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# The mature method of Franchising

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## Chapter XX

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Order has other ways 'of sanctifying a ~~professional fee~~ than by the purchase of rare books to add to his library and the record of the

The year may well begin with a <sup>note</sup> letter which shows what a Baltimorean,

professor in another school and long-time Treasurer of the old Medical &

Chirurgical Faculty, thought of <sup>him</sup> ~~Esler~~. <sup>The note indicates</sup> ~~It indicates, too,~~ that a renewed ef-

fort was being made to lift the debt which was still burdening the Society.

From Thomas A. Ashby to W.O.

Balto. Jan'y 2nd, '01.

My dear Doctor, I think to have a big generous heart and then to have the means of making it happy through generous acts and deeds is the nearest approach to Heaven we can get in this life. I never saw a man who enjoyed giving as much as you do and I presume this is one reason why you are always happy.

If I should outlive you I will make the old Faculty erect a monument to your memory if I have to give all the money myself. I rejoice with you in the good work you are doing and am sure we will have the debt wiped out by the April meeting.

The small donations will come in later. Wishing you and yours the happiness of the Season and many more such, I am very sincerely,

T. A. Ashby.



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~~One obligation for the coming year is indicated by a letter written early in the year~~  
~~A note to Lafleur in~~

in which he says, "Send me any memoranda of corrections or suggestions you may

*recalls that the ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>burdensome</sup>,*  
have for a new edition of my vade-mecum," But the triennial text-book revision

*is due but this*  
has to be crowded in among other things. Thus on January 9th he is found

reading a paper before the Philadelphia County Medical Society on perforative

peritonitis in typhoid fever, and among physicians he was one of the first not

only to recognize the need of immediate operation but to urge that surgeon and

physician together visit all typhoid patients showing symptoms, even suggestive

ones, of perforation. With the disappearance of typhoid the surgeons of a young-

er generation will happily never know what this was all about and what Osler's

backing meant to the surgeons of that time 'in whose hands lay the possibility

of still further reducing the mortality from typhoid.' It is now only a mat-

ter of historical interest - today when the student looks upon a stray case

of typhoid as a curiosity - that Osler should have felt impelled to write:

. . . Our senior students should receive a practical, first-hand day-by-day acquaintance with typhoid fever. Heaven knows there are cases enough and to spare in every city in the Union to provide instruction of this sort. But is it given? I do not mean lectures on typhoid fever, or recitations on typhoid fever. I mean seeing typhoid-fever patients



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day by day, practically having charge of them and watching their progress from week to week. This can be done, and this should be done in the case of an all-important disease of this character. The worst indictment ever brought against the medical schools of this country is contained in the recently issued report by Reed, Vaughan, and Shakespeare on the prevalence of typhoid fever during the Spanish-American War. Shades of W. W. Gerhard and of Austin Flint! The young doctors, to whom were entrusted scores of valuable lives, had practically not got beyond the nosology of Rush. Of the total number of 20,738 cases of typhoid fever, only about 50% <sup>[correctly]</sup> were diagnosed by the regimental or hospital surgeons.\*

\*"On Perforation and Perforative peritonitis in Typhoid Fever." Philadelphia Medical Journal, Jan. 19, 1901.

~~Even this~~  
This early in the year he is ~~already~~ looking forward to the summer, for

on January 11th he writes in answer to J. G. Adami of Montreal who was preparing a paper on "The Edinburgh Tradition":

. . . The association between Edinburgh and Leyden was always very close. You may remember that one of the Pitcairns had been a professor at the University of Leyden, and Boerhaave had been his student. I want to spend a couple of weeks in Holland this summer if possible, exploring the old book shops, and I hope to go to Leyden and look up some of its old medical treasures. Linacre's works are excessively rare, at least in England. In France some of the Latin grammars should be reasonably common, as there were many editions of the Rudimenta Grammaticis issued in Paris. I have looked in vain for his translations of Galen.



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The next day he was in Boston, a participant in the exercises at the opening of the new building of the Boston Medical Library, <sup>this</sup> which explains the following note sent the month before to his friend James R. Chadwick, who as ~~of 1842~~ will be recalled, had come to Osler's assistance some years before, in arousing the then dormant Maryland 'Faculty'.

XII. 3. '00.

Dear Chadwick No indeed! I shall not disappoint you - only too glad of the opportunity! It is very good of you to ask me. I shall stay with Fred S [Shattuck] with pleasure. Yours sincerely

Wm Osler

Since 1875 - since the days, in fact, when Osler first went down from Montreal to visit Boston - Chadwick had served in the capacity of a voluntary but indefatigable Librarian for the Boston Medical Library Association, <sup>a</sup> ~~as~~ which he had been one of the six founders and which, as has been said, he had practically 'collected and created.' This <sup>which</sup> Society holds a relation to the local profession similar to that held by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the Academy of Medicine in New York, the Maryland Medical & Chirurgical Faculty, and the Royal Society of Medicine of London. But whereas the <sup>as J. A. Asby left his share,</sup> century-old Maryland 'Faculty' <sup>^</sup> was vainly soliciting funds in Baltimore, even



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to get out of debt, the Boston society, in this its twenty-sixth year, had raised a sufficient sum to ~~move from inadequate quarters and to erect a palatial building worthy of~~ <sup>the man</sup> Oliver Wendell Holmes for whom its chief <sup>hall</sup> room was appropriately named; <sup>for Oliver Wendell Holmes</sup> since after serving thirteen years as its first President ~~he~~ had then made the library the repository of his books.

It was at the dedication of this building that Osler, John S. Billings, Weir Mitchell and H. C. Wood had been invited to speak. Certainly none of them could have sent a <sup>more brief, prompt or</sup> ~~briefer or more~~ satisfactory, ~~or a more prompt~~ note of acceptance than that quoted above. <sup>And in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the course of his</sup>

~~From Osler's 'Remarks' on the occasion,~~ which he entitled "Books and Men",  
<sup>accident (#)</sup>

\*Cf. "Aequanimitas and Other Addresses ." For a full account of the proceedings, cf. Boston Medical & Surgical Journal, Jan. 17, 1901.

<sup>extracts</sup>  
~~quotations have already been taken in earlier chapters. For one of his com-~~  
<sup>quaintly with the new edition of his vade-mecum in mind he said:</sup>  
~~parisons he drew upon his reading of John Bunyan the previous summer and used~~  
~~the quotation he had jotted in his note-book on the steamer.~~

"It is hard for me ~~[he said]~~ to speak of the value of libraries in terms which would not seem exaggerated. Books have been my delight these thirty years, and from them I have received incalculable benefits. To



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study the phenomena of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all. Only a maker of books can appreciate the labours of others at their true value. Those of us who have brought forth fat volumes should offer hetacombs at these shrines of Minerva Medica.

He went on to speak of the use of such a library for the teacher, for the general practitioner, and finally for another group, <sup>to whom he belonged as follows:</sup> ~~of whom he said:~~

There is a third class of men in the profession to whom books are dearer than to teachers or practitioners - a small, a silent band, but in reality the leaven of the whole lump. The profane call them bibliomaniacs, and in truth they are at times irresponsible and do not always know the difference between meum and tuum. In the presence of Dr. Billings and of Dr. Chadwick I dare not further characterize them. Loving books partly for their contents, partly for the sake of the authors, they not alone keep alive the sentiment of historical continuity in the profession, but they are the men who make possible such gatherings as the one we are enjoying this evening. We need more men of their class, particularly in this country, where everyone carries in his pocket the tape-measure of utility.

And John S. Billings, by now Librarian of the New York Public Library, urged the Bostonians that they must not forget with their local affairs that the Surgeon General's Library also needed their backing to accommodate expansion,



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and knowing whereof he spoke, <sup>added</sup> ~~said~~ that with the existing provisions for books the Boston profession 'could rest satisfied for several weeks to come'.

During the remainder of this month there were frequent visits to Canada, <sup>because</sup> ~~for~~ his brothers <sup>illness</sup> ~~was not doing well~~, and at home there was cause for anxiety about one of his colleagues, <sup>(as appears from a letter & sent to)</sup> ~~for on~~ the 24th he writes (President Gilman:

"Rowland has been much better this afternoon and evening, better indeed than he has been for days. For the first time I found him a bit encouraged, &c."

