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(To H. CUSHING)

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Sir Osler's Life—

Occasionally, though far less often than publishers would have us believe,

a book appears that stands head and shoulders above the rest of a year, or a decade's output and takes from the beginning a permanent place among the records that last. Such is the two volume "Life of Sir William Osler," by Harvey Cushing. (The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1925, B Os 51 at the Newark Free Public Library). A more than remarkable man whose life and work accented a remarkable period, this, in a nutshell, is the reason. Canada, the United States and England all claim him and by right since he was a Canadian by birth, the husband of a great grand-daughter of Paul Revere, the father of an only son killed as a young officer in the English Army in the war; and his labors were given generously to all three countries.

"He advanced the science of medicine, he enriched literature and the humanities, yet individually he had a greater power. He became the friend of all he met, he knew the workings of the human heart metaphorically as well as physically. He joyed with the joys and wept with the sorrows of the humblest of those who were proud to be his pupils; he stooped to lift them up to the place of his royal friendship, and the magic touchstone of his generous personality helped many a despondent in the rugged paths of life. He achieved many honors and many dignities, but the proudest of all was his unwritten title, 'the Young Men's Friend.'"

Dr. Cushing says of these memoirs that "Little pretence is made in them to do much more than let his story so far as possible tell itself through what he puts on paper. His rare personality, spirit and character stand out in his recovered letters, brief though they are." Dr. Cushing is too modest in this statement, for while the letters do all

that he claims for them, his own work in setting them was not light and has been performed with much knowledge and great insight and sympathy. Many readers having no connection with medicine will find this life of absorbing interest.