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The Water Wood in Medicine
Chapter XXII.

1903

Twenty years ago Baltimore was still sufficiently old-fashioned for people on New Years afternoon to keep open house, with an abundance of apple toddy, cake, and Maryland beaten biscuit, or even a 'julep' for those who relished some mint in their nostrils. Falling this year on a Thursday, there were quiet days left over for the end of the week and one may imagine Osler taking full advantage of them. He was writing an address to be given in a few days at New Haven, but the week's instalment of journals have come in, and ~~if not all~~, one of them at least - probably all ~~of them~~ for ~~many~~ ^{they} are ~~promptly~~ ^{soon to be} handed on to the 'Faculty' reading-room - he goes over from cover to cover. ~~There are~~ ^{and} few things ~~that~~ ^{or} missed his eye - even in the book reviews: ^{and} The number of postcards ^{on} and notes which were left to be mailed when ten o'clock came is ~~unknown~~ ^{unrecorded but there were often a dozen or more}. ~~There were apt to be many~~. On this second day of January his reading of the London Lancet alone led to two of them at all events. The first went to the Editor, as follows:

In the Lancet of Dec. 20th, 1902, p. 1072, the reviewer of a new edition of the "Religio Medici" states that he cannot call to mind any editor who has pointed out the similarity between Bishop Ken's Evening Hymn and the dormitive which Sir Thomas says he took 'to bedward.' In Gardiner's edition (1845) there is the following note: "Compare this with the beautiful and well-known 'Even-

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ing Hymn' of Bishop Ken, and these again with several of the Hymni Ecclesiae, especially that beginning 'Salvator Mundi, Domine,' with which Ken and Browne, both Wyckhamists must have been familiar.**

*"Sir Thomas Browne's Evening Hymn," Lancet, Jan. 17, 1903.

For the ^{in view} purpose of his coming address, having newly familiarized himself with the medical history of Connecticut, another communication had arrested his attention, and in the Archives for Paediatrics for May will be found an article by Dr. Hezekiah Beardsley of New Haven, Conn., entitled "Congenital Hypertrophic Stenosis of the Pylorus" with this foot-note by Professor Osler:

Cautley and Dent in a recent paper (Lancet, December 20, 1902) state that the first record of this disease which is now exciting a good deal of interest, dates back to 1841. The report here given by Dr. Beardsley of a very clearly and accurately described case [^{see}schiveosity of the pylorus] is, I think, worth republishing. It appears in the earliest volume of medical transactions issued in this country entitled "Cases and Observations by the Medical Society of New Haven County in the State of Conn." New Haven, J. Meigs, 1788.

Thus the record of ^{a century old observation,} ~~an important case a century ago,~~ together with its author, was rescued from oblivion. Still another note, probably traceable to the same evening, was sent to the Editor of the Medical News*, and how many more cards

*"The Significance of Cutaneous Angiomata," Medical News, N.Y., Jan. 10, 1903.

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went to the contributors of the various articles in these and other journals, as he cleared his desk of them, can only be conjectured.

The occasion of his New Haven address, given January 6th, was the Centennial Celebration of the local medical society, and Osler made what he termed ~~his~~ 'remarks' "On the Educational^{al} Value of the Medical Society." Though perhaps somewhat less effective than other things he had written, it nevertheless was included the next year in his collected addresses*, by which time he had chosen

*"Aequanimitas and Other Addresses." No. XVII. Phila, 1904.

as the two prefatory mottoes the verse from the "Epistle to the Hebrews", Chapter X: 'Let us hold fast the profession of our faith, &c"', and the following from Jowett's "Introductions to Plato" which indicates sufficiently well the thread of his discourse.

The want of energy is one of the main reasons why so few persons continue to improve in later years. They have not the will, and do not know the way. They 'never try an experiment' or look up a point of interest for themselves; they make no sacrifices for the sake of knowledge; their minds, like their bodies, at a certain age become fixed. Genius has been defined as 'the power of taking pains'; but hardly anyone keeps up his interest in knowledge throughout a whole life. The troubles of a family,

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the business of making money, the demands of a profession destroy the elasticity of the mind. The waxen tablet of the memory, which was once capable of receiving 'true thoughts and clear impressions', becomes hard and crowded; there is no room for the accumulations of a long life (Theoet, 194 ff.). The student, as years advance, rather makes an exchange of knowledge than adds to his store.

The address was an appeal to the practising members of his profession * (among whom the 'forty-visit-a-day man' is most to be pitied) to remember that education is a life-long business; that experience is fallacious and judgment difficult; and that attendance on a medical society, particularly one which maintains a library, may prove the salvation of the man who from success in practice 'needs to pray the prayer of the Litany against the evils of prosperity' lest he tend towards slovenliness in his methods of work. ^{Even his foot notes} ~~It is all~~ interesting - ^{deserve quoting.} ~~even to his foot notes,~~ One of ^{them} which reads:

In every age there have been Elijahs ready to give up in despair at the progress of commercialism in the profession. Garth says in 1699 (Dispensary) -

How sickening Physick hangs her pensive head
And what was once a Science, now's a Trade.

Of medicine, many are of the opinion expressed by one of Akenside's disputants at Tom's Coffee House, that the ancients endeavoured to make it a

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science and failed, and the moderns to make it a trade and have succeeded. Today the cry is louder than ever, and in truth there are grounds for alarm; but on the other hand, we can say to these Elijahs that there are many more than 7,000 left who have not bowed the knee to this Baal, but who practise caute caste et probe.

And the reader is struck, even if his listeners may not have been, with the diversity of the author's reading, for he begins with an appropriate line from "The Autocrat" and ends with another from Kipling; and in the ^{body of the address} ~~lines be-~~ tween, in addition to the Bible, Bishop Butler, Locke, Browning, Thomas Fuller and *George Eliot* in the person of Mrs. Poyser ^{all} make themselves felt.

Osler's mind was insatiable, and meanwhile, as the following letter shows, he was on another hunt, which will account for his presence in York the following August.

From Dr. George A. Auden to W. O.

York,
January 11, 1903.

Dear Prof. Osler, I shall be delighted to hunt up any facts about old James Aitkinson of York. His Medical Bibliography is, I am sorry to say, but little known. He was born in 1759, his father being a friend of Laurence Sterne who was Vicar of Sutton, 10 miles from here. I have often thought that the Medical Bibliography reminds one a good deal of Tristram Shandy's humour. I am told that James A. had no qualifications for practice, but

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that later on in life he received an honorary degree. (This I cannot at present substantiate. Our poet Crabbe was another who practised without qualifications). He died in 1839 and had a sort of public funeral, being buried in S. Helen's Church - I have not yet found his grave, and fear it is now lost. When the summer gives me most time for investigation I hope to look up his history more fully. He is mentioned in Dibdin's Tour in the Northern Counties and lived in a street (now mostly offices) known as Lendal (Leudal?). I asked an old patient of mine aged 88 about him, but she could tell me no more than the above. Another medical celebrity of York, has been immortalised as Dr. Slop in Tristram Shandy. This was Dr. Burton who is buried in Holy Trinity, Micklegate. I have in my charge as Secretary of the York Med. Society the midwifery instruments described as the cause of the deformity of Shandy's nose! We have in York a very good collection of mediaeval medical works, some very valuable ones. One I am in hopes of transcribing - a vellum MS of 1403 by William of Killingholme, I believe ^{it} unique. If anything should at any time bring you to England and you could spare a few days for York, I should be delighted to offer you my hospitality.