But there were other things than professional work to occupy him, and the next day he writes H. M. Hyrd that he thinks the idea of evening lectures to the post-graduates admirable and he would be very glad indeed to give one of them, preferring Sir Thomas Browne. ¶ With all this he managed to write one of the series of articles on "The Past Century: its Progress in Great Subjects" for the New York Sun, published during the month,\* and ~~in characteristic~~

\*"The Progress of Medicine in the Nineteenth Century." The New York Sun, Jan. 27, 1901. Reprinted in "Aequanimitas and Other Essays."

~~fashion~~ made his subject-matter do double duty, for it was presented at the January meeting of the <sup>Hopkins'</sup> ~~hospital~~ historical club. It was ~~an~~ extraordinarily



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*task, must successfully handled -*  
~~successful handling of a difficult problem - the~~ presentation, suited for popu-

lar consumption, of the advances of medicine in its most remarkable century.

~~Should there be any physician in January of 2001 to tell an equally creditable~~

~~story, equally well, the present century, whatever harm its politicians may~~

~~have done, will not have been passed in vain.~~

Of particular interest, possibly, to the profession, was the section in  
~~discussed~~  
 which the revolution that had taken place in the treatment of disease <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ dis-  
 cussed under the caption of 'The New School of Medicine' - one 'with firm  
 faith in a few good, well-tried drugs, little or none in the great mass of  
 medicines now in use' - a new school which cares nothing for homeopathy, and  
 less for so-called allopathy, but 'seeks to study rationally and scientific-  
 ly the action of drugs old and new.' One paragraph alone may be quoted.

A third noteworthy feature in modern treatment has been a return to  
 psychical methods of cure, in which faith in something is suggested to  
 the patient. After all, faith is the great lever of life. Without it  
 man can do nothing; with it, even with a fragment, as a grain of mustard-  
 seed, all things are possible to him. Faith in us, faith in our drugs  
 and methods, is the great stock in trade of the profession. In one pan  
 of the balance, put the pharmacopoeias of the world, all the editions from  
 Dioscorides to the last issue of the United States Dispensatory; heap them



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on the scales as did Euripides his books in the celebrated contest in the "Frogs"; in the other put the simple faith with which from the days of the Pharoahs until now the children of men have swallowed the mixtures these works describe, and the bulky tomes will kick the beam. It is the aurum potable, the touchstone of success in medicine. As Galen says, confidence and hope do more good than physic - 'he cures most in whom most are confident.' That strange compound of charlatan and philosopher, Paracelsus, encouraged his patients 'to have a good faith, a strong imagination, and they shall find the effects' (Burton). While we doctors often overlook or are ignorant of our own faith-cures, we are just a wee bit too sensitive about those performed outside our ranks. We have never had, and cannot expect to have, a monopoly in this panacea, which is open to all, free as the sun, and which may make of everyone in certain cases, as was the Lacedemonian of Homer's day 'a good physician out of Nature's grace.' Faith in the gods or in the saints cures one, faith in little pills another, hypnotic suggestion a third, faith in a plain common doctor a fourth. In all ages the prayer of faith has healed the sick, and the mental attitude of the suppliant seems to be of more consequence than the powers to which the prayer is addressed. The cures in the temples of Aesculapius, the miracles of the saints, the remarkable cures of those noble men the Jesuit missionaries in this country, the modern miracles at Lourdes and at St. Anne de Beaupré in Quebec, and the wonder-workings of the so-called Christian Scientists, are often genuine, and must be considered in discussing the foundations of therapeutics. We physicians use the same power every day. If a poor lass, paralyzed apparently, helpless, bed-ridden for years, comes to me, having worn out in mind, body and estate a devoted family; if



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she in a few weeks or less by faith in me, and faith alone, takes up her bed and walks, the saints of old could not have done more, St. Anne and many others can scarcely today do less. We enjoy, I say, no monopoly in the faith business. The faith with which we work, the faith, indeed, which is available today in everyday life, has its limitations. It will not raise the dead; it will not put in a new eye in place of a bad one (as it did to an Iroquois Indian boy for one of the Jesuit fathers), nor will it cure cancer or pneumonia, or knit a bone; but in spite of these nineteenth-century restrictions, such as we find it, faith is a most precious commodity, without which we should be very badly off.

Osler's was the last and best of this <sup>excellent</sup> ~~important~~ series of articles, <sup>and more than</sup> ~~re-~~  
~~this what concerns us here is the fact that it~~  
~~viewing the past century put out by the New York Sun.~~ <sup>→ this</sup> It was the honorarium  
 for ~~this contribution which~~ went to the 'Faculty' fund, for his name headed  
 the list with the first and largest contribution, which accounts for the enthu-  
 siastic letter from Dr. Ashby with which the year began.

Britton Bath Osler, great orator and lawyer, whose name as Crown Attorney  
 was a household word in Canada, said to have been the most brilliant of the  
 Osler brothers, died on February 5th - the first break in the circle which,  
 as the Canadian papers put it, 'had produced more distinguished men than any



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other contemporary family in the Commonwealth' - a man who 'possessed in large measure that indescribable gift which goes by the name of personal magnetism.'

In a letter to his old Montreal friend, Francis J. Shepherd, Osler in his characteristic offhand way, while expressing sympathy for the loss his friend had <sup>Sustained,</sup> ~~suffered~~, conceals what his wife in a contemporary letter speaks of as 'the great strain of dread and anxiety' he <sup>himself</sup> had been under for so many weeks.

1 West Franklin Street.  
II. 11. 01.

Dear Shepherd I am so sorry to hear of the death of your mother. I knew she was in feeble health but I had not heard of anything serious. It will make a sad break ~~up~~ in your circle. Give my kindest regards to your sisters. I have just returned from Toronto. B. B. went off with coronary artery disease. He has had slow pulse with syncopal attacks for a year. 'Twas a mercy that he died suddenly as he dreaded a long illness. So sorry that you cannot come down for the Surgical association. Love to Cecil. Yours

W Osler

~~In the~~ <sup>The year of</sup> ~~The early months of~~ 1901 <sup>was</sup> a critical <sup>period</sup> ~~time~~ for the Hopkins. Some liberal citizens had offered the Homewood <sup>as a new university site</sup> property on condition that an endowment of a million dollars be raised, but there seemed little prospect of this for in those days, especially in Baltimore, this appeared an enormous sum. Mr.



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Gilman's resignation, moreover, had been handed in, and the University was seeking a new president. Among others, the names of both Welch and Osler had been mentioned, but they had other <sup>aims</sup> ~~ends~~ in life. Osler's chief <sup>aim</sup> ~~end~~ was with his students though little may have been said of them during <sup>the recital of</sup> ~~these~~ <sup>few</sup> past years.

"Could you look in here now," writes Mrs. Osler on the evening of February 23rd, "you would find Dr. Osler at the head of the dining-room table with 12 clerks of the 4th year listening to his Saturday eve talk, and beer, books and tobacco before them. They all seem to enjoy these evenings." And yet she writes the same evening in a letter to Ogden urging him to come 'prepared to spend a month and have a nice loaf,' that 'Dr. Osler has felt his brother's death very much - the first break among the six brothers and altogether very sad.'

With these Saturday evenings given over to the successive groups of clinical clerks nothing was allowed to interfere. And he was almost as punctilious in regard to the weekly medical meetings at the Hopkins, and to those also of the Maryland Clinical Society at the 'Faculty' hall. At one place or the other with regularity, he not only contributed his presence and his voice in the discussions, but <sup>also</sup> many timely articles which subsequently appeared in print and to which it is impossible and unnecessary to allude. Several of them at this par-



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ticular time found their way into the pages of a new journal, American Medicine, which was in need of professional backing. <sup>\* 12</sup> Its first number appeared in April, under the editorship of George M. Gould, who for sufficient reasons had withdrawn from a similar post on the Philadelphia Medical Journal.

The text-book revision, meanwhile, was on his conscience if not actively on his hands, for they seemed full enough with other things, among them the chairmanship of the American Committee to prepare for the great Tuberculosis Congress to be held in London the coming summer. <sup>Moreover in</sup> In view of his plan to be abroad, he must have been asked by Mr. Gilman to represent the Hopkins at the 9th semi-centennial jubilee of the founding of Glasgow University, for he writes April 15th: "I could not possibly get away early enough to be in Glasgow on June 12th. I have a revision of my text-book on hand which will keep

me very busy until the last moment." Then too at this time he was laid up

At this juncture he was laid low with one of his periodic attacks of bronchitis, and took advantage of his several three days in bed to devour Gomperz' "Greek Thinkers" the first volume of which

Scribner had just issued. <sup>vt</sup>

also p. 17



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It was <sup>on</sup> ~~at~~ such <sup>occasions</sup> ~~times~~ that he managed to do some consecutive reading, <sup>time for</sup> ~~time for~~ which ordinarily <sup>on the living</sup> otherwise it was snatched ~~at odd moments~~ - when dressing, breakfasting, or retiring. His nephew who had lived at 1 West Franklin Street or next door with the 'latch-keyers' during his medical course, has written this <sup>intimate</sup> note of "W.O.'s bath and 'the phenomenon'" which tells incidentally how time for reading <sup>may be found</sup> was snatched.

