

July 15 1914

COPY.

8, Trumpington Street,
Cambridge.

21 April, 1920.

My dear Sir,

The Times to-day says that you want all Sir William's letters. So I send them, hoping to have them back.

You may find the brief epitome will serve you:-

1914. July 15. I first met him at the Summer Excursion of the Bibliographical Society here, of which he was President. I read a paper. He was of course all sympathy, and invited me to go and stay with him at Oxford. That evening Mr. A. W. Pollard asked me something about my life and work, and I answered him. "Oh" he said, "that's exactly what Osler says in The Way of Life," and sent me a copy. In September I went and stayed. Sir William met me at the station and acted as if he had nothing to do but to look after me. I was working at the Bodleian, and in the evening we had a long talk about his library, about which he asked my advice. I saw that his ideal was a Library rather like the Pepys Library at Cambridge, and proposed to him the title for his catalogue

BIBLIOTHECA OSLERIANA.

He was evidently pleased with the idea, and I drew him up a scheme for it 'Bibliotheca Prima', 'Bibliotheca Secunda', etc. rather endeavouring to crystallize his own ideas than to foist my own upon him. We corresponded a good deal about this. He motored me over to Cuddesdon Palace, where I was to stay for two nights with Bishop Gore, and he fetched me again next morning. He and Lady Osler took me over to Ewelme. He gave me his 'Aequanimitas' and, having heard me say that I had set my sails early in life by Shelley, presented me with a second copy which he had of the three volumes of Shelley's Note Books, privately printed for the Bibliophile Society at Boston in 1911.

I then first met Revere, and he came and stayed with me a week later in Cambridge and we became fast friends.

In the autumn I happened to publish a book on 'The Ages of Man'. Sir William bought fifty copies and sent them to his friends in Canada as Christmas presents.

Next year as he wanted to talk over problems relating to his 'Bibliotheca' with me, I went again and stayed with him for a night (13 July, 1917), and in the following year he came and stayed with me for the Cambridge Summer Meeting (6 August, 1918) at which he gave a lecture on American Medicine. In the library I showed him a tiny scrap of manuscript of the 14th century 'Henricus de anatomia', the authorship of which had eluded me. Quick as lightning he flashed out "Either Henricus de Mandeville or Henricus -----". Needless to say it was Henricus de Mandeville. [MS. Add. 6000 (3)].

Then his gifts to the Cambridge University Library should be recorded. He was interested in University Diplomas, and found what Cambridge did not possess, - a Cambridge one. This he intended to will to us. And only last July sent us a copy of Martin Llewellyn's Men Miracles, 1656, 8° .

I do not send you either eulogy or lament. Of course I realized the greatness of the man from the first.

Of course it is one of the greatest privileges of life, to have known him at all. From what I have told you it is clear that I may claim his friendship. Our first tie was Sir Thomas Browne, his great original; and our second tie, apart from the library, was the memory of his son. 'Aequanimitas' was the right title for any output of his mind. And when he died no more fitting tribute could be paid to him than that silent placing of the Religio medici upon his bier. And when in The Times one mourner acclaimed him 'the greatest physician in history' (2 January, 1920), it was easy, after glancing up and down the centuries, and testing the challenge as best one could, to believe that the claim is just.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES SAYLE.

Harvey Cushing, Esq., M.D.

Postscript.

Misc

I have omitted one incident which struck me at the time, and strikes me still, as perhaps the most significant remark that I ever heard him make. It was while he was staying with me (8 August 1918), and we were wandering about among the Colleges for some reason. We were talking about motive, and he quoted Macbeth:

"From this moment
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand". (IV.1.147.)

He told me that he made that the directing, guiding principle of his life. It was not an incident or a quotation which one was likely to forget; but after his visit I wrote it down.

To Charles Sayle, Esq., University Library, Cambridge.

1914. Dear Sayle,

Sep. 17. *Duplicate*

Delighted to put you up on the 21st. Let me know by what train you will come and I will send the car to meet you.

Sep. 29.