. . .

During January preparations were under way for the post-graduate exercises of the coming spring. He writes to H. M. Hurd that he will arrange for them, and many letters like the following go out to recent graduates to ^{enlist} interest their participation.

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1903*To Dr. Joseph H. Pratt from W.O.*No. 1 W. Franklin Street,
Jan. 12, 1903.

Dear Pratt: Many thanks for the books, which I shall prize very much. I had never seen the Wunderlich. It will, I am sure, be most interesting. Would it not be nice to have a sort of symposium on the blood platelets? I could take the historical and some minor clinical aspects, a man working in Howell's laboratory could take the physiological or histological and you could take the pathological. I think it would be most valuable.

One other point - at the recent meeting of the post-graduate committee of the Faculty I was commissioned to ask you to give one of the evening lectures to the post-graduates on any subject you see fit. There is one a week given throughout May and June. Sorry we cannot offer a very large honorarium, but there would be a fee of twenty-five dollars, enough to pay your travelling expenses. If you come early in May while I am here, I shall expect you to stop with me. Please send me an answer to this at once. Would it not be interesting if you took up some aspects of modern cardiac pathology? You might kill two birds with one stone perhaps. If you come down early in May, say the first Monday for the symposium of the blood platelets, you could then give your lecture on Tuesday evening. How would that suit you? Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

Mrs. Osler had gone to Boston shortly after Christmas because of the illness of a relative, and had returned with a troublesome cough supposedly due to a cold caught on the train; and though exposed to whooping-cough while at her sis-

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ter's , it could not have been apparent as yet, either to her 'latch-keyer'
attendant or to her husband, that she was in for a long-drawn out illness.

To Mrs. W. S. Thayer from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street,
1. 18. 03.

Dear Sister Susan So sorry that I shall have to withdraw the very kind invitation to tea which came from you this morning thro. William Sidney but - when he came Mrs O seemed so much 'given over' to the effects of Dr Futchers' Medicine that it looked hopeless for the day, now she has revived and talks of getting up - under which circumstances, I mean the getting up, it seems more properer & polite that I (as she would be alone otherwise, & most unhappy) that I, I say, should stay at home and consequently cannot come. You will understand. Sincerely yours

W^m Osler

P.S. 'Tis not the invitation that I withdraw, of course, but the acceptance [On the envelope, is written "Could you send me Huchard - Traite de la Maladies du Coeur"] evidently intended for W. S. T.

The following two letters tell their own story.

To John H. Musser from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street,
1. 19. 03

Dear J. H. Many thanks for the Bowditch He was a noble old citizen and the life is well told. I wish there had been a little more about his Paris days. There has been a proposal made to ^{launch} ~~start~~ a National Medical Historical Society. What do you think of such a move? It seems a pity to start a new society, when there are so many & when we all have such hard work to keep up

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our interest in existing organizations. Whether it should be started - & if so should it be a section of the Am. Med. Ass. or an independent body - & of unlimited membership or of limited? At your leisure drop me a line. The question has not been discussed openly as yet. Ever yours

W^m Osler

~~P.S. Your W. W. Gerhard's Typhus & Typhoid paper has not yet come back from London I think I told you I had sent copy to be bound.~~

To Charles W. Eliot from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street,
Jan. 19, 1903.

Dear President Eliot, I feel much honoured by your kind and tempting offer. It would be delightful to spend a winter in Cambridge, quietly thinking and studying, and doing such teaching as you suggest, but I do not see how it could be managed. I have talked the matter over carefully with Mrs. Osler and I am sorry to feel compelled to decline. With kind regards and many thanks, Sincerely yours

W^m Osler

He had expected to attend a dinner of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, of which Weir Mitchell was again President, on the evening of January 24th at the Hotel Walton, but it must have become all too evident at this time that 1 West Franklin Street was in for a siege of whooping cough, for he writes his niece: "Aunt Grace is better today - but she has cofed & cofed & cofed. Can you hear her whoop thro this writing, it just gave me a shudder as I heard it.

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* *Revere*
 Poor Ike is sure to catch it." ~~and this must have prevented his attendance.~~

Just note
 * On the morning of the 24th a notice had appeared in the daily papers stating that Mr. Carnegie had included among his various donations to libraries - and one may suppose at Dr. Mitchell's suggestion - the Library of the College of Physicians at Philadelphia. His gift of \$50,000 was conditioned, as usual, on the raising of a similar sum by the College itself, and those who attended the banquet will recall that when the formal announcement of this munificent gift was made by one of the after-dinner speakers, he held up and waved a telegram received that morning from Baltimore, stating that the first contribution had already been received. The telegram read: "Congratulations on the bequest. Put Mrs. Osler and me down for five hundred."

Revere did 'catch it' - badly - and ere long he began to tune up in most brazen fashion. This explains the following, sent on a card from the University Club of New York, postmarked February 3, 1903:

To Egerton Y. Davis Osler Jr., of 1 West Franklin St. Baltimore.
 Dear Bandmaster, I hear that you are looking for three good players for your band. I play the big drum, my son Josh plays the bugle and my little son Reckcrack plays either the bones or the kettle drum. We charge

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a dollar a day (each) with meals included. We like scrambled eggs for breakfast, mushrooms for dinner and buttered toast for tea. We play all day for the dollar, and we sleep in our clothes in the band wagon. We prefer the horse to be white

Yours truly

Ezekiel Tomtom.

He had busied himself, meanwhile, with the ^{an}progress of the Historical Club for the year, and papers had been promised by Roswell Park, Walter R. Sterner, E. F. Cordell, and James Mumford who gave the first of these^m and, despite the whooping-cough stayed at 1 West Franklin Street. On February 18th Osler was in Richmond and gave a clinical lecture there before the College of Medicine, on Leukaemia*, and on the 24th he sends one of his many letters to

*This has got into his bibliography though it was merely taken down and published from a student's notes.

James R. Chadwick of the Boston Medical Library, as follows:

No, I have not Aiken's Biographical Memoirs, and should like them very much. I know about the old bird and have his Memoir by his daughter Lucy. I am sending you Thacher's Military Journal. It is the first edition and I had it bound this year at Rivièrès. It is really a very first-class work and a great credit to the old man. By the way, Thacher's Diploma from the M.M.S. is in the hands of his grandson, Boutelle, of Hampton, Va., who might perhaps leave it to the Library. I have a great

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many letters about the proposed Historical Society. Nearly all of the young men are in favour of it, but I have great hesitation about going into it, as I am so confoundedly driven with so many things.

And on the same day he writes to H. V. Ogden:

So glad to hear from you. We have had a pretty good winter until in an evil day Mrs. Osler went to Boston, where she caught whooping cough, and has had a very bad time of it. Of course she gave it to Ikey, who is now whooping night and day. I hope we are to have you here this spring. Do arrange to get away, the sooner the better. I have got all sorts of interesting treasures to keep you amused. Willie Francis is at the Royal Victoria. Campbell Howard is here now as one of the assistants in the hospital. Give your people my kindest regards.