W.O.'s bath and "the phenomenon."

He took a warm bath every evening about 10.30. My room was next the bathroom at 1 West Franklin St. and I would get the bath ready when he called out to me on coming upstairs. Or if I were downstairs, I always went up with him for the ceremony. This consisted in my reading to him for 10 minutes or so while he was brushing his teeth, taking his bath & drying himself. In the 6 years (the 7th I slept at No. 3) we went systematically thro' several books - Chapman's Homer (Iliad & Odyssey), Morley's Life of Cardan, and - during my anatomy days - Holden's "Landmarks" (A propos of surface marking - I expect you have bathed with him & seen the hole in one of his shins from ~~/peri/~~osteitis following a kick at football when he was a boy), using him as a subject, Isaac Walton's "Lives", &c. Sometimes we talked about things in general or what I was learning at the time.

In his bath, he seldom failed to test what he called the phenomenon - lying flat in the bath with your toes covered with the water, flex your



thigh so as to raise your extended leg sharply out of the water. You are conscious of no effort until the heel has cleared the water by a few inches, when suddenly the motion stops, it is almost impossible to help a slight recoil, and it is only with the greatest effort, and after an appreciable interval of immobility, that you can begin again to raise the leg any higher. In this third stage the amount of effort rapidly diminishes to that normally required for elevating the foot, at the same angle, when you are lying on a dry floor. I used to have to test it for him passively by raising his heel with my arms, and acknowledge that my effort went through the same three stages.

I would hear the swish and expect the usual interruption, "How d'ye account for it?" or "Really, Bill, it's extraordinary," &c. &c. No explanation ever satisfied him, and indeed towards the end I refused to argue it with him and agreed that it was inexplicable. "Buoyancy? Momentum? Action & reaction? You old Tom-cat fool! Buoyancy ought to cease the instant the leg leaves the water and the momentum ought to diminish gradually. They really don't know much physics nowadays. Archimedes could have solved it for me in a jiffy!"



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During April and May came the usual succession of meetings, of Osler's part in which some trace has been left in print or in his letters. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 19th at the 'Faculty' hall there was a spirited session at which the registration of cases of tuberculosis was advocated as being the only way through segregation of the carriers to get this curable and preventable disease under full control. On this same day he wrote the Dean of the School W.H. Howell, explaining in a foot-note why May 13th did not suit him for a school session.

April 19, 1901

Dear Howell: I should like to see you for a little while before the next meeting of the Faculty about some changes in the titles, etc. in my department. Fatcher is going to leave the house, and is going into practice here. He is such an excellent fellow that I think we ought to keep him to help with the teaching. I shall have to rearrange some of my work next year. This winter my Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays have been altogether too heavy. The difficulty is about increasing the expenses. It seems to me that what we pay in salaries and laboratory expenses is a pretty full amount - \$3000. I should like to see <sup>what</sup> with reference to the relation this bears to the laboratory and salary expenses in some of the other departments. Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

P.S. I find that Monday, May 13th is the night of our Historical Club, for which Mumford is coming from Boston.



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On the 23rd came the annual <sup>Saturday</sup> meeting of the 'Faculty,' with a dinner for Walter Reed who was to give the oration upon some recent researches on yellow fever. Then on the 30th the 'American Physicians' met in Washington with Welch presiding. At this gathering Osler read on the subject of the spinal form of arthritis deformans, and there was also a paper by Trudeau on the early recognition of tuberculosis, in the course of which he made what was an extraordinary statement for the time, namely that 75% of cases of pulmonary consumption might be expected to recover if recognized in time and placed in favourable surroundings. But the two outstanding features of the programme were the account given by Reed and Carroll of their Cuban experiences, and by Barker, Flexner and Novy of the plague situation in San Francisco which they had recently been investigating. At this time, too, a group of five men - Welch, Prudden, Holt, Herter and Biggs - all members of the Association, met on the invitation of John D. Rockefeller in the Arlington Hotel in Washington to consider the question of the establishment of an institution to promote research in medicine.\* This project was not yet a matter of public knowledge,

\*The Rockefeller Institute was incorporated a month later, June 14th, when a pledge of \$200,000 was made to the Board (to which the



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names of Theobald Smith and Flexner had been added), to be drawn upon at their discretion during a period of ten years for preliminary work.

and meanwhile Osler whose text-book had been <sup>indirectly</sup> remotely responsible for the gathering,

meeting, had returned with Trudeau to Baltimore for a meeting of the Laennec

Society, before which body Trudeau gave an account of his work in Saranac.

It was in the course of his address that Trudeau related the following incident.

About this time [1893], while ill in New York, my house burned to the ground, the fire having originated during the night from the explosion of the kerosene lamp of the thermostat in my little laboratory, and everything in the house and laboratory proved a total loss. Two days after the fire I received from Dr. Osler a brief note, which shows that his great reputation should not be limited to his attainments as a physician, but that he may lay claim also to some reputation as a prophet. The entire substance of the note was as follows:

"Dear Trudeau: I am sorry to hear of your misfortune, but, take my word for it, there is nothing like a fire to make a man do the Phoenix trick."

Dr. Osler's prophecy very soon began to be realized. A friend and patient of mine, . . . told me that as soon as I was well enough he hoped I would return to Saranac Lake and build a suitable laboratory, one that would not burn down; that he wanted me to build the best I could plan for the purpose, and that he would pay for it.



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*one meeting came on the heels of another. The first was in May*

*A week later* the American Surgical Association met in Baltimore; ~~on the~~  
 13th James G. Mumford came ~~for~~ <sup>to see before</sup> the Historical Club; ~~each of which occasions~~ <sup>two days later</sup>  
 meant guests at 1 West Franklin Street. ~~On the 15th Osler was in Chicago~~ <sup>and</sup>,  
 on the 20th at a meeting in Philadelphia; and on the 25th the Association of  
 Medical Librarians met in Baltimore. This society, <sup>which</sup> as will be recalled, ~~he~~  
~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> George M. Gould had <sup>been</sup> launched <sup>by Dr. Gould</sup> three years before, for the purpose of  
 heartening the group, composed in <sup>large</sup> part of young women, who were engaging them-  
 selves as medical librarians, <sup>During the first meeting of</sup> ~~It was the first time~~ the Society <sup>to be held</sup> had met in  
 Baltimore, where subsequently with Osler as President and with Miss M.C. Noyes  
 as manager of its book exchanges its headquarters were established, - nor, it  
 may be added, did Osler ever forget to send, and meet the expenses of, the  
 underpaid librarians of both the 'Faculty' and of the Hopkins Library whenever  
 the Association met elsewhere, as in time it came to do in conjunction with  
 the annual A. M. A. gatherings.

Before this little group of seven earnest people with a few invited guests,  
 Osler gave an account of his two visits made the previous summer on the Hunt-  
 erian Library at Glasgow\* - visits which had left him 'bewildered with the

\*Bulletin of Association of Medical Librarians, 1902, i, 20-23.



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1901

impression of the extent and value of the collection,' the uniqueness of which the Glasgow University authorities scarcely appreciated. No. 1 West Franklin Street saw this small group of happy people at dinner with the Oslers and there was spent an evening which served as a tonic sufficient to last them over for another twelve months in their difficult and unremunerative positions.

How Osler ever found time for his writing and at the same time managed to give his best to his students, ~~which after all was both his job and his joy,~~ <sup>acquaintance.</sup> always mystified his friends. No less it mystifies his biographer who must stop occasionally to dwell upon an address of more than ordinary importance. Such a one was given, at their annual meeting, before the Society of Internal Medicine, on the occasion of his visit to Chicago on May 15th.\* It happened

\*"The Natural Method of Teaching the Subject of Medicine." Journal of the Am. Med. Assoc., June 15, 1901. xxxvi, 1673. The article was illustrated by one or two snapshot pictures of the classes taken by one of the students. There were many others, stolen of him in characteristic attitudes at the bedside, four of which are here reproduced.

to be an address in which he attempted to tell, as he says, 'a plain tale of the method of teaching at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.'