Thanks for the suggestion about Lamark, in whom I used to be interested. I have not got his original edition, but I shall certainly order it. He comes early in the B.P. (Bibliotheca Prima) as illustrating the growth of the idea of evolution. I wonder how many ideas of the very first rank have controlled the development of science! The special articles and books illustrating them should come in the first ~~edition~~ division. Your suggestions have been most helpful.

P.S. Do not let Revere disturb the even tenour of your bibliophilic way.

Oct. 5.

Many thanks for your memoranda. I have thought several times of the index, but it is not an easy matter to make of loose jointed essays. Revere seems to have had a delightful trip - thank you so much for your kindness to him. The Browne relic is very well put together. I am struggling at the B.P. It is hard but interesting to collect the bones for the skeleton.

Oct. 12.

Many thanks for the notes about Fitzer, whom I always supposed from his name a German. Judging from the de Motu Cordis he was a vile printer. Surely it was an uncommon thing at that date for Englishmen to print on the Continent? Thanks for the note about the Censorinus. The B.P. is shaping itself - at present in my mind. R. is very happy.

Nov. 12.

Yes, I got the 'Notes and Queries' with the Browne Library items. Very interesting! I am struggling with the library, and I hope at your next visit that you will see much progress.

Dec. 2.

That is a very interesting picture - thank you so much for it. I have not been able to do much at the books lately; I am too busy with other things, but something turns up every few days.

1916.

Address at Science Masters' Association - plea for science in 16th and 17th year. Will send reprints in a few weeks. That is a nice enough picture, but could be better - a fresh-faced child on the top of a very old woman. Remind me to show you photo of my Mother at 99 with two Gt. Grandchildren on her knees. Revere still with the McGill Unit - rather rough time - but he hopes to join the No. 4 Field Ambulance any day. Will let you know when I can spend a few days in your Library. P.S. Do you think an Amer. publisher would be more likely? If you sent a memo I might forward it to Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

1916.

May 27.

Splendid - I am so glad. Sorry to have forgotten about the paper - I send two more - the other a 'chatter' at our Shakespeare meeting. Revere is in the R.F.A. at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle getting licked into shape. We had him with us for a month while he was getting a transfer. You will be delighted with his keenness in Eng. literature. The year in France with books in place of 'bridge' has done him much good. The Library thrives - the revision of catalogue is nearly complete. My secretary was called up more than a year ago and there has been much delay. The B. prima grows - in mind and in shelves. By the way, is there a full bibliographical description of your Averrões? Lady Osler has been very busy - the hotel full but always a vacant bed for you.

P.Card.

July 1.

An edition such as you suggest would be fine - to use an American expression. I will send on your letter to H.M. & Co. Notes and introduction pretty full of course. 'Twas a nephew - a fine fellow, full of promise and an only son!

P.C.

July 2.

I doubt very much if H.M. & Co. would undertake so big a job. I have just been looking over the Bateman. I will send on your letter with a strong statement.

P.C.

Aug. 30.

Will the U.L. (Univ. Library) be open next week? And shall you be at home? Send a p.c. to Miss Willcock. . . who is revising my incunabula list to 1480, and wishes to see some books at Cambridge.

P.C.

Sep. 26.

Is Andrew Borde's "The Principles of Astronamy" in the Library? (Hearne) (Benedictus Abbas Petroburgensis (Vol. 1, p. 2 (?) Bishop More had a copy of it and it is now in Bibl. Regia Cant. Revere is still at Newcastle, very busy and much interested in the work.

Oct. 22.

Delighted with The Ages of Man! What work it has been to fit in the quotations. The frontispiece is beautiful. The Whitman quotation on Death is fine, as we say in America. I have heard the old man recite it! I am much pleased to see my ruderemarks as it will give many people a chance to see what I really said. When are you coming to see us? The Library progresses. Revere is off with his battery - somewhere in the southern part of the line. With hearty congratulations and thanks.

Nov. 28.