And a week later he sends word to his niece: "We are having a miserable time thank you. Poor Ike whoops about 24 times in the 24 hours. Aunt Grace has been much better lately and is almost over the whoops. Revere keeps very jolly & jokey. Isn't Bea's birthday on the 13th? Get a nice cake and candles &c at Webb's & order flowers at Dunlops." He does not add that though Revere kept 'jolly & jokey' his father with his fingers in his ears would sometimes rush from the house, for he could not endure to hear the boy in one of his bad paroxysms.

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This went ^{on} interminably, as is the way with whooping cough, but it was even worse than usual, for Revere would 'whoop and shoot' and went everywhere - to the park or his playhouse - accompanied by a tin basin and a bath towel. Finally his father got a red and a blue pencil for him to keep score - a blue mark for a 'whoop' and a red one for a 'whoop and shoot.'

Still there were some cheering things, especially those derived from book catalogues, and it was at about this time that the Edinburgh theses for which he had cabled the previous December must have arrived to his great delight. In the catalogue which remains in his library he subsequently wrote as follows of this purchase.

This Edinboro' Catalogue here appended came from G. P. Johnston one Sunday morning while I was still in Baltimore. I cabled at once for all the American Theses, and secured them. (J. cabled me "Do you mean all of them?") The following summer when in Edinboro I called at Johnston's and he showed me a group of cables which he had received. Mine came early Monday morning before the shop was opened. Then in quick succession came cables from the Surgeon General's Library, Washington, The College of Physicians Phila., the Academy of Medicine New York, and from Dr Will Pepper, Phila. It is a very remarkable collection and came chiefly from the Libraries of the Professors^{es} Hope to whom they were presentation copies. These are the theses of some of the most distinguished of American physicians, Bard, Dorsey, Archer, Almon

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of U.S., (the father of Senator A. and the grandfather of my friend Tom A.) Shippen, Morgan, Kuhn, Logan of Phila, Benj. Rush, Physick, Arthur Lee and others. I gave the collection to the Frick Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland.*

*The 123 Theses were presented to ^{at a meeting of} the Book and Journal Club, Thursday, March 26th.

~~which~~ ^{alterations were being made in} needed ~~medical amphitheatre in~~ ^{the} what was called the Surgical Building, ~~was in process of erection at this time,~~ ^{the following} and ~~Osler~~ writes a letter to W. H. Howell ^{that only refers to this but at the same time,} the Dean ~~which~~ ^{departmental budgets for} shows how meagre were the ~~salaries of the assistants at this time.~~ ^{in those days:}

III. 15. 03.

Dear Howell Emerson has left the estimates with Coy for the Clinical Laboratory. I wish to nominate Emerson as Associate in Medicine. He deserves the lift & if the funds warrant, a raise in salary to \$500. He does us much credit & should be encouraged & moreover the Clin. Lab. is a feature in our work to be pushed. C. P. Howard I wish nominated as Assistant in Medicine. He will stay next Winter and I am anxious that he should take the work in medical autopsy for which he is well fitted. I think the others "Mark time." If the funds allow, it would be well for the School to help in fitting up the new quarters for Halsted & myself which should be ready by Nov. 1st. I have given \$1000 for the purpose, but there will be many extras and I think ^{a layer} ~~an extra~~ appropriation in Medicine say \$500 and a larger one in Surgery ^{an extra} would be in order. Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

Howell's initials
Present name P.H.C.
1/18

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In his account-book opposite the date March 20 is the brief note, "Nellie died; went to Toronto." He tells Musser of this in his next letter, and characteristically ^{turns quickly to another} ~~dismisses the~~ subject.

Baltimore,
Mar. 28, 1903

Dear Musser Norman will have told you about my sister's illness and death. Poor soul! She is a great loss. Glad to hear you are working at a new edition, though I do not see how you get time to do anything extra. I am sending you a book from Oliver Wendell Holmes library, with his delightful chambered nautilus book-plate. When are you coming down? I have been getting some great treasures of late which it would do you good to see.

One of the first acts of the Carnegie Institution of which D. C. Gilman had

become President, was to set aside funds to make possible the resumption of the

Index Medicus under the editorship of Robert Fletcher. This ^{action} was probably ^{taken} done

at the solicitation of Weir Mitchell and John S. Billings ^{both gentlemen} ~~who~~ were members of

the Board, ^{though it} ~~whose~~ general policy ^{has been from the outset} was to leave medical and public health interests

to the Rockefeller ^{Institute Foundations,} ~~boards~~ and to support research in other fields. Osler and

Welch promptly arranged for a dinner at the Maryland Club to celebrate the occasion

and many notes like the following to Dr. H. C. Yarrow issued from 1 West Franklin

Street.

*Ordered by Carnegie Inst.
Smithsonian
Washington*

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IV. 8. 03.

Dear Yarrow Are there any special friends of Dr. Fletcher - other than
H. C. Y. - who should be asked to our little gathering on the 18th to com-
memorate the Index Medicus redivivus? Yours sincerely

W^m Osler

~~No less characteristic was the reception given at the 'Faculty' hall on
April 21st to Eugene F. Cordell in honour of the final publication of his Cen-
tennial Volume* which had become a somewhat overgrown and expensive child for~~

*for Dr. as a mark of appreciation for
by name had appeared there*
*The Medical Annals of Maryland, 1799-1879." Baltimore, 1903.
(Privately printed).

the committee of five who had fostered it.

*hooked up by
Baltimore papers, etc.*
~~Three days later there was a public meeting at McCoy Hall under the auspices
of the Tuberculosis Commission to still further enlighten the public on this
subject, on which occasion Herman Biggs of New York was the principal speaker.
Nor was the subject allowed to rest, for on the 30th at the annual meeting of
the 'Faculty' there was more of it in which Osler with H. B. Jacobs were partici-~~

~~pants.~~ *have been recovered* Most of the letters of this time which ~~are preserved~~ are brief lines re-

Calvin to Walter's Johns Soc; arranging for another public meeting in McCoy Hall under the auspices of the Tuberculosis Commission; arranging for
~~garding the programme of these and other meetings~~ / arranging for a luncheon in

New York for Professor Ewald of Berlin; arranging for the Laennec Society meet-

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ing; the post-graduate lectures; and much else besides. Not content with the dinner for Robert Fletcher, he has set on foot a movement for a portrait, and from the University Club in New York, the day of the Ewald luncheon, he writes to James R. Chadwick:

6th [May, 1903]

Dear Chadwick Many thanks for the Cardan. I had not the volume. It is most interesting. The horoscope of Andreas Vesalius is excellent - I found it accidentally. I have just had four of the original editions of C. from Muller & Co with several treasures. About the Fletcher portrait - will you stir up the Boston men. I will attack some of the N. Y. fellows tomorrow & next week we can canvass the men in Washington. Shall you be at the Meeting? I shall be at the New Willard. Join me often in the Cafe!!