"There is nothing," he said, "very novel about it, except that in the third and fourth years the hospital is made the equivalent of the laboratories

into the class  
and of the  
conception



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of the first and second; and in it the student learns the practical art of medicine. This may be called the natural mode of teaching." "In the natural method of teaching" he continued, "the student begins with the patient, continues with the patient, and ends his studies with the patient, using books and lectures as tools, as means to an end." He spoke of the novel conditions which <sup>the Hopkins teachers</sup> confronted ~~them~~ at the outset; he gave a skeleton of the staff organization, and told in detail how the clinical instruction was begun; how he believed in the old maxim that 'the whole art of medicine lies in observation' - and he dwelt particularly on his favourite third-year observation class where the students saw 'close at hand the unwashed maladies' from the dispensary. He described the class in physical diagnosis and clinical microscopy, the general medical clinic, the work of the clinical clerks, his general clinic in the amphitheatre on Wednesday noon when the 'typhoid committee' and the 'pneumonia committee' make their reports - for great emphasis is laid on the teaching of pneumonia, the great acute disease, the present 'captain of the men of death' to use a phrase of John Bunyan, (and the reader knows where he got it). ~~of XIX, 37~~

*also p. 13*  
It was all very simple. There was nothing new about it. This, Osler emphasized himself, quoting in evidence what Professor Gomperz in his "Greek



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Thinkers" had said of the rational science of Hippocrates and his <sup>contemporaries</sup> ~~colleagues~~.

(~~and the reader has learned where he got this, also~~). And he ends with this reference to his old teacher.

. . . Years ago my preceptor, Dr. Bovell, placed in my hands Latham's "Clinical Medicine", and he marked a passage which contains the alpha and omega of clinical teaching, and with it I will conclude: "In entering this place," speaking of the wards of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, "even this vast hospital where there is many a significant and many a wonderful thing, you shall take me along with you, and I will be your guide. But it is by your own eyes, and your ears and your own minds and (I may add) your own hearts that you must observe and learn and profit. I can only point to the objects and say little else than 'see here and see there.' "

Yes, it was all very simple - the method - but there was something far more important than method - the personality of the teacher needed to make this or any other system a success. One can only conjecture the existence of this essential element by reading between the lines of the address. But given some years later in the words of one of these students, it is more real.

To us who were his students in the early days of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, his memory is so vivid, so fresh, that it seems but as if yesterday when he worked and played in our midst, and we have but to close our eyes to see him in fancy, almost as clearly as we saw him in fact in the late 90's, the great teacher and the great student in his manifold re-



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lations to his students. Now we can see him riding to the hospital in the Monument Street car, and to the group about him prophesying with keen yet ever kindly vision the ills - physical, mental and spiritual of the derelicts en route to the dispensary; here in the wards demonstrating the complex psychology of Giles de la Tourette's disease, as exemplified by a poor bit of sodden humanity whose coprolalia but exemplified - in a way a bit embarrassing at times it is true - the symptom-complex he was discussing, or in an alcove off the ward playing with little Theophilia as she was emerging from the night of cretinism into the day of normal happy childhood under his skilful guidance; now in the class-room of the dispensary - for he loved the polyclinic, and believed in its wonderful potentiality as a teaching factor - with one deft touch solving a case of great complexity, or bringing from his vast storehouse of knowledge the one last link needed in a disease-picture hitherto poorly understood, listening, suggesting, directing, teaching, guiding both student and patient, and all the while filling countless scraps of paper with the names of one of the three great teachers of his youth; now in the clinical laboratory studying a blood specimen, and suggesting to the student some line of original investigation which might, perhaps, light into flame the dormant investigator and research worker; now in the autopsy room studying in death the puzzles that he had helped to unravel during life; now walking through the wards and corridors of the hospital with a smile or an epigram for every doctor and nurse who passed, a kindly word, and his ever-stimulating psychotherapy - encouragement, optimism, hope - to every patient he saw; in his myriad activities always making each student feel that he also was but a student of health and of disease, of men and of morals, and yet such a student as to fire our minds, our souls and our bodies to renewed efforts so that we might, in some measure at least, prove worthy of this fraternity.



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To us who were privileged to be his students - his fellow-students in those days, he was - and still is - always our inspiration and always our model.\*

\*\*\*Osler and the Student." T. R. Brown, Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin, 1919, ~~xxx~~, 200.

By the end of May, leaving him with his Text-book, Mrs. Osler had departed taking Revere for a visit in Canton, thereby exchanging for her exciting life a very quiet one. And she writes to one of the 'latch-keyers' that she is homesick and blue at the thought of 1 West Franklin Street full of people - but that she would struggle along till the 15th. This was the date set for their sailing on the "St. Paul", and <sup>Sure enough</sup> by then the Text-book revision was completed and the pages forwarded to the publishers. The preface, however, did not get written till after they had reached London. In it he enumerates the many and important changes which had been made in the edition, many of the chapters, like that on malaria, having been completely recast, and as usual all those who had been of chief aid in the revision were given their dues.

<sup>Inscribed in</sup>  
~~in~~ his own library copy of this IVth edition, <sup>it was in a ship on which</sup> Osler has written: ~~this note.~~

This very clever examination paper on my Text-book was written by Dr. Scott, afterward demonstrator of histology in the University of Oxford, and appeared in the St. Thomas Hospital Gazette, 1902. Additions were



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made to the original by one or two of my assistants in Baltimore. About a month after the examination appeared a complete set of answers was sent to me by my friend J. William White, the well-known Philadelphia surgeon.

It was a most amusing skit - this paper, and tickled Osler greatly. It was signed "D.M.S." and really was composed by three Guy's men, L. S. Dudgeon, A. Mayrogor dato and S. G. Scott. The skit <sup>with its 24 questions</sup> began in this wise:

AN EXAMINATION PAPER ON OSLER (IVTH EDITION)

There seems to be a certain monotony about medical examinations, so we suggest the following, by way of variety:-

1. - Who was Mephibosheth? What parental superstition dates from his time?
2. - What is "one of the saddest chapters in the history of human deception"?
3. - Give Osler's quotations from the following authors: - John Bunyan, Byron, John Cheyne, George Cheyne, Montaigne. Explain the context where necessary.

The first trace of Osler's footsteps in London this summer <sup>31901 occurs as</sup> is a note on the fly-leaf of Scott's Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft, addressed to J. G. Lockhart, 1830. "This is the first Edition," he wrote. "I bought it at Sotheby's June 30 1901 for £1. 8. 6. W.O." And from the Savile Club he sends word to George Nuttall that they have had to change their plans about Cambridge since they 'are off to Holland on Monday' and that they will hope to see him at the Tuberculosis Congress.



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It was again a scorching summer and someone had suggested that it might be cooler in Holland where there were so many windmills. Heat, however, bothered Osler very little, due, as he was wont to say, to the chill of thirty Canadian winters <sup>Lingering</sup> in his veins. The trip had been long planned with George Dock his former Philadelphia assistant, but at the last moment, braving the thermometer, Mrs. Osler accompanied them, with the understanding that she was in no way to interfere with their programme. This was largely a medico-bibliohistorical one which was to begin with "The Anatomy Lesson" at the Hague. They had written ahead to some physicians in various places they intended to visit, and started out, Osler with a Life of Boerhaave and Foster's Lane Lectures just published, under his arm. These he would be found perusing in some corner of the Mauritshuis, for example, while the others were led on beyond the one or two pictures to which they had definitely agreed to confine themselves.