I send to about 100 of my old students books at Xmas, and this year I have selected your Ages and the just issued edition (trans.) of Galen's Natural Faculties. Do not bother please - I can get them through ordinary channels. Revere has been in this recent push. He writes "We are literally living in bombs as our dug is built in an old trench, which must have been used as a homb store. ~~as~~ It is impossible to turn up a shovel of earth without finding old German or English grenades. Just below us in a great hole is a heap of old mortar bombs, ammunition of all kinds, grenades, broken rifles, and every describable variety of death-dealing weapon, all broken and twisted with the shell-fire and absolutely valueless. I never realized how tremendous was the wastage of war until I saw the quantities of once valuable

material lying here and gradually being engulfed (?) in the mud. In front of the battery is a tank which fell through a dug-out and had to be abandoned. I had a look at it to-day. The insides have been removed so that it was disappointing and very unpleasant because what was once a German is sticking his boots out just at the door. This has been a bad place for Germans. The poor fellows lie all around us, with very little on their bones, but a few tattered rags of flesh, and these are being gradually being cleared away by the rats, which are plentiful and hungry. We hope to have their bodies cleared up very soon".

1917.

March 28.

You see by enclosed what unsolved problems your book has brought out. All well, good news of Revere - busy in the Ancre in this retreat.

P.C.

March 31.

. . . B.O. (Bibliotheca Osleriana) progresses - middle of letter B. in revision and sorting. The B. Literaria is to be very strong. Think for me of the best novels with descriptions of Doctors or of the profession. . . Revere well - digging in his gun after 3 weeks' trekking after the Huns. So glad you are doing Don.

P.C.

June 28.

Medical diplomas - Cambridge. Have you a good list in the Library? Were they always of one form? When did they begin? And when are you coming to pay us a visit and inspect the B.O.?

July 5.

I mean the "parchments" issued by the Univ. M.B., M.D. or Diploma entitling men to practise. One came in the other day, 1681, I think. If you are good and come over soon, and if the Univ. Lib. has not got one, I will leave it in my Will! I collect diplomas - when possible - of different Universities. If you cannot come this month, the mt. must go to Md., as there are important queries. - but I wish you would come.

P.S. Revere's battery back in billets - two guns smashed to bits.

July 7. 1917?

Sir,

Sir William Osler directs me to ask you if you have anything in the Cambridge University Library like this Diploma.

J.F. WILLCOCK.

Secretary.

July 7.

I am sending the Diploma for your inspection. We do not appear to have any Oxford ones in Bodley. There should be somewhere a good atticle on Univ. Diplomas - of course the North Italian form is attractive and appears to be the most common. Do come over - I wish you would make it a professional visit and let me use your bibliothecal brains for consultative purposes as I would an engineer. There are some points on which your wide experience would be most helpful.

Barbarigo

July 17.

Thanks for your most helpful visit. . . I will look up the Niccolo Barbarigo at Bodley when I return from town on Saturday. Payne's library went to the Wellcome Museum, London - and I had a cheque for £3,000 in my pocket! It went for £3,400. I should like to see the Grangerized copy of the catalogue. I wrote to the Master of Jesus. Such a nice letter from Revere to-day.

1917

(contd) In Bib. Literaria would you put the biography of a man? e.g. under Locke would you put the Fox-Bourne Life with Locke's books? Just a card, please.

August 20.

P.C.

All right. I think too the Life should go with the man's books, and a reference under Biography. The Camb. Diploma came from E. Williams, 37 Newtown Road, Hove. R. pounding away e 4 barrages daily and nightly.

Sep. 12.

It is hard to realize that he has gone! dear laddie! He has so many endearing qualities and such an instinct for all the good things in life and literature. No father ever had a more satisfactory son - never any trouble and always so loving and considerate! He had developed wonderfully of late - in mind and body, and had stood the campaign so well. A chance shell as the battery was moving position hit seven of them. We are of course desolated, but hope to bear the heavy blow bravely. Thanks for your interest in the lad. It meant much for him and he appreciated it warmly.

P.C.

Oct. 9.