The meeting to which he refers was the 18th session of the 'American Physicians' held in Washington May 12th to 14th, under the presidency of his old Montreal colleague 'silent' James Stewart.* Osler had written to

*It was the year of the Vith triennial Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, over whose general sessions W. W. Keen presided. At the combined sessions symposia were held: Fitz, Opie, Flexner, R. H. Chittenden, and Mikuliez of Breslau were the chief speakers on the subject of the pancreas, an organ which occupies the region that Osler, before his students, was accustomed to refer to as 'the area of abdominal romance, where the head of the pancreas lies folded in the arms of the duodenum.' On the subject of ^{the} gall-bladder there were papers by Ewald of Berlin,

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Klebs of Halberstadt, Musser, Christian Herter, W. J. Mayo, and Moynihan of Leeds - later Sir Berkeley, whom Osler always playfully addressed as "Carnifex Maximus." There were other papers no less notable. Thus at another session Theobald Smith and Trudeau made clear that Koch had been rash in his statements made at the London Congress in 1901, for Smith had succeeded in isolating the bovine bacillus from the mesenteric glands of a child, and Trudeau had produced a relative immunity with an avian bacillus. Both of these studies indicated the essential identity of the various bacillary groups of tuberculosis.

Lafleur urging his attendance, stating that the prospects were good for an exceptional meeting - and such it proved to be. One of the afternoon sessions was given over entirely to a symposium on Disorders of the Spleen, and Osler read one of the more important papers* which led to a lively dis-

*The title was "Chronic Cyanosis with Polycythaemia and Enlarged Spleen: a New Clinical Entity." (American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Aug. 1903, p. 187). It was a further consideration of the so-called "Osler-Vaquez disease" with the report of additional cases.

^{two} Osler was also on the programme for a paper, the third of the series of papers on "The Visceral Manifestations of the Erythema Group of Skin Diseases." This was read by title and was not published till the following year. (American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Jan. 1904, p. 1-55.)

cussion. That a dinner of the Association followed, which proved unexpectedly expensive for some of the participants, is evidenced by the following, scribbled without date, and again from the University Club of New York, to James R. Chadwick.

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Dear Chadwick: Many thanks for the books. The large paper copy of the Religio I had never seen - tis a fine addition to my collection. I will send you the small paper copy in exchange. I have a duplicate 2nd Edition. I did not know of Jackson's 2nd letter - though I had read somewhere of his "Death of Washington." We have just finished the meeting of the Association of Medical Librarians.* The work is progressing well. I bagged \$250 for the

*The meeting, with fifteen in attendance, was held on the morning of May 16th in Brooklyn in the Library of the Medical Society of the County of Kings, and in the afternoon in the New York Academy of Medicine. Osler was again elected President and, indeed, was the ^{main} source of inspiration of the Society. The Transactions appear in the Medical Library and Historical Journal, 1903, i, 206-221.

Fletcher portrait at our Assoc. of Am. Phy. dinner. Garrison writes discourgaed from Washington. I shall stir up some men "at large."

Will you attack the Boston men. Yours

Wm Osler.

But he was not permitted invariably to be the host and the suggestor of tributes to others. Occasionally he was subjected himself, and nothing could have been more spontaneous or delightful than the dinner given at the Maryland Club on the evening of May 15th when a group of the 'old timers'

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at the Hopkins gathered together to make fun of him and each other; and on the menu they were recommended among other things to 'cultivate the virtue of taciturnity'; to 'remember the words of Publius: "I have often regretted my speech not my silence"'; and to 'read the advice to a young physician by Egerton Y. Davis.' Late in the evening a procession filed from the club and marched to 1 West Franklin Street, trundling in wheelbarrows to deposit in his library a gift which was the real purpose of this gathering - that monument of George M. Smith the publisher, the sixty-three volumes of the "Dictionary of National Biography" completed shortly before 'after eighteen years of unremitting labour.'

They sailed May 29th on the "Cedric" and the following letters will serve to tell something of their summer: (of a fictitious portrait of Harvey; of a gift from Henry Phipps; of the aftermath of Mrs. Osler's whooping-cough; of Paris, Guernsey, Harrogate, York, Norwich, Beaulieu and London.

In W.O.'s commonplace-book, London, 16. VI. 1903:

Saw the two MSS. of the Religio in possession of Simon Wilkins' Son, 27, Lambette Rd. Belsize Park. Both looked contemporary, and are much fuller and better than the others mentioned here. . . .

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To H. M. Hurd from W. O.

~~B.S. and Co. Str.~~

Paris

[no date]

Dear Hurd That was a kindly act of Mr. Phipps - and shows a discerning mind. I have told Brown Shipley & Co. to pay the money to the Johns Hopkins Hospital and we can determine later what is best to be done. Either to invest and spend the interest in the tuberculosis work or to spend the whole amount in rearranging the Dispensary (which needs it badly) and adding special rooms for the tuberculosis patients. Making a modest out-patient dept. of this sort might appeal to Mr. Phipps and he might double his subscription. In any case it is an encouraging sign and we can use the money to great advantage. I am here with Emerson and Jacobs. E. has had a most profitable visit. Marie has been most kind to him and he has the run of the Becêtre. We go about July 1st to Brittany or the Channel Islands. Love to all at the Hospital, &c.

The allusion to the 'kindly act of Mr. Phipps' deserves explanation.

One of Henry Phipps's children had been a patient of Osler's and he had been to see them from time to time in New York. Quite possibly on one of these occasions something may have been said commendatory of Mr. Phipps's project to establish an institute in Philadelphia for the special study of tuberculosis, the first institution of its kind, newly established under the directorship of Dr. Lawrence F. Flick.* Osler in all likelihood must

*The Henry Phipps Institute for the Study Treatment and Prevention of Tuberculosis - 'the embodiment of a new idea, namely the concentrated effort upon a single disease for its extermination' - had been founded February 1st 1903, and was in opera-

June 1903

tion in temporary quarters at 238 Pine Street, Philadelphia.
After a period of excellent work it was subsequently taken over
by the regents of the University of Pennsylvania.

have told him of the great importance of the work, and may have mentioned
the conditions which the students in Baltimore had disclosed in visiting the
homes of the consumptives who had reported at the dispensary. In any event
Mr. Phipps had come to feel that he would like to do something for Baltimore
as well as Philadelphia. ^{Having} ~~He~~ acquainted Dr. Flick of this intent, one even-
ing early in June when at dinner in Philadelphia with the staff of the In-
stitute, ^{he} excused himself, left the table for a moment, and returned with a
blank fragment of club stationery partly torn in two on which he had
scribbled, "Pay \$10,000 to Dr. Osler [signed] Henry Phipps." "Would you
mind taking this to Dr. Osler?" he said, "and tell him that if he uses it
well I will send him some more." This slip, promptly taken to Baltimore by
Dr. Flick, was forwarded to London by Dr. Welch where it was thought to be
a hoax and Brown, Shipley and Company forwarded it in turn to Paris where its
genuineness and purpose was recognized, ^{In reply to Allen Cole's letter of acknowledgment Mr. Phipps wrote:} ~~and it was properly acknowledged to~~
~~Mr. Phipps, who in reply writes:~~ "I hear you are married. We have taken
Beaulieu Castle and hope you will pay us a visit."

June
1903To W. S. Thayer from W. O.Hotel de Castiglione, Paris,
[June 1903]

Dear Thayer We had a delightful crossing, pleasant people & smooth seas. After a week of rain and bustle in London I came on here and am with the Baron von Jacob [H. B. Jacobs] & Emerson. Enjoying Paris very much. E. J. & I start out every morning about 9 for one of the Spitals. We have been 3 times at Becêtre with Marie who is charming and yesterday we saw his collection of odd & anomalous cases - an extraordinary show. I have been 3 times at the St Louis & have been going thro the museum carefully. The trophic & other lesions are remarkable. Dieulafoy we missed & Debove, but we have heard three delightful lectures by Brissaud on the forms of oedema & the vasomotor disorders. Norton turned up yesterday - just on from Wien. He seems well & happy. Whitman I have seen twice; dined with him on Friday. . . . Mrs O & Tommy are at Shanklin, Isle of Wight. We shall go to Guernsey or the Brittany coast. I shall stay here for another two weeks.