A most amusing though trying day with the temperature about 100° F. was spent in Leyden with Prof. Rosenstein, then an old man, a Teuton, who for many years had occupied Boerhaave's Chair as Professor of Medicine. But alas! he had never been to Oud-Poelgeest nor did he know where was his immortal predecessor's tomb - indeed, insisted there was none. The good old man learned a



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reat deal of medical history on this particularly red-hot day, and finally got his guests home, where in their shirt-sleeves seated on a horsehair sofa they were refreshed by some hot lemonade. Nor was this all - for a sweltering evening with much feasting and toasting was passed with the professor's family at a waterside resort - but it must suffice. A second day was passed in Leyden looking in vain through the University register to see if he could find the signature of a quondam matriculant named Thomas Browne of circa 1633; they had better luck elsewhere, for later in the day they stumbled upon a sale at which the belongings of the last female descendant of Boerhaave were being disposed of, and he purchased the entire collection including a large brass quadrant which had once been Boerhaave's. He also appears to have made this entry in his pocket note-book late one evening, possibly on the way back to the Hague.\*

\*Osler evidently was pursuing the 'flighty purpose' - viz. to jot down his impressions for use in a subsequent paper. The plan was never fulfilled. He did speak on the subject the next fall before the Historical Club, but his remarks were never published. Sixteen years passed before he touched this material again, and then before the Historical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (1918) he gave a paper on "Boerhaave's Position in Science," the MS. of which is preserved though it was never published. In this article he particularly defends Boerhaave's position as an experimental chemist. Osler insisted that Boerhaave might well be regarded as the founder of organic chemistry for this was the very work on which his reputation in science is firmly established. "Not even the erudite Haeser refers to it, nor indeed does Meyer, while Garrison, so accurate and liberal, is positively unjust and is supported by my Cambridge brother [Allbutt] whose astonishing statement is quoted - 'he made no experiments in Medicine.'"



A Visit to Boerhaave's home.

July 11th 1901.

Dr. George Dock and I dined with Professor Rosenstein and about 8 o'clock strolled out along the [ ] Road for about half a mile, then turned into a narrow country lane, which with many windings lead to Oud-Poelgeest (Old Pond Marsh), the country home of Boerhaave. High stone pillars and massive iron gates of unusual height open on a drive which leads to the house through an avenue of magnificent beeches; those near to the house are of younger growth. The owners - ~~Willing (?) by name~~ were away and the house was closed, but the gardener showed us about the place. ~~The property consists of - acres, much of which is~~ densely wooded, so that as one leaves the city on the - side it forms a marked feature of the landscape. > The trees come very close to the house, which is a spacious square building of old brick, flanked by wings which are set forward a little from the main building. Coming out from the dense avenue it looked as sombre as the 'House of Ussher', but the weird and solemn stillness was soon broken by the furious barking of two great dogs, which were kenneled and chained opposite either corner. A hedge of box, in the letters Oud-Poelgeest, threw a fragrance on the damp evening air. It was a great deprivation not to be able to enter the house. On either side there was a dense shrubbery, in the midst of which to the left stood the magnificent ruins of what is known as Boerhaave's tree, an American tulip tree which he had planted some two hundred years ago. The main trunk had split some years ago and had been girded with irons; one or two of the large branches remained, and there were vigorous shoots which bore beautiful blossoms. One could not but feel that the tree was emblematic in a way of the great school of Leyden, which had as it were lived its life but which now shows new and vigorous shoots. A tablet was placed upon the tree in 1817 with an inscription referring to Boerhaave and his reputation.

On passing to the back of the house what was our surprise to find that it rose directly out of the basin or expanded termination of one of the canals leading directly to Leyden, and Professor Rosenstein pointed out at one angle the doorway through which tradition says Boerhaave took his barge to go to town. Here too Peter the Great anchored his boat when he paid a visit to the great Professor. From the bridge over the canal one got a fine view of the old house, the foundations of which, ~~and~~ wings rose directly from the water. The dampness of the place may have accounted for the attacks of serious arthritis from which Boerhaave suffered. Perhaps in his time the place was more open and the trees had not grown so close to the house; but here, after the toils and cares of the day he retired for recreation and repose -



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The next stopping-place is shown by the heading of the following letter to John H. Musser.

Brack's Doelan Hotel, Amsterdam,  
July 14, 1901.

Dear Musser Delighted! I shall try to catch the steamer & telegraph you to come to 49 Clarges St Piccadilly directly where you will find Dock & me. I have sent word to the Foreign Secretary that you are coming & to send all your invitations to Morgan & Co. I wish you were with us here. We have had a delightful visit. Spent two days with old Boerhaave in Leyden. Yours,

W. O.

A few days were passed in Amsterdam - the mornings by Osler in his shirt-sleeves up a ladder investigating the shelves of Müller's magazin de livres. He was selecting books for the 'Faculty' library and incidentally some for his own, while on a table conveniently nearby stood the volumes of the Index Catalogue of the Surgeon General's Library; <sup>and</sup> Foster's new "History of Physiology" lay open exposing the page with a chronological list of rare historical works; - a pitcher of drinking-water completed the picture. Meanwhile Mrs. Osler writes to one of the 'latch-keyers' in Baltimore that her two men were very happy hunting old books; and incidentally a fifty-second birthday is recorded.

They found nothing in the Hague or Rotterdam, but have had splendid luck here and got some Boerhaave things in Leyden. We are going north to-



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morrow to Groningen then to Utrecht and Antwerp - on to Ghent and some epileptic hospital place and cross from Ostend on the 21st. . . Revere is so happy in Scotland. He joked up to the last moment about leaving us but when we put him on the train he said, "Oh, I do care - I feel queer in my heart under my arm." . . Dr. Osler has been really sightseeing on this trip and is very amusing. He looks at one picture in the collection and then flies to a bookshop. I got him a lovely Keats for his birthday. I think I told you he would not bid against Quaritch at this sale so we had to take it at his price but no matter he is so happy over it. He has a consultation in the country next week and the fee will cover many indiscretions.

From Amsterdam they crossed the Zuyder Zee to visit the new clinics in course of erection at Groningen, and there a lifelong friendship was started with K.F. Wenckebach the newly appointed young professor, who vividly recalls one incident of the visit, for after <sup>(his foot gone over)</sup> ~~visiting~~ the buildings Osler announced that he would like to see 'the Bible.' "What Bible?" "The Bible," replied Osler "that belonged to Martin Luther and afterwards came into the hands of Erasmus who made annotations in it; it must be in the University Library." And "Lo," Professor Wenckebach adds, "there the Holy thing was," - much to his amazement, for he knew nothing about it. They subsequently went on to Friesland and that enchanting spot Leeuwarden, and from here the story may be taken up from another letter written by the third member of the party, to Dr. Jacobs.



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. . . I believe I wrote you from Amsterdam. We really had a delightful trip though Drs. Dock and Osler became utterly disgusted at every place where old books were not forthcoming and promptly wanted to leave. We went far north into Friesland and came to a most fascinating place, Leeuwarden, where we had the good luck to hit on a kermesse and saw the natives in their charming prosperity and beauty. There also we found the factory for "antique" silver - and know why it is so plentiful. The spoons cost almost nothing there. Utrecht was a great disappointment. The Professor wrote Dr. Osler a note and called him "dear Professor Hopkins" which afforded us much amusement. In Antwerp it was so boiling hot we could not breathe and made up our minds to skip Bruges and Ghent and rush on to Ostend. There we stayed three days in a most charming hotel and had sea baths & generally refreshed ourselves. . . .

So they did, and someone else tells that the Life of Boerhaave was forgotten and a peculiar amphibious dark-skinned person who had learned his water-tricks in the ponds of Upper Canada proceeded to walk around the floor of the ocean on his hands, waving a pair of legs aloft to the amazement of the natives and to the anticipated embarrassment of his wife in the water alongside. From this digression we may return to Mrs. Osler's letter.

[From Ostend] we went back to Clarges St. I stayed two days at the Congress. It was very impressive - the Duke of Cambridge opened it. I nearly had a fit. I did not know Dr. Osler was to speak and I was overcome with astonishment. Entre nous - he and Lord Lister had more applause and



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a better greeting than any of the others. The thermometer was about 98° and I was so excited I really could hardly sit still. I was alone and no one to poke. The meetings were most successful and the social functions wonderful. I asked Mother to send you on a menu from Sir James Blyth's dinner. . . . The Duke of Cambridge asked Dr. Osler to sit down and chat with him & said, "Oh, you Americans are so joky, I do like you." Wasn't it delightful. We went to a most lovely tea at Apsley House - there the Duchess of Wellington made us feel that we were really the only people in the world she wanted to see. It gave me a good lesson - I left the men having this very festive time and came to Edinburgh by sleeping carriage - then on to Falkirk to get Revere. . . .

The British Congress of Tuberculosis, the second of these special congresses to be held on an international basis, opened Monday July 22nd with some 2500 persons in attendance. It was indeed a most successful affair and royalty by lending its patronage had lined itself up in the campaign against the disease which had spared no families, those of prince or pauper. A short six months to the day had elapsed since the cousin of the Duke of Cambridge, who eighty-three years before had unexpectedly stepped between him and the throne had ended her long career. Otherwise she, rather than her son, would have been the person to command the aged Duke who had served in the Crimea when Osler was wearing a smock-frock in Bond Head Upper Canada, to be temporary



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G.O.C. in this new and peculiar campaign which was to be fought by a species of propaganda.

