

Mar 24, 1919.

Terms of Request.
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THE OSLER COLLECTION

McGill University is to become a center of interest to our members because it will house the books which were so lovingly collected by Sir William Osler.

The Library is unquestionably one of, if not the finest, collection of medical books extant, being particularly rich in the rare works of the earlier masters. It consists of over 7,800 volumes, many of which, however, contain a number of separate works, and the card index numbers over 8,250. The catalogue, which is now being completed at Oxford by an assistant from the Bodleian Library, includes an introduction and a memorandum on how to use the Library. This work will not be completed until the end of the present year, and the books will reach McGill next year. The ashes of the late Sir William are to accompany and rest with the Library.

The Library is divided into these groups of works:

I. *Manuscripts.*

II. *Incunabula.*

III. *Bibliotheca Prima.* Sir William's idea was to have in a comparatively small number of works the essential literature grouped about the men of the first rank arranged in chronological order. They illustrate the beginnings of medicine (Lucretius, Anthropology, Primitive Medicine; Medicine in Babylonia, Egypt, Persia, China, India, etc.). The Greeks, the Pre-Socratics. Then the work of the great Discoverers in Medicine up to the nineteenth century, as: Plato, Hippocrates, Aristotle, Theophrastus, Celsus, Plinius, Galen, the Byzantines and Arabians; medieval (Roger Bacon and Leonardo da Vinci); the sixteenth century (Copernicus, Paracelsus, etc.); the seventeenth century (Boerhaave, Boyle, Malpighi, Newton, Sydenham, etc.); eighteenth century (Hunter, Jenner, Dalton, etc.); the nineteenth century (Claude Bernard, Davy, Helmholtz, Koch, Pasteur, Virchow, etc.). And lastly, the special Harvey Collection of works.

IV. Bibliotheca Secunda. Books grouped into alphabetical sections, such as those referring to Anatomy, Antiseptics, Blood-letting, Christian Science, Dental Surgery, Epidemics, Famine, Gout, Inoculation, Midwifery, Ophthalmology, Plague, Surgery, Tuberculosis, Vivisection; altogether some ninety subjects.

V. Bibliotheca Literaria. Comprising Literary works by medical writers and Medicine and Doctors in fiction.

VI. Bibliotheca Biographica. Medical Biography, arranged alphabetically under the subject of the biographer.

VII. Bibliotheca Bibliographica. Medical and General Bibliography.

VIII. Bibliotheca Historica. The History of Medicine and Medical Institutions.

An additional interest of many of these books apart from their rarity and intrinsic worth lies in the fact that so many of them are annotated by Sir William in his own handwriting.

The temporary committee, appointed by the McGill Faculty of Medicine consists of the Principal (Sir Arthur Currie, Chairman) the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Dr. H. S. Birkett) and a Professor of Medicine (Dr. Finley)—all three of whom, as you will see from the "Memoranda" are to be Curators of the Library upon arrival.

The terms of the will as drawn up by Sir William Osler, on March 24, 1919, as they refer to the Library, are given below:

I. Curators:

- (a) The Dean of the Medical Faculty (Chairman) ex officio.
 - (b) The Principal of the University.
 - (c) A member of the Osler family selected by the other Trustees.
 - (d) The Professor of Medicine.
 - (e) The Chairman of the Library Committee of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia.
 - (f) The Chairman of the Library committee of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland.
 - (g) The Librarian of the Surgeon-General's Library.
- (The traveling expenses of the Trustees from a distance to be paid from the fund.)
Except for special purposes it should not be necessary to hold more than two meetings a year.

Three members to constitute a quorum.

II. The Library to serve, as far as possible, two functions—the education of students in the History and Methods of Science and of Medicine, and to promote research into these subjects.

III. The Librarian.

- (a) He shall be selected by the Curators and appointed by the Governors of the University.
- (b) He shall be a member of the Medical Faculty and ex officio Professor of the History of Science (and of Medicine)—either of which titles he may use.
- (c) He shall have: i, Full charge of the Collection, and ii, appoint assistants; iii, purchase books; iv, direct the reading of ordinary students and help special students with researches; v, lecture when he feels it will be useful but there should be no compulsion to give set courses. Private advice and instruction in the Library should be his chief work.