Was not Mr Phipps gift a surprise. We should either convert it & spend the \$400 a year in some special way associated with Tuberculosis or what I think would be better still devote it to help reorganize our Out-patient Dept. & make one special part for Tuberculosis We could leave the waiting room as it is & pull down & rearrange all the rooms to the left & possibly to the right. This should not cost more than 20,000 dollars & the Trustees should go shares. . . . Drop a line before long. Do arrange with Smith & Fitcher about the summer dispensary work so as to be sure there are a couple of men on hand each day. Ever yours)

W.O.)

Send word of any special French books we should have I have a box coming out from Welter.

Subsequent letters tell of visits with Raymond, Charcot's successor at the
Salpêtrière, & a supposed picture of William Harvey by Jansen the last discourse
and it was
Jansen

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1903

To J. George Adami from W. O.

Hotel de Castiglione.
[no date]

Dear Adami I am sorry in many ways that we are not to have you in Phila -
glad in others as it would have been very hard to get a successor of your
calibre for McGill. After all you have done a splendid work there and while
perhaps there is not quite that appreciation of things scientific that you
could wish, you have a young set growing up who will gradually leaven the
whole lump. It is a hard up-hill fight - everywhere in fact. Even here
I am surprised to find how little is done by the authorities. Raymond,
Charcot's successor, told me a few minutes ago that he has had to put his
hand in his pocket for every item in connection with his new installation -
which is splendid. . . . I have an original De Generatione anamaliu
for the Library. I sent the Eng. ed. a few years ago; the original is much
better. Yours,

W.O.

And later he says in a letter to one of the 'latch-keyers' in Baltimore, -

without date:

The Baron & I are having a most joyous visit ~~there~~. Emerson is playing
Vergel but showing us only the good side. We have seen much of Marie at the
Bicêtre where there is a wonderful collection of neurological abnormalities.
At the Salpêtrière we have seen Raymond twice & on Saturday he is to take
us on a special tour I have spent several afternoons at the St Louis, par-
ticularly in the museum which is wonderful. Mrs. Osler & Tommy are on the
Isle of Wight. We shall go next week to the Channel Islands, probably to

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Guernsey where we have heard of a charming house all ready for tenants. I hope you have not had any great heat so far. . . . I have seen a wonderful picture of Harvey here - the Jansen 1650 - 'Tis for sale. I am inquiring about authenticity &c. I have not a Powers' Harvey to consult. . . .

It was during this sojourn in Paris that H. B. Jacobs had the medallion by Vernon made of him, in regard to which the following letter from Pierre Marie ^{refer} ~~is~~ of interest.

Je me félicite d'avoir été tout au moins l'occasion de l'exécution de sa médaille par Vernon (notre grand médailliste - mort, lui aussi). - Sir William était venu dîner à la maison avec un de ses compatriotes, et après le dîner j'avais pensé que tous deux prendraient peut-être quelque intérêt à regarder les médailles des médecins et chirurgiens connus de Paris; c'était alors la coutume que les amis et les élèves fissent cadeau à leurs maîtres de leur médaille, par souscription, et j'en avais un grand nombre.

Sir William et son ami avaient beaucoup admiré les médailles faites par Vernon. En nous quittant l'ami me prit à part et me demanda de le mettre à même de faire faire par Vernon, en quelques jours, la médaille de Sir William - elle fut très réussie et j'en fus très heureux.

To H. B. Jacobs from W. O.

Glen View, St. Martins,
Guernsey, July 8th.

Dear Jacobs Surely the dealers are children of Ananias & of the sons of Belial. Col. Bramston writes a very nice letter. He knows of no such picture

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[of Harvey], never had one & had he had one he never could have parted with a family relic of such value!

We are most comfortable here - the weather is superb & the bathing first class. The roads are excellent & we have already had several delightful five o'clock tea picnics in different parts. The sea & the rocks on the south shore, near us, are very fine & as in the Isle of Wight, chines run up from the Coast. Mrs. Osler has been much better. Yesterday she had a bad attack again - it seems, as Fowler says, a genuine bronchial asthma following the whooping cough. Revere is so happy - he has just had the delightful experience of sending his cricket ball through a window pane. I hope you will find weather like this at Trouville. . . .

To W. S. Thayer from W. O.

Glen View, St. Martins, Guernsey.
15th [July]

Dear Thayer Thanks for your nice long letter & for the 3rd year lists &c. I am glad that some of the men were conditioned & warned - 'twas needed. Hamman seems an A.1. fellow. We can recommend him in Sept. tho. properly all the new nominations should come before the Trustees in June. I am very sorry Calvert has gone to Columbia. 'Twill not be for long. The conditions there are hopeless, I understand. Why the d-- did he not wait in St. Louis. What a bomb - Flexners engagement was! . . . He deserves a good wife.

I had a most interesting visit in Paris & saw much that was instructive. Marie was most kind - also Raymond & Déjérine. Mr Phipps has promised another \$10,000 when needed. We must take this chance to get the out-patient Dept. thoroughly remodelled, & a separate Tub. Clinic established. I dare say Mr. P. will do anything we ask. A model O-P. Dept. for the disease

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would be a great addition. Think over plans. The waiting room - general, is all right, but the rooms should be remodelled & rearranged. I have written to the Trustees about it. We are in a comfortable little cottage here. I am loafing. - We have found a good sailer who takes us in a big boat three or four times a week. The weather is heavenly - the coast perfection & the bathing just right. I am mahogany coloured. Mrs Osler still coughs & wheezes, - there is a sort of asthmatic condition left - most distressing at times. She is better now. Yours

W Osler

As he says in a letter to [unclear] had picked out a

To H. V. Ogden from W. O.

Guernsey,
[no date]

Dear Ogden I thot, as Lord Strathcona says, of you several times in Paris & wished you could have prowled with me along the Quais in & out of the old book shops. I had a most delightful visit and saw much of interest, medically & socially. ~~Marie, Raymond and Déjérine were most kind & several of the younger men. Norton, whom you may remember as one of my assistants, is Examiner for the Mutual & knows Paris now like a book. Emerson too, who is in charge of my clinical Laboratory has been at the Bicêtre with Marie for 4 months, so he knew the ropes. I picked up a few Rabelais items - his edition of the Aphorisms of Hippocrates & some good essays on his life & work. Old Gui Patin interests me very much. The shops are not to be compared with those of Germany for the old medical works. I picked up a fine editio princeps ¹⁴⁷⁸ ~~1482~~, of Celsus, also the first ^[?] medical work printed, 1471, on Poisons, and several early Avicennas.~~

Mrs. Osler went to the Isle of Wight while I was in Paris. We have been here two weeks in a quiet little village close to Fermain Bay, one of

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the prettiest spots on the Island. We sail & fish & bathe. The links are too far away but I am having a good rest, and the weather has been superb. 'Tis an odd corner of the earth - half French, half English, with queer customs & laws & virtual independence of government. *"And from the Cellars"*

~~There were various other letters from Guernsey to the stay-at-home 3-West-Franklin-Street neighbours, from which extracts may be taken.~~

July 17th.