The exciting occasion - when there was 'no one to poke' - to which the ~~para-~~  
~~graph from~~ Mrs. Osler's letter refers, was the opening ceremony at St. James' Hall when, in the presence of Ambassadors innumerable, Mr. Choate among them; Strathcona the High Commissioner of Canada, Bishops, Lord Mayors, Earls, Marquises and other dignitaries too numerous to mention, the Earl of Derby called upon the representative delegates of each of the foreign countries - Osler first, as representing America - and in turn presented them to the Duke. Osler spoke briefly, and the reader knows how it was that he came to apply Bunyan's phrase in speaking of consumption as 'captain of the men of death;' the captain, he said, had nevertheless been reduced to a lieutenant and would soon be reduced to the ranks though it was almost too much to expect that he would actually be drummed completely out of the regiment. All of which may have been what H.R.H. the Duke termed 'jokey.' In alphabetical order the Belgian, Danish, French and German, and other delegates, were then presented, each of them responding in turn with appropriate and brief remarks - less 'jokey' be it said, than were



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Osler's. A deputation, Osler among them, was subsequently received by the King at Marlborough House; and there were great receptions, one at the Mansion House; and elaborate dinners to be attended.

During the serious sessions of the Congress which followed, the outstanding and, be it said, somewhat disconcerting episode transpired on the second day, when introduced by Lord Lister, "Geh. Med. Rath, Professor Dr. Robert Koch, Direktor des Instituts für Infektionskrankheiten in Berlin" discoverer of the tubercle bacillus gave a notable address\* a certain portion of which provoked most

\*"The Fight Against Tuberculosis." British Medical Journal, July 27, 1901, ii, 189-93.

unexpected commotion. Koch gave an exceedingly interesting analysis of the ways in which different infectious diseases must be combatted, and laid down a most sensible programme for the fight against tuberculosis. Much of the value of this was lost, however, because of the one section of his paper in which he dwelt on the difference between human and bovine tuberculosis. For what riveted the attention of his audience to the exclusion of all else was his statement that human tuberculosis was practically non-transmissible to animals,



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that the reverse was probably also true, and consequently the attempt by legislative action, particularly rigorous in England, to stamp out the disease in cattle as a source of human infection, had been misdirected. This led to a storm of protest and disagreement among sanitarians, which lies outside this story. Suffice it to say that Koch again, as with his tuberculin, had been a little premature in his conclusions; and in the discussion that immediately followed the address, Lister with extreme clearness of thought promptly put his finger on the weak point in the deductions Koch had drawn from his experiments.\*

\*In these experiments Koch had shown that it was impossible to infect cattle, swine or other animals with the bacillus taken from cases of pulmonary consumption in man, whereas they were readily susceptible to transmission of infected material from animal to animal. The reverse experiment, of course, could not be tried without 'personal' 'sanction' of a group of human volunteers. However, involuntarily, experiments are continually being conducted, particularly in the case of children who are fed butter and milk containing living bacilli from infected animals. Koch did not believe tuberculosis could be contracted by humans in this way. Others who disagreed with him were apparently correct, but his, just then, was the greater voice. The aftermath of all this can be followed in the correspondence, editorials, etc., of the issues of the British Medical Journal on and succeeding that of July 27, 1901. It may be said that a Royal Commission on Tuberculosis was soon appointed which sat for ten years, with a net expenditure of £75,557 and published an elaborate report in 1911 to the effect that man is infectible by the bovine bacillus, Professor Koch notwithstanding.

There was one man greatly missed at the Congress, and in the midst of the three days' busy sessions Osler found time to say so in a letter to Dr.

Lawrason Brown at Saranac.



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40 Clarges St.  
July 23rd.

Dear Brown You will not find it easy I fear to get an assistant unless he is a healed 'lunger.' I do not know of the right man at the moment but I will bear it in mind. We are having a delightful meeting, only we miss Trudeau sadly. So many inquire for him & speak of his work. So glad you are going to take charge of the Sanitarium. The outlook for you should be first-class. Love to Dr Trudeau Yours sincerely

W Osler

Before the end of the Congress Mrs. Osler proceeded to Scotland to get Revere, who by this time was probably feeling less 'queer in his heart under his arm;' <sup>leaving</sup> she left behind her in London Drs. Dock, Musser and Osler, who were 'tuberculously daft' as she expressed it.

The British Medical Association meeting at Cheltenham followed upon the heels of the Tuberculosis Congress, and though Osler was in attendance and participated in the programme, the occasion need not detain us except to point out that, as told by G. A. Gibson,\* he seems to have devoted himself largely to

\*Cf. Gibson's "Life of Sir William Tennant Gairdner, K.C.B."  
". . . The weather during the meeting was superb, and he loved to get out on the balcony of my house in the mornings smoking an after-breakfast cigar and chatting usually with Dr., now Sir William, Osler of Oxford, and with other friends who came in. He, Sir William Osler, my wife and self used to drive in the afternoons to all the social functions which he thoroughly enjoyed, surrounded as he always was by a bevy of old friends and admirers."

his old friend Sir William Gairdner whom he was to see for the last time. (?)



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They took a house ~~at Incheuen, North Berwick,~~ in East Lothian, where E. A. Schäfer and his family at this time had come to pass their summers. From there a week later Osler wrote John H. Musser.

Incheuen, North Berwick,  
Tuesday.

Dear Musser We were very much disappointed that you did not turn up on Tuesday. I only found out the Sabbatarian character of the North British RR in the afternoon. It was very nice to see you in London. I only wish that you had come earlier as there were many things that we might have done together. It was been delightful I feel sure for John to have trotted about with you. Mrs. Osler sends love & thanks for the books. . . . This is a delightful place & I shall enjoy the golf greatly. I hope you will have a good trip. Kind regards to Janeway. It was nice to have him here as one of our representatives. Do not forget to tell the Provost what a strong impression Ravenel made. He appeared before the Local Gov. Board on the tuberculosis question Yours,

W.O.

In North Berwick he <sup>feigned</sup> ~~figured~~ to devote himself to the links, but there are recollections of a succession of visitors and of expeditions to Bass Rock which William Harvey visited with amazement in 1633, as described in his treatise on the "Generation of Living Creatures;" and Tantallon Castle, and Berwick Law from which one can see on a fine day Arthur's Seat and the smoke of Edinburgh some



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twenty-five miles up the Firth of Forth. Nor was Edinburgh so far away but that expeditions were made there too, as verified by the note "I bought these volumes in Edinburgh Aug. 1901" written in such a peculiar set as William Hayley's "Essay on Old Maids" in three volumes. And, likely enough, there were purchases for the 'Faculty' to whose Librarian, Miss Marcia Noyes, he sends a belated note.

North Berwick,  
VIII. 13. 01.

Dear Miss Noyes I was very distressed (truly) to leave without saying good-bye but I had such hard work to get away - that confounded text-book kept me tight to the very last moment. I hope by this time you are away on your holiday. I will send by Sept 1st the circular letter which I wish to have sent to all those interested in Libraries asking them to subscribe.\* I have

\*This refers to the following letter, finally issued October 1st.

Association of Medical Libraries,  
847 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore.  
October 1, 1901.

Dear Doctor:

I write to ask your active co-operation in the work of this Association which was organized three years ago with the object of promoting the interests of medical libraries in the United States and abroad. We have established an exchange or clearing house from which libraries may fill out files of periodicals and obtain books wanted. Through it they may also dispose of duplicates which are of great value to libraries just forming.

So far as libraries are concerned the work we do is largely gratuitous, each receiving several times over the value of their yearly dues. Thirty-five libraries have joined the Association.

You can help us - (first) by joining the Association and contributing your annual subscription of \$5.00. (Second) by sending



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old medical works and files of the more important journals. On account of limited space, no shipment of books should be made until notification is received from the Manager of the Exchange.

Faithfully yours,

WM. OSLER

President.

