

(From "In Memoriam: Sir William Osler." by Sir Herbert Warren, K.C.V.O.)

It is the simple truth to say that Oxford will begin the new Term and the New Year immeasurably impoverished by the death of her Regius Professor of Medicine - Sir William Osler. There is no greater loss of a single man that could have befallen the University. Practical capacity and driving force may be replaced, knowledge and professorial eminence may be rivalled, good temper and public spirit are fortunately not rare among Englishmen. But the unique combination of these and other qualities, exactly suited to his unique position, which Sir William possessed it seems almost hopeless to look for again. Prestige, personality, leadership, inspiration, breadth of view, brilliance of gift, all disappeared together with his eclipse. He was the ideal Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford - the ideal High Priest of AEsculapius, shall we say - in one of his most venerable yet living shrines. He was conspicuous and commanding at once in theory and practice. He was equally the scientist and the scholar; he satisfied alike the head and the heart.