I was much interested about the Harvey picture; which was a beauty, but after the positive statements from Cust & Power and the glaring discrepancy in the date I could not think of it. . . . Your account of Hector interested us so much what a narrow escape he had. I have bagged two 1543 Fabricas! 'Tis not a work which should be left on the shelves of a bookseller. . . . We should get up a lecture bureau & with a course on the great medical books of the world. Hippocrates, Galen, Avicenna, Vesalius, Paracelsus, Harvey &c. - all well illustrated with lantern slides and the original editions I am struggling with the question of the Editio Princeps of Avicenna. . . . I am deep too in a life of Gui Patin & am interested in his tirades against polypharmacy & the Arabians Did I tell you I got Harvey's letter to Riolan - had to pay £6.6 for it. R. was Patin's great friend & they both scoff at Harvey's discovery even as late as 1670! I shall look up the Harvey portraits. I have stirred up a dozen dealers to look for the de Motu Cordis. I have got the 2nd 4rd & 6th editions of Garth's Dyspensary - they are valuable for the notes. . . . I am reading Kussmaul's ^{Dozentzeit} Dozentzeit in Heidelberg - 'tis not up to the Jugend erinnerungen but there are some very good pic-

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tures of his early days. ~~Tommy is very well & happy. Mrs O. cannot shake off the wheezing but I hope this bright clear air may cure it, etc.~~

July 25th.

. . . I have got two copies of the '43 edition of the De Humani corporis fabrica & have just ordered a third We cannot have too many copies in America & no Medical Library is complete without one.* We are having

*One of these copies was forwarded to the McGill Library, ~~and~~ ^{and} having quite forgotten the fact he sent them a second copy from Rome on March 9, 1909.

such a nice quiet time here - the weather has been perfect. Mrs O. is not at all well - wheezes still like the deuce, but has been better lately. To add to her discomfort a urticaria of ferocious quality has landed upon some 3 1/2 acres of her back. Revere is very jolly. I wish you could take a header with me about 11 this a m - high tide & about 15 feet of water off the rocks. . . .

Osler's natural courtesy made him choose for conversation or correspondence subjects with which his companion would be familiar, and his reference to a 'morning header' to a young friend was probably no more exhilarating than his 'evening header' mentioned in a letter ~~on the evening of~~ the 25th to Weir Mitchell, in which he says:

Reading the Ethics of Aristotle this evening in Bk. VII Chapter V. I came across the statement 'there was a man again who, by reason of disease, was afraid of a cat.' He is speaking of excessive cowardice. It

W. J. Simpson

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may interest you in connection with your inquiry into morbid dread of
'the harmless necessary cat.'

Weir Mitchell had been writing him of a paper he was preparing on feline
phobias; but the perusal during this summer of a new edition of Aristotle's
'Ethics' (A. S. Humphries, 1902) indicates possibly that the Ingersoll
Lecture is on his mind. ~~And many excerpts were transferred to his common-
place book, such as "pg. 124. In the case of our habits we are only
masters of the beginning; their growth by gradual stages being imperceptible
like the growth of disease."~~ At the same time he must have been easing

his conscience with some literary work, for he sends a postcard from Lon-

don on the 19th of August to Francis R. Packard. ^{to the effect} ~~Saying that he would receive for publication a paper~~

My secretary will send you in a few days ~~a paper~~ on the "Visceral Mani-
festations of the Erythema Group." You published the other papers of the
series. No hurry about it, but if you can let S. Solis Cohen have a proof
when he wants it for the volume - or you can let him have the paper & set
up if he is in a hurry - which you will

Sincerely yours

W^m Osler

Kindest remembrances to your father & to poor old Fred's wife when
you see her.

*All three days taken the effect of his absence working in
Strom by the leading (un-sympt) evidence*

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Three days later (~~August 22nd~~) the leading editorial (unsigned) in
 the Journal of the American Medical Association ^{for August 22nd -} was a delightful and ap-
 preciative review of "Kussmaul's Autobiography"; ^{then too} ~~and~~ on the same day the
 London Lancet published an important clinical study "On the so-called
 Stokes-Adams Disease"*, in the course of which ^{there is quote} ~~Osler quotes in a foot-note~~

*In all probability this was prepared for the annual meet-
 ing of the B. M. A. in Swansea, July 28-31, which he failed to
 attend.

an observation reported by Kussmaul in his Aus meiner Docentzeit in Hei-
 delberg ~~which, as related, he had been reading in Guernsey.~~

To Charles W. Eliot from W. O.

Arts Club, 40 Dover Street,
 Aug. 21st.

Dear President Eliot Your letter reached me here a few days ago.

^[for the Depressible lecture]
 Early in May would suit me best, I cannot give you the exact date until
 I hear from Paris as to the date of the Third International Congress on
 Tuberculosis which I have promised to attend. With kind regards, Sincere-
 ly yours, W^m OSLER. I shall be back Sept. 23rd.

A letter of the 25th from Mrs. Osler at Granby, Harrogate, says: "This
 address means that I am here for the waters and baths. I was ashamed to
 come home with that same old cough and Dr. Osler insisted that it was aggra-

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vated by some gouty symptoms. So here I am. You would not know me -

I am alone in a very dignified hotel and have assumed a British-Matron-

dignity and tone that are quite becoming I assure you. After the freedom

of Guernsey it is a bit oppressive. Revere and Miss Nichols are in Fal-

kirk; Dr. Osler with the Schäfers in North Berwick - but joins me this

p.m. We hated to leave Guernsey - it was a haven of rest and peace." *There he so*

joined her and was in his usual high spirits - is evident from a number of letters ~~from~~ one.

Granby, Harrogate.
27th [August]

Dear Musser I sent you this a m a nice copy of the Gold headed cane which I picked up in an old book shop. I hope you have not a copy - if you have & yours is not a better one - turn it over to Gwyn. The 2nd edition is the best. 'Tis a charming work - unique of its kind. I have had a very good summer. . . .

To Dr. A. B. Macallum from W. O.

Granby, Harrogate.
27th [August]

I am so glad to hear that Sherrington is coming out. Is there anyone you would like E. B. [Osler] to entertain? Welch might like to go there with me or Barker or Sherrington. What a good thing it is to have the Schools united - at least it will be eventually.

which will be the 29th road

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1903To Dr. F. C. Shattuck from W. O.

Aug. 28th.

Dear Shattuck T. K. Fowler whose book on the Lungs you know sails on the 2nd by the Majestic for the U. S. to make an inspection of post-graduate methods. I am writing to you & Fitz to look after him when he comes to Boston. I do not know his plans as yet. He will be at the Univ. Club New York and a wire there would catch him. He is a very good fellow - perhaps you already know him. I had a bully summer, 3 weeks in Paris, 7 weeks in Guernsey loafing & sailing & fishing & now I am prowling at Harrogate for a few days with Mrs Osler & seeing York, Ripon & then to Scotland. We sail Sept. 16th. With greetings to all at home particularly George Cheyne Sincerely

[Signed]
yours ~~Wm~~ Will George I have had good luck in books - a number of

Wm Osler Early, Echons . . .