Miss M. C. Noyes,  
Manager of the Exchange  
(to whom the subscriptions may be sent).

some treasures for the Library. Müller & Co of Amsterdam had a loft full of fine old books which I looked over. They will send out a box about Sept 15th. Let me know if there is anything special wanted from Germany as it could come in Muller's box. We had a delightful trip in Holland. We came here ten days ago. I have forgotten all about medicine & Doctors & my sole ambition in life now is to reduce my score at golf. I hope your sister keeps well. With kindest regards Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

Nor has he forgotten the McGill library, for a few days later the following on a postcard went to its supervisor, Miss Margaret Charlton:

Dear Miss Charlton I have sent to the Library Paynes facsimile reprint of Linacre's Edition of Galen's de Temperamentis, and Jebb's edition of some of the rare works of Caius (the originals of which are practically out of reach). I sent yesterday (or ordered to be sent after the binding is repaired) Boyle's Natural Philosophy 1667, from the end part of which a good idea of the state of medicine about the middle of the 17th century can be obtained. I have too at <sup>Rivière's</sup> Revere's the binders in London the rare English edition of Harvey's de generatione, which I will send early next month. Sincerely yours, &c. Give them all to Dr. Findlay with my compliments and regards.

Rivière's?  
cf. xxii, 11.



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Later in the month he ~~sends a note to Montreal to young Dr. Howard the son~~  
of his old preceptor, who had graduated <sup>from M<sup>c</sup>Gill</sup> the previous spring and with whose plans  
he is naturally concerned; <sup>saying:</sup> ~~and to whom he gives the date of their sailing.~~

To Campbell P. Howard from W. O.

Incheuen, North Berwick.  
Aug. 21st 1901

Dear Campbell I am delighted to think that you shall be in the M.G.H. on  
Sept 1st. How long is your service, 1 or 1 1/2 years? I think if you wish  
it I could arrange to take you on my service next year (after finishing the  
M.G.H.) You could come in as one of the four senior Residents and the  
work would be mainly bacteriological but you would see all the work and  
have to help in the teaching. If you think of it as likely, pay special  
attention to bacteriology this winter with [John] McCrae your Resident  
Pathologist - in fact it would be well to get him to coach you. Of course  
if you think two years of Hospital work too much, with what you wish to  
spend abroad, it might be possible to arrange for some special work, but  
you would not have the advantage of living in the Hospital. Aunt Grace and  
Revere send love. We sail Sept. 14th. Affectionately yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

And this allusion to Palmer Howard and to days gone by makes it appropriate  
to recall Father Johnson, and 'Jimmie' who helped grind the cows molar, ~~and~~ who by  
now has left medicine, has entered the Church, and has a parish near London.



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To Rev. James Bovell Johnson from W.O.

U.S.M.S. "St. Louis".  
18th

Dear Jim We had to change our plans & did not leave North Berwick until nearly a week later than we had anticipated. I am so sorry to hear that you have had financial troubles, & am sure your suspicions of ~~Arthur~~ must be unfounded, of course you could get a statement of the settlement of the estate. ~~Arthur~~ <sup>As Arthur</sup> has done well but I am afraid he has not saved much money. You know how hard it is to put by anything in our profession unless you are keen after the 'baubies' and successful in investments. I worked 20 years before I had saved a shilling. I doubt if I shall be over next year as I have a lot of heavy literary work on hand. Let me know if I could help you in any way, ~~with Arthur~~ <sup>not at</sup>. Yours sincerely

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

On the steamer he was probably kept busy between Revere and the "American Voice", but he found time to write - or to promise, for he procrastinated about this - a review of Sir Michael Foster's "Lane Lectures", which, as noted, had trotted about with him during the summer. Thus to Francis R. Packard, who had recently taken over the editorship of the American Journal of Medical Sciences:

U.S.M.S. "St. Louis."  
20th

Dear Packard I shall send you in a few days - unless you send word that you already have one - a review of Foster's recently issued Lectures on the History of Physiology, which form a most interesting contribution. It will take a couple or 3 pages. <sup>Sincerely yours etc,</sup> Love to Fred.



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On landing they paid a brief visit to the Conynghams in Wilkesbarre, and to Judge  
*from this letter a series of letters to Mr. George Coy*  
~~There he found a recent Hopkins graduate, and it would seem from a postscript~~  
~~to a letter to Mr. Coy soon to be quoted, that the idea must have struck him~~  
of the desirability of publishing in the School Catalogue a list of the former  
graduates with the positions they had come to occupy, as well as a list of  
the papers written by members of the staff. At least, from this time on such  
*These letters show also that*  
a list became a feature of the Medical School Catalogue. A few of the shower  
of notes which passed to Mr. George Coy on the opening of the term may be given.

Baltimore, Oct. 5th, 1901.

Dear Mr. Coy: What about Mr. L. S. Brown, one of the students from Washington. I hear from his father that he is desperately ill with consumption. Where was he living? Sincerely yours, *rc*

Baltimore, Oct. 8th, 1901.

Dear Mr. Coy: I think you should have a book and make note about all these students who have retired on account of illness. In a case of this sort it would be well to find out what sort of a place <sup>1022</sup> N. Broadway is, and whether there have been any cases of tuberculosis there. Very truly yours, &c.

Have you a complete list of the graduates of the school and those who are teachers. Miss Wykoff is in practice at Wilkes Barre. Get the N.Y. men i.e. those in the Hospital for last years class.



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Baltimore, Oct. 10th, 1901.

Dear Mr. Coy: Thanks. I do not wish a list of those who are ill, but I think it would be important to keep track of those who have been retired on account of illness and the nature of the illness. Longcope is not at the University Hospital. He is at the Pennsylvania Hospital. Very truly yours, &c.

P.S. Let me know about the enclosed, whether it has been attended to.

The health of the students and the uncertain conditions under which they were and had been living in <sup>Baltimore</sup> boarding-houses was a source of unending anxiety, which fell even more heavily on the <sup>him</sup> Professor of Medicine than on the Dean for <sup>the Professor of Medicine</sup> he had to care for them and take the blame. In a later paper\* he mentions the

\*"Typhoid Fever and Tuberculosis." American Medicine, Dec. 26, 1903.

case of one of the third-year students, a Baltimore boy who, used up by his June examinations had been admitted to the hospital with fever and cough, and for a time typhoid fever instead of tuberculosis was suspected, for which both he and Thayer were severely censured by the family. The death of Davis while a house officer had been the occasion of immeasurable distress, and there had been a good deal of illness in the student body. In the class of 1899 alone, four of the students had developed consumption, and at this particular time John Bruce MacCallum, possibly the most brilliant student ever graduated from



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the school had soon begun to show while at work in Mall's laboratory unmistakable signs of the disease, which ended in four short years a career of unusual promise.\*

\*Cf. Memorial sketch by Jacques Loeb. The University Press, Berkeley, 1906.

On the 12th a dinner was held in New York to commemorate Virshov's eightieth birthday, and Osler acted as toast-master. A few days later in a long letter to Lafleur about professional matters he expresses the hope that he will be able to 'revise his lectures on angina pectoris this winter,' and wishes he could find time to work up the tuberculous pleurisy material which Parfitt had started to analyze three years before, but he adds that 'alas! he is swamped with work.'

Thayer had been married during the summer, and T. B. Fitcher with another had come as neighbours to share in his place the 3 West Franklin Street house with H. B. Jacobs. Then too, the circle had been further increased by the arrival of a black puppy for Revere, destined to be a long-haired spaniel - selected with due regard for his pedigree by Dr. Malloch of Hamilton. Revere at this time was having a severe attack of mythology and could think of little



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else. The puppy, consequently, was promptly named "Hector", which must have considerably modified his destiny for he turned out to be more of a Trojan and less of a spaniel than expected. At about this time, also, the book packages began to come in, and to judge from the following letters, George Cheyne's classic on Health was sent to young Dr. Shattuck; and there were other books destined for the McGill collection.

To George C. Shattuck from W.O.

1 West Franklin Street.  
Oct. 18th, 1901.

Dear Shattuck: I am sure you will enjoy reading the old man's book on Health. There are some very delightful things in it. I am glad to see that you sign yourself only George C. Perhaps we might compromise on that, but I daresay as you grow older and get well into the profession and appreciate the virtues of the original George Cheyne and of your great-grandfather and grandfather you will then insensibly be compelled to use the Cheyne for the Cheever. With kind regards for all at home, &c.



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To F. J. Shepherd from W.O.