De Motu Cordis 1628, of Harvey. Is your copy, or the copy at Caius a presentation one from the author? Who knows anything of Guilielmus Fitzler, the printer, and why should Harvey have sent his MS to Frankfurt at that period? Sure it was not a common custom.

Oct. 13.

P.C.

Many thanks. Has your copy of the de Motu any notes etc.? I will stir up the secretary and make someone find out about him.

Oct. 16.

P.C. Oh, how shocking! and Harvey next to Newton the Pride of Cambridge. I must watch for the next copy on the market and will go £5 myself and bleed my Cam. friends for the balance.

1918.

P.C.

Feb. 2.

I will ask A. (B.F. Armitage) to come for a week-end. 'Tis always such a pleasure to know these young fellows. All well - very busy and the B.P. grows.

July 2.

I am not making very rapid progress with my catalogue and should like another worker. Do you know of a good trained man who would come for a year or two? . . . My regular sec.-librarian is still in the Army. I hope to see you early in August when I lecture one day at the Summer School.

July 10.

Thanks, kind man! I should like to stay with you very much if you could put up with me from the eve of the 6th to the morning of the 9th, when I go on to Colchester. On Wed. p.m. and Thursday I should like to see two or three of the College Libraries.

July 11.

I do not like C.O.'s (conscientious objector?) but send me his story, poor devil! he has read the Sermon in the Mount!

1918

Let me know (1) if he is aggressively objectionable; (2) what salary he asks; and (3) has he legal exemption from war work?

7

(contd)

P.C.

July 15

I will send you word about time of arrival on 6th. Shall be so glad to stay with you.

Lyme Regis, Aug. 17.

P.C. I will send title on my return. They are good books, and the bibliography is given This is a lovely spot.

July 25.

P.C.

I would like to have a nice quiet time - see some of the libraries etc. No entertainments...

Aug. 3.

P.C. . . . Allbutt asks us to lunch on Wed. I have accepted.

P.C.

Aug. 4.

I should like to have a quiet eve with you - Hazeltines too if you wish. I shall dine with the Nuttalls on Wed. They wish you too.

Aug. 20 +

Thanks for a delightful visit - I did enjoy it so much. You were most kind. I got back to-day to a heavily-laden table - books more important than letters. A nice 1557 Paracelsus on the Pox. I had a great day at Colchester, but talked myself hoarse to 25 special students who are there. I am sending you one of Revere's books with his book plate. I have just found out that my slides have been left behind. Ask the kind Dora to pack them and I enclose stamps for her.

Nov. 25.

1. H.L. Smith. Thanks, but I am expecting to hear that my own man will be returned from war duty shortly. 2. Keynes. - my regrets to. I have been so bedevilled with correspondence that I overlooked it. I will write. 3. Nicaise. (a) Henri de Mondeville. (b) Pierre Franco, and (3) Guy de Chauliac - all three very good and published between '90 and '95 - all Felix Alcan. Paris. 4. Have you Florence Nightingale's "Notes on Military Hospitals," 1858 in C.U.L.?

All well at Bodley. Madan goes in the Spring - I suppose Cowley will succeed. P.S. I enclose an American appreciation of W.O. and an examination paper on my text-book. Greetings to your Chief.

Nov. 27.

P.C. (1) Syd. - no plates. (2) F.N. Notes are not the Nursing 1859 - but the big report on Hospitals etc. 1859. 'Tis not in B(odley) and I cannot get one for B. Osleriana... (4) So glad the Browne Bib. is ready.

1919.

I find a duplicate of Martin Lleueilyn's Men-Miracles, 1656, which I do not see in your Cambridge list. It's such a little gem that if you have not got it, I should like so much to give it to the Library. Let me know. Revere was much interested in it - has poems on his friend Cartwright. Am sending you my Class. Assoc address. I made Ch. Ch. buy the original 1646 ed.

P.C.

Oct. 10.

Yes, in Savonarola, particularly, whose whose I-ordered . . . He was a strong man. . . Wonderful holiday in Jersey - 6 weeks of sea, sun and sands.