Granby, Harrogate.
29th [August]

Dear ~~W~~ - I had a fall in blood pressure of 125 mm. yesterday afternoon. In an antiquariats here I was pulling over some old books (while Mrs. O was looking at china &c) and on a chair near at hand were two fine quartos, very finely bound, one the History of the Strawberry Hill & the other, Walpoles Noble Authors the two £1. 15. 0! I jumped on them thinking of Sister Kate & Pius IX - but alas the Delilah in charge knocked me over by saying she had just sold them - not an hour before, to Sir Tristram ??- Shandy I suppose - damn him!! I was disgusted. But today I saw at York [with Dr. G. A. Auden] the very forceps which smashed Tristram's Nose & looked at many things about Dr. Burton, the original Dr. Slop.* Mrs. Osler is drinking the sulphur water

*At the December meeting of the Johns Hopkins Historical Club he gave a paper on Dr. John Burton, the 'Dr. Slop' of "~~Tristram Shandy.~~" Osler delighted in Laurence Sterne's book, and all its and in his writings makes frequent allusions to it (to 'Uncle Toby' and to the 'curse of Bishop Ernulphus' for example). In-

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~~deed all its~~ ramifications interest ^{ed} him - the fact that 'Dr. Ferriar the distinguished Manchester physician had exposed the plagiarisms of "Tristram Shandy" in the "illustrations of Sterne", - plagiarisms of another Burton, he of the "Anatomy of Melancholy"; and in a later article (Men and Books. No. XXII: Dr. Slop." Canadian Medical Association Journal, July 1913, iii, 612-13) Osler came to the defence of 'Dr. Slop,' that is of Dr. John Burton of York, who was 'not only a distinguished physician but the author of a celebrated work, still an authority, on the antiquities of Yorkshire.'

& looks like Persephone - She seems all right again Many thanks for the Shelley items. I saw that the Adonais had brought out a record price. I have subscribed at Sotheby's for the catalogue of next year so we can cable for Mrs. Osler when she wishes to make us a present. She gave me yesterday the Bronte girls poems, - a delightful little volume . . . Tommy is in Edinboro with Miss Nichols. I go to Norwich on Monday & then we go to Mr Phipps near Inverness for a few days - ~~he deserves to be cultivated~~ . . .
Yours ever

~~W^m Osler~~

Mr. Phipps for several years had taken Lord Lovat's estate, Beaufort Castle for the summer. It is an exquisite place, reached from Inverness, by skirting the south shore of the Beaully Firth, and lies in a bend of the Beaully River ^{celebrated for} ~~full~~ ^{it} of salmon. At Beaully there was a large house-party, including an Indian Prince

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and others, but Mr. Phipps promptly fell under Osler's spell, followed him about as though charmed, and they are said to have been inseparable, while the other guests went their several ways.

40 Clarges Street, London,
11th [Sept., 1903]

Dear Dr. Jacobi Please delight the heart of an ardent admirer of yours, Dr. G. A. Auden of York, Eng. by sending him your photograph. He has a tough old caricature of you from some paper above his mantelpiece and I told him that I would write and ask you to send a good one. I hope that you have had a good summer and that Mrs. Jacobi is, at any rate, not worse. After three weeks in Paris, I joined Mrs. Osler at Guernsey where she had taken a cottage by the sea. For nearly eight weeks we rested & fished & bathed and had a most pleasant holiday. We have now returned from Scotland to pack up our things and get ready for the homeward trip on the 10th. I hope you got Kussmaul's "Aus meiner Docentzeit." I asked to have it sent to you in July. 'Tis not up to the Jugend[erinnerungen], but there are several good bits. I have got some treasures - an editio princeps of Celsus 1478, the most important. Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

To George Dock from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street,
25th [September]

Dear Dock Your letter of the 22nd only reached me at noon today just after my return. We had a delightful trip back, five fine days out of seven. Revere and Mrs. Osler enjoyed it so much. The latter is better tho she

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wheezes occasionally, particularly if she has been exposed to the wind. She spent two weeks at Harrogate - horrorgate she calls it. The sulphur did her good I think. We went to Scotland for ten days, part of the time with the Phipps - of the Phila. Phipps Institute for Tuberculosis. He has twice sent his boys to consult me & this summer, as perhaps I told you, sent me most unexpectedly \$10,000 to be used in the Tuberculosis work of the Hospital & has promised an additional \$10,000 when called for. Such a man deserved encouragement so we visited him & found the whole family most delightful. I have returned laden with treasures for the Med-Chir & our J.H.H. Library - a few good things for I W. Franklin. The day before I left I picked up the 3rd Ed. of the G. H. Cane (Munks Edition) which had belonged to either Ridsen Bennett or B. W. Richardson. It is illustrated with 110 engravings, &c. What edition of the G. H. Cane have you? I am trying to 'sweat out' an address on "The Master Word in Medicine" (work, of course) for Toronto next week. The opening of some new Buildings. I hope you are in good form. Love to Mrs. Dock & the chicks. Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler

"The Master Word in Medicine"*, one of his more finished addresses, was

*Cf. "Aequanimitas and Other Addresses." 1905.

being 'sweated out' in preparation for a festival to be held in Toronto on October 1st. There was to be a double function, for not only were the new medical laboratories for physiology and pathology to be dedicated, but in addition to

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this the amalgamation, after years of rivalry, of the faculties of medicine of Toronto and Trinity Universities was to be celebrated. To this, reference has already been made. The address, inaugural of the new laboratories, was given in the afternoon by Professor Charles S. Sherrington, then of Liverpool, in the amphitheatre of the building; ^{and in the evening} afterwards there spoke briefly and in turn a goodly number of representatives from other schools, several of whom, including Sherrington, received on the following day the degree of LL.D. from the University - W. W. Keen of Philadelphia, Welch ^{cl. 1899} and Osler from Baltimore, R. H. Chittenden of Yale, and Bowditch of Harvard.

~~On the evening of the 1st, in the large auditorium of the gymnasium, before the assembled students and~~
'to an overflowing house' came Osler's lecture introductory to the session, ~~before the assembled students - a lay sermon of unusual power on the old time worn~~
~~threadbare~~ subject of the student's duty to his college, himself, and the public. As would be expected, 'from a native of this province and an old student of this school' he paid a tribute to his former teachers - to Bovell in particular, to whom with Palmer Howard of Montreal and the Rev. W.A. Johnson of Weston, as he said "I owe my success in life - if success means getting

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what you want and being satisfied with it." And after a reference to his old schoolmate Dick Zimmermann - 'how he would have rejoiced to see this day!' - he then went on to speak indirectly of himself in the following way:

It seems a bounden duty on such an occasion to be honest and frank, so I propose to tell you the secret of life as I have seen the game played, and as I have tried to play it myself. You remember in one of the "Jungle Stories", that when Mowgli wished to be avenged on the villagers he could only get the help of Hathi and his sons by sending them the master-word. - This I propose to give you in the hope, yes, the full assurance, that some of you at least will lay hold upon it to your profit. Though a little one, the master-word looms large in meaning. It is the open sesame to every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher's stone which transmutes all the base metal of humanity into gold. The stupid man among you it will make bright, the bright man brilliant, and the brilliant student steady. With the magic word in your heart all things are possible, and without it all study is vanity and vexation. The miracles of life are with it; the blind see by touch, the deaf hear with eyes, the dumb speak with fingers. To the youth it brings hope, to the middle-aged confidence, to the aged repose. True balm of hurt minds, in its presence the heart of the sorrowful is lightened and consoled. It is directly responsible for all advances in medicine during the past twenty-five centuries. Laying hold upon it, Hippocrates made observation and science the warp and woof of our art. Galen so read its meaning that fifteen centuries stopped thinking, and slept until awakened by the De Fabrica of Vesalius, which is the very incarnation of the master-word. With its inspiration Harvey gave an impulse to a larger circulation than he wot of, an impulse