1 West Franklin Street.  
X.18. 01.

Dear Shepherd Very glad to have your letter this evening. We got back three weeks ago. Mrs. O & Revere have just returned from Canada. I could not go with them as there were a score of things to do before the session opened & we were arranging a new scheme for our 4th year work by which the men would have more time in Medicine & Surgery and bunching the specialties to practical demonstrations & work in the Dispensaries. We had a very good summer, after 10 days in London we went to Holland for a fortnight, then back to London for the Tuberculosis Congress. Mrs Osler joined Revere in Scotland where he had gone with his governess. I went to the B M A & then joined them at North Berwick where we spent 6 weeks. Schäfer & his family live there so it was very pleasant. I have been book hunting all summer and secured some treasures in Holland, chiefly from Müller of Amsterdam who keeps a good stock. I sent out one or two books for the Library & I got in London a good copy of Harveys De Generatione Anamaliu, Eng Edition, which I left to have bound & forwarded. All goes well here, except that I am bothered to death with practice - hard to keep it within decent limits so as to have time for teaching & private work. What is the Date of the C M A? If it is after the middle of Sept I can be with you & would be only too glad to give the Address in Medicine or anything else you wish. So glad that you are the President this year. Love to Cecil and Dorothy. I hope you will be down this winter, & bring Cecil.)

(I saw Stephen Mackenzie several times - he is better but looks far from well. I have been reading with interest Macallums Addresses - they bring back old days & ways. What a ~~d~~ shame that we never had his portrait painted. Is it too late? Wrights too? Yours ever

W Osler



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From October 21st to 23rd there was a gathering at New Haven to celebrate the Bicentennial of Yale - an occasion which brought together delegates from countless universities at home and abroad as is the way with such festivals. The exercises culminated in a ceremony remarkable in many respects, but particularly in that it gave opportunity to bring out the extraordinary qualities of two very unusual personages - the then President of Yale, and the man whom fate a short time before had made President of the nation. Some threescore men of letters, of science and statesmanship from various parts of the world were presented for degrees - John Hay, Marquis Ito, Admiral Sampson, Choate, Angell the father of Mr. Hadley's successor, James Ford Rhodes, Charles Eliot Norton, Howells, Mark Twain, Henry Higginson, John S. Billings, Michaelson, and youngest of all the Professor of Jurisprudence and Politics at Princeton University, by the name of Woodrow Wilson, to mention but a few of them. From the Johns Hopkins were Remsen, Gildersleeve and Osler, and to each of these sixty as they were presented in turn, without reference to any notes, Mr. Hadley addressed himself without hesitation, appropriately and briefly - in the case of one of them as follows:



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On you, William Osler, as a man of high ideals and achievements who has known how to evoke high ideals and stimulate high achievements in others, we confer the degree of Doctor of Laws and admit you to all its rights and privileges.

The last of all the degrees was conferred on a man to whom as a private citizen a short few months before, the invitation had been sent. Turning to Theodore Roosevelt, Mr. Hadley said, "But one name now remains," whereupon an extraordinarily moving scene between the audience and these two men was then enacted - which perhaps, after all, lies outside this <sup>narrative</sup> ~~story~~.

Back in Baltimore, Osler is found soliciting readers for the year's programme of the Book and Journal Club - indidentally promising to give himself in return.

To Francis R. Packard from W. O.

No. 1 W. Franklin Street.  
Nov. 2nd, 1901.

*Dear Packard:*

Pardon the delay in replying to your letter, but I have been on the road. Yes, I will come over with pleasure on the 13th, and will gladly dine with you at the Club and stop the night. I am so glad to hear that you have started a historical club. It will be most useful. I am arranging a programme for our Book and Journal Club for this winter. Could you give us something at one of the meetings. It is a club of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, with about 60 or 70 members, and we have four meetings a year,



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at which we generally have somebody from outside to give us a little talk on any matters of bibliographical or historical interest. If you can come would December 18th\* be convenient? Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

\*Packard did come, and read on the Resurrectionists of London and Edinburgh, while on the same programme Osler was down for a paper (unpublished) entitled "Pickings from London Book Shops;" and he presented a number of 'the pickings' to the 'Faculty' library.

November 9th records, among many dinners at 1 West Franklin Street an especial one, to honour the King's birthday. The 19th finds him in Elkton, the home of his 'country doctor' friend Ellis, in attendance at the fall meeting of the 'Faculty.' The month also saw published a number of brief clinical papers\*, and the appearance of a large volume on Typhoid Fever, of which he

\*One of them bears the paradoxical title of "The Advantages of a Trace of Albumin and a few Tube Casts in the Urine of Certain Men over Fifty Years of Age" (The N.Y. Medical Journal, Nov. 23, 1901), in which he belittled the chance laboratory-finding of a little albumin and a few tube casts. He pictures the successful business man who having overstocked his engine has a rude shock when some life insurance company declines the extra sum he wishes to place on his life. He went on to give a few striking illustrations, one of them Osler subsequently admitted being the case of Sir Charles Tupper - then 'still alive and an octogenarian of exceptional vigour.' And he went on to tell of the man who in the Cathedral of Antwerp the past summer had touched him on the shoulder and whispered in his ear, "Not dead yet," and, on turning he saw an old patient who ten years before had been rejected because of Bright's disease. Sir Charles Tupper who had, before Strathcona, been Canadian High Commissioner, lived to be ninety-three; and in an obituary notice which Osler wrote of him (British Medical Journal, Nov. 6, 1915) he returns to the subject, saying, "the advantage of the discovery [made in 1880 in Sir Charles's case] was never better illustrated, as he ever after lived a careful life."



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was the editor.\* So the time was amply filled both at home and 'on the road'. In December

\*Under the supervision of Dr. Alfred Stengel, a successor to Osler's former position in Philadelphia, a translation from the German of Nothnagel's great Encyclopaedia of Practical Medicine had been made during the year. The volume on Typhoid and Typhus Fevers was edited by Osler with the help of Dr. Rufus I. Cole, then one of his Assistant Resident Physicians, and judging from Osler's preface many of the chapters in the volume of over 600 pages had been thoroughly revised or practically rewritten.

On the 23rd he writes to H. V. Ogden:

Dear Ogden: I wish I had known that you were interested in White's "Selbourne" that I might have picked you up a nice edition. I saw a fine first edition at twelve guineas. We had a delightful time in Holland, and I got a number of very interesting old books, particularly for the ['Faculty'] Library. I picked up some interesting Linacres and a couple of Glissons and have almost completed my set of Sir Thomas Browne. I just made a few every-day remarks at the Virchow dinner, not anything special, so that I did not have them re-printed.

So sorry to hear that your father has such a bad attack. Mrs. Osler and the small boy are well. I do hope you will come down this spring, or at any time during the winter. We can always put you up, and I feel that I was rather cheated last time, as I had to go off. . . .

As the date of the following letter shows, he had procrastinated about the review for Dr. Packard,\* and meanwhile he suggests another which

\*With all his good intentions it did not get published until November 1902. American Journal Medical Sciences, 1902, cxxiv, 899-903.

subsequently he offered to write himself.



Dec.  
19011 West Franklin Street,  
XI. 29. 01.

Dear Packard: I have the Review of Foster ready - 'twill be about 4 pp.  
I am called west this eve. & have a few introductory remarks but you could  
have it easily in time for the Jan. No. if you wish it. You should have  
a good review of [Sir James] Paget's Life wh. is most charming. Yours

W Osler.

*he is found at*  
~~His call to the West appears to have been to attend a meeting in Ann~~  
Arbor where he addressed the students; and, later on, the Christmas recess  
was passed with Mrs. Osler's relatives. Some time before, he had sent this  
undated note to his friend Chadwick in Boston:

Dear Chadwick You are a Saint. That dictionary will be of such help -  
I have long wanted just such a volume. Le Peter is most flatulent and  
will please some of the boys. Thank you so much for both of them. The  
27th or 28th would suit me for a talk - Thomas Linacre, the first of the  
Great Medical Humanists. If this is too long just Thomas Linacre.  
Yours sincerely, &c. I will bring the volumes as a text.

Thus the Boston Medical Library, and a sort of book and journal club  
which had been started there by Chadwick, profited by this Christmas visit;  
and though he chose Linacre as his topic, several years were to pass before  
this material was whipped into its final form as a finished essay.

*End.*



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The year may well enough end with a characteristic note to

H. A. Lafleur.

1 West Franklin Street,  
XII. 28. 01.

Dear Lafleur    Perfectly delighted! We shall expect you on Tuesday.  
We have been spending Xmas in Boston. I returned this morning, to let  
McCrae off. Sorry not to have been with you in New York but I have  
been away for a week and there were many demands here.    Egerton (jr)  
will be so glad to see you, Mrs Osler too, as well as    Yours ever

W<sup>m</sup> Osler