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M Prof Harvey Cushing

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tumour is in the nature of an enzyme-like substance which is inactivated by chloroform and may be reactivated by a diffusible substance from malignant tumours, embryonic tissues, and placental tissues. The second possibility is that the chloroform treatment does not destroy but simply attenuates the causative agent to a point at which unaided it is too weak to induce a tumour, but in conjunction with some injurious or stimulating substance supplied by the 'culture' it becomes effective. The fact that a great excess of chloroform so completely destroys the agent that no reactivation is possible is rather in favour of the latter possibility. Further experiments are in progress to elucidate these points.

"Anaerobic 'cultures' of chick embryo and rat placenta have proved just as effective as so-called cultures of malignant tumours in activating chloroform treated filtrates of a chicken sarcoma. The necessity of assuming a cultivated living organism in the interpretation of Gye's results is eliminated."

WILLIAM OSLER.

THE MEMORIAL VOLUME.

BOTH on his seventieth birthday and after his death six months later numerous appreciations of the many-sided character of that much beloved physician William Osler were published, and last year Professor Harvey Cushing's *Life* of his teacher, friend, and hero was widely welcomed. If, as might perhaps happen, some will wonder what is the real need of the *Sir William Osler Memorial Volume*¹ of more than six hundred pages, now brought out by the International Association of Medical Museums, the answer is given in the first sentence of the proem written by his colleague of Cambridge, the late Sir Clifford Allbutt—"I was under the belief that I knew William Osler well, intimately, almost as a brother; now I am learning how much I was mistaken. I did not know the half of him." Among the numerous movements which were initiated or furthered by Sir William Osler the International Association of Medical Museums, founded in 1911, was one of the most recent, and yet its activities are the same as those which much occupied his early days as a teacher in Montreal. It is therefore appropriate that Dr. Maude E. Abbott of McGill University, Montreal, the secretary of the association, should have gathered together a hundred and twenty appreciations and reminiscences of this much regretted master. During the six years of its preparation the work has grown under her hands and, containing as it does sidelights on every phase of Osler's life pilgrimage and activities, is a valuable sequel and supplement to Professor Harvey Cushing's fine *Life*. The contributors are, of course, mainly from America and this country, but France (Pierre Marie), Italy (Marchiafava), Germany (Sudhoff, Aschoff), and far-off China (Wu Lien-Teh (G. L. Tuck)), are also represented. Some of the articles have appeared elsewhere, such as the late Weir Mitchell's poem "Books and the Man" (1905), and some of those from Baltimore. An attractive feature is that among the 102 illustrations thirty show Osler either alone or in groups, and that many of the others show the titles of his books and papers.

In 1921 Miss M. W. Blogg, librarian of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, brought up the number of Sir William Osler's published books and articles to the large total of 1,195 titles, and now an expanded, classified, and annotated bibliography, based on Miss Blogg's, has been compiled by Drs. Abbott, Krumbhaar, Miss Blogg, Dr. Malloch, and edited by Dr. Fielding H. Garrison and Dr. H. W. Cattell. This occupies more than 130 pages and is divided chronologically into four periods—the Canadian, two American (Philadelphia, Baltimore), and the English; and by subjects into seven rubrics—natural science, pathology, clinical medicine, literary (including history, biography, and bibliography), medical education, public

¹ Bulletin No. IX of the International Association of Medical Museums and Journal of Technical Methods. Sir William Osler Memorial Number: Appreciations and Reminiscences. Privately issued at 836, University Street, Montreal, Canada. 1926. (6½ by 9½, pp xxxvii + 632; 102 illustrations. Price £2.)

welfare activities, and volumes edited; they show his early interest in natural science and comparative pathology, in human pathology a little later, in clinical medicine in his prime, in literary, biographical, bibliographical, and educational matters in later life, and in public welfare to the end. In accordance with his expressed preference for bio-bibliographical presentation rather than dry lists of titles, explanatory notes and pages of important monographs and articles have been introduced. There is also a bibliography of writings about Osler occupying twenty pages and containing 460 items. The wonderful and widespread activities of Osler's fifty years (1869-1919) of professional life are only matched by the universal affection he aroused, as is proved by the contents of the appreciations from men and women in all ranks of his profession, from his colleagues, and from his innumerable students. In fact, he was even more attractive as the man than as the clinician, the teacher, or writer. Both Sir Clifford Allbutt and Professor W. H. Welch compare him with Boerhaave, and his Baltimore colleague says that there are perhaps no two physicians in history whose spirits were more akin to Osler's than Conrad Gesner and Boerhaave, and that Osler remarked to a friend about admitting Gesner to the company of Leonardo da Vinci, Paracelsus, Vesalius, Paré, Agricola, and Gilbert as the representatives of the sixteenth century in his *bibliotheca prima*, "I am not sure that this fellow should go into the *prima*; but I love him so much that I must put him there. Besides, he is the father of bibliography." In explanation, it may be mentioned that Osler's library, destined for McGill, was divided, as Dr. Mackell tells us, into *bibliotheca prima*, *secunda*, *historica*, *biographica*, *bibliographica*, *incunabula*, and *manuscripts*.

Some of the most interesting articles are those dealing with early Canadian days; his life-long friend, F. J. Shepherd, says, and this may comfort others who were not pre-eminent as students: "Lectures did not trouble him much, and he never took elaborate notes as it was the fashion to do in those days. He took no high place in his class, but received a special prize for his graduation thesis on account of its great originality." Dr. E. J. A. Rogers of Denver, who had known him from 1866, describes his influence as a schoolboy and his life as a young professor at McGill. His relative, Mrs. H. C. Osborne, also speaks of Bill Osler, "the baby professor," in the early seventies giving away his coat to a drunken beggar, and saying on another occasion, "I whistle that I may not weep." When translated to Philadelphia in 1884 he quietly opened an "office" with the innovation of not having any office hours and seeing patients by appointment only; they were more interesting than lucrative, frequently doctors or members of their families. Dr. George Dock tells the story of the most pious and venerable member of the medical faculty who invited Osler to church, and on his guest's arrival in the pew inquired about Mrs. Osler (Osler did not marry until 1892, some years after he went to Baltimore), and then received the startling information that "Mrs. Osler is a Buddhist and would not come." Dr. Finney and Dr. Thayer, who knew "the chief" from 1889, when the Johns Hopkins Hospital opened its doors, Dr. Claribel Cone even earlier in the Baltimore period, and others, including his "first probationer," add their tributes, Thayer's poem being truly worthy of its subject. It is difficult to refrain from quoting Dr. Cone's comparison of his presentation of a case as "a masterpiece as rich in suggestion, as universal in appeal as a Giotto, a Rembrandt, or a Giorgione." Of the Oxford period Drs. A. G. Gibson and Archibald Malloch give accounts based on a most intimate experience, the first named from 1905, and the latter during the war and his last days.

Dr. Maude Abbott has carried out a great work—surely a labour of love—with complete success, for this volume may be said to fulfil the closing sentence of the veteran W. W. Keen's contribution: "In a long life I have never seen so many and such whole-hearted tributes to any other scientist. All classes of men and all countries have united to do him honour. Those who knew him best feel the loss most deeply."

HUMPHRY ROLLESTON.