stressed his student years abroad. And most sympathetically he treats of his career as a medical writer, of his brief experience as editor of a medical journal, of his life as a peripatetic professor:

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For many years there was in this country a group of peripatetic teachers who like the Sophists of Greece, went from town to town, staying a year or two in each, or they divided their time between a winter session in a large city school and a summer term in a small country one. Among them Daniel Drake takes the precedence, as he made eleven moves in the course of his stirring and eventful life. Bartlett comes an easy second, having taught in nine schools. Dunglison, T. R. Beck, Willard Parker, Alonzo Clark, the elder Gross, Austin Flint, Frank H. Hamilton, and many others whom I could name, belonged to this group of wandering professors. The medical education of the day was almost exclusively theoretical; the teachers lectured for a short four months' session, there was a little dissection, a few major operations were witnessed, the fees were paid, examinations were held - and all was over.

Teacher, philosopher, author, orator and poet - on all of these aspects of Bartlett's remarkable career he touched, and appended to the essay when published*

*Cf. "The Alabama Student & Other Biographical Essays" London, 1906.

he had reprinted the sketch of Hippocrates, one of Bartlett's latest writings in which that imaginary scene of Pericles upon his death-bed, with the young physician from Cos in attendance, Osler regarded as a masterpiece worthy of Walter Savage Landor - exceeded by few word-pictures in the English language.

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At the close of the year, a card postmarked December 28th goes to H. V.

Ogden.

Thursday

Dear O. So glad to hear from you. I have just returned from Toronto. Mother is very chipper & bright for 94, full of fun & most interested in everything. Revere was delighted with his visit. Thanks for the Selden. I have not a copy. A. G. P. sent me Burtons An. of Mel. - 1st Edition - Boswell's copy - in the original binding. Do come on this spring & stay with us. 'Twill do you good to have a rest & you can sleep until 10 every morning. So sorry about the Insurance Co. The work would have been very congenial. Mrs Osler sends kindest regards, in which I join to Mrs Ogden & to your sisters. Sorry I cannot come out in June - I shall be away. r.