(d) The Librarian should be a scholar who has given evidence of interest in Bibliography and the History of Science.

IV. As I wish the position to be comfortable berth for a good scholar, the salary should at first be not less than three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the total income. Later, as the income increases, it should be one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$).

V. As I do not wish to embarrass the University in any way, the income shall at first be used: i, To pay expenses of transport of the books, arranging space, book cases, etc., and ii, To help pay for the printing (and preparation) of a Catalogue, if that has not been already done before my death.

VI. The Librarian shall submit an annual statement to the Trustees and the University.

VII. Books are not to be lent or removed from the Library.

VIII. The Library will: (a) Relieve the University and Departmental Libraries by purchasing the journals on the history of Science and of Medicine, and the special books and monographs in these subjects, and (b) the Librarian will fill all gaps in the works of men of the first order in the various sections.

IX. The Library is for the use of the members of the medical profession including of course medical students, and I particularly wish my colleagues of Laval and my French Canadian brothers to take advantage of the many important works of the old masters of their native land, in the collection of which I have had them specially in mind.

X. Special students, from outside Montreal, are to be given every possible facility in the Library. (A memorandum on how to use the Library will be found at the end of the Introduction to the Catalogue.)

XI. Knowing how with time conditions change, the Curators are at liberty to make alterations in these regulations, respecting, as far as possible, my wishes as herein expressed.

March 24, 1919.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL?

Considering the fact that the Faculty has been in existence for one hundred and twenty-two years it seems strange that we have not received more legacies. Up to the present time there have been only two, the Ellis Bequest, which has made possible much valuable work and the Baker for the purchase of books on therapeutics. It is true that the Osler and Frick Funds look after the purchase of books on medicine, and the Finney Fund does the same for surgery, but all of the other departments of medicine are without any special fund to provide books and journals. Now that the Book and Journal Club has practically ceased to be of aid it becomes imperative if the Library is to grow funds must be obtained from other sources; so without any more to do let us ask if you have made your will, and if you have put a codicil in leaving the Faculty something to continue its good work. If you have not made your will follow the advice of the trust companies and do it now, and do not forget the Library.

Not only do we want money, we should also like to have your medical books and journals. The Faculty acts as a sort of clearing house for such

things, and many volumes that would otherwise go into the waste paper basket may be of inestimable value to our Library.

PRESENTATION OF THREE RARE MEDICAL BOOKS.

By C. W. G. ROHRER, M.D.¹

[These books are the gift of Dr. Harry G. Simpser, Chestertown, Md.]

It is not an unusual occurrence for one to present books to the library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. Indeed, the execution of so worthy a purpose has been no uncommon event, even from the very founding of the library in 1830, on down to the present time. But books, like men, vary in the recognition which should be shown them. Some books are especially valuable by reason of their incomparable utility; others, on account of the recognized superiority of their authorship; whilst to a third class, which is by far the largest of these three arbitrary groupings, may be assigned those innumerable tomes which have become priceless by reason of their great rarity. Several factors conspire to bring about this undesirable state of affairs. Chief among these might be mentioned the issuance of limited editions, and the too early demise of an author. Speaking specifically of medical books, it can be definitely stated that only the "favored few" outlive their authors.

THE THREE RARE BOOKS.

To the latter class, the rare and out-of-print books, each of which might be described as—

The small, rare volume, black with tarnished gold!

the books which I wish to present, belong. All three of them date back to the stirring times of the eighteenth century, when medical science was passing through its formative period. And within the pages of these books, yellow with age, three separate and distinct fields of medical endeavor are eloquently represented; namely: surgery, the dispensing of medicinal agents, and comparative anatomy.

Briefly stated, the titles of these three rare medical books, along with the names of their respective authors, so far as is known at present, are as follows:

1. *Observations on the Nature and Consequences of Those Injuries to Which the Head is Liable from External Violence.* By Percivall Pott, F.R.S., and Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The Second Edition. London, 1771.

¹ Read at the Baltimore City Medical Society meeting, December 17, 1920.