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*Lach Osler.*

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Date.....  
**New Books.**

(Selected books will be reviewed in future issues.)

That a huge two-volume biography of a doctor should secure a literary success is unusual; but then the subject of the biography was a very unusual man. Dr. Harvey Cushing, in his full-length portrait of **Sir William Osler** (Milford, Oxford University Press, 37s. 6d. net), proves this to demonstration. Osler was known to the general public mainly through the absurd "chloroform at sixty" incident, in which he was made the victim of a stupid and also a cruel yellow-press stunt. But throughout his long life, with its brilliant run of successes, he was above all things a formative influence, and also one of those rare people who become legendary in life-time. To the whole medical world, and to the elect of the laity, he was not simply scientist and physician, but rather seer and prophet. His fame, however, is explicable without positing a revelation—indeed, his gospel was very modern and nebulous. But he enjoyed a happy and rare combination of gifts—magnetic personality, the widest horizon of interests, intense humanity and sympathy, and a strong idealism on the one hand, and on the other an immense industry, grit, perseverance, and practical sense. Such a combination, driven at top speed by an indefatigable vitality, was bound to take a man far. Dr. Cushing's two big volumes show us how far and to what fruitful purpose. And they make a story as fascinating to the layman as to the professional.

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