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which we feel today. Hunter sounded all its heights and depths, and stands out in our history as one of the great exemplars of its virtues. With it Virchow smote the rock and the waters of progress gushed out; while in the hands of Pasteur it proved a very talisman to open to us a new heaven in medicine and a new earth in surgery. Not only has it been the touchstone of progress, but it is the measure of success in everyday life. Not a man before you but is beholden to it for his position here, while he who addresses you has that honour directly in consequence of having had it graven on his heart when he was as you are today. And the Master-Word is Work, a little one, as I have said, but fraught with momentous consequences if you can but write it on the tables of your heart, and bind it upon your forehead. But there is a serious difficulty in getting you to understand the paramount importance of the work-habit as part of your organization. You are not far from the Tom Sawyer stage with its philosophy 'that work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.'

That he should have drawn upon Kipling and Mark Twain for his allusions indicates in all probability what was being read to Revere, just as do the ~~mythological~~ ^{to mythology} references in the following passage devoted to one of the several sources of 'that foul fiend worry.'

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Another potent cause of worry is an idolatry by which many of you will be sore let and hindered. The mistress of your studies should be the heavenly Aphrodite, the motherless daughter of Uranus. Give her your whole heart and she will be your protectress and friend. A jealous creature, brooking no second, if she finds you trifling and coquetting with her rival, the younger, early Aphrodite, daughter of Zeus and Dione, she will whistle you off, and let you down the wind, to be a prey, perhaps to the examiners, certainly to the worm regret. In plainer language, put your affections in cold storage for a few years, and you will take them out ripened, perhaps a little mellow, but certainly less subject to those frequent changes which perplex so many young men. Only a grand passion, an all-absorbing devotion to the elder goddess, can save the man with a congenital tendency to philandering, the flightly Lydgate who sports with Celia and Dorothea, and upon whom the judgment ultimately falls in a basil-plant of a wife like Rosamond.

But as he went on to elaborate his theme he lightened it everywhere by innumerable allusions from the medley of his own favourites, old and new.

. . . If you wish to learn of the miseries of scholars in order to avoid them, read Part I, Section 2, Member 3, Sub-section XV, of that immortal work, the "Anatomy of Melancholy", but I am here to warn you against these evils, and to entreat you to form good habits in your student days.

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~~But~~ ^{And} not only Burton but, from his memory or commonplace book, the "Religio", the Bible, Milton's Areopagitica, "Pilgrim's Progress", "Middlemarch", and the "Breakfast Table Series" are all called upon; and John Locke, Plutarch, Carlyle, Shakespeare, Marcus Aurelius, and Rev. John Ward; St. ^RCrysostom, Montaigne, Jowett, Grossteste ^e - even that recent acquaintance ^{of the summer} Tristram Shandy, ~~figures in the person of his Uncle Toby.~~ But it is a pity further to analyse the construction of the essay. He urged the students to 'get a relish for the good company of the race by daily intercourse with some of the great minds of all ages,' for many of you' he said, 'will need a strong leaven to raise you above the level of the dough in which it will be your lot to labour.'

A conscientious pursuit of Plato's ideal perfection may teach you the three great lessons of life. You may learn to consume your own smoke. The atmosphere of life is darkened by the murmurings and whimperings of men and women over the non-essentials, the trifles, that are inevitably incident to the hurly-burly of the day's routine. Things cannot always go your way. Learn to accept in silence the minor aggravations, cultivate the gift of taciturnity and consume your own smoke with an extra draught of hard work, so that those about you may not be annoyed with the dust and soot of your complaints. More than any other the practitioner of medicine may illustrate the second great lesson, that we are here not to get all we can out of life for ourselves, but to try to make the lives of others happier. This is the essence of the oft-repeated admonition of Christ, "He that

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findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it," on which hard saying if the children of this generation would lay hold, there would be less misery and discontent in the world. It is not possible for anyone to have better opportunities to live this lesson than you will enjoy. The practice of medicine is an art, not a trade, a calling, not a business, a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head. Often the best part of your work will have nothing to do with potions and powders, but with the exercise of an influence of the strong upon the weak, of the righteous upon the wicked, the wise upon the foolish. To you as the trusted family counsellor the father will come with his anxieties, the mother with her hidden griefs, the daughter with her trials, and the son with his follies. Fully one-third of the work you do will be entered in other books than yours. Courage and cheerfulness will not only carry you over the rough places of life, but will enable you to bring comfort and help to the weak-hearted, and will console you in the sad hours when, like Uncle Toby, you have 'to whistle that you may not weep.'

This must suffice. Any student incapable of being uplifted by an exhortation of this kind is beyond the pale.

One of his old Montreal friends was ill at this time, James Stewart, and it took little more than the knowledge of this to send him flying off as

Balthuse were next door
though ~~they were next-door~~ neighbours, to give some comfort and encouragement.

It was a note of October 13th to J.S. Shepherd which says:

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To Francis J. Shepherd from W. O.

No. 1 W. Franklin Street,
Oct. 15th

Dear Shepherd "Peterson seems to be off his base about my wandering about homeless in Montreal. I purposely took my things up to the Royal Victoria, so that I could see Stewart early. ~~Sorry not to have seen Cecil.~~ I hope to be up at Christmas time."

And on the same day he writes C. N. B. Camac: "Glad you like the little Stevenson. I was in New York last Sunday passing through from Montreal but I had to hurry to catch a train. I have been very much driven since I got home from abroad."

To Dr. C. F. Martin from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street,
Oct. 27, 1903

Dear Martin: J. Rose Bradford of University College will be in Montreal about the end of the week. He is a member of the Moseley Commission and is inspecting medical conditions in this country and in Canada. Will you call upon him, please, and upon Mrs. Bradford? Roddick will know where he is to stop. I will send Stewart a note to Sandwith, in Cairo, who is a charming fellow and would advise him about the best place for permanent residence. Sincerely yours, &c. Love to Bill [Francis] & to Blackader.

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21. 11. 50

Nor does he permit a week to go by without a note to Martin - "Do let me hear how Blackader is," until on in December, "What about Blackader - do send me a line and give him my love and best wishes;" - and so on until his old friend recovers.

The following shows that H. V. Ogden ~~is~~^{was} not permitted to forget his alkaptonuria article, and suggests that he ~~may have overlooked~~ one of the newly observed diagnostic signs of the disease *may have been overlooked:*

What boy?

Nov. 12, 1903.

*Use this at
ref. letter*

In your case of alkaptonuria I wish you would look at the inside of the ears to see if he has pigmentation of his cartilages. Both of our Baltimore cases have that remarkable condition of ochronosis described by Virchow years ago, of which there are only some seven cases in the literature. Garrod is very much interested in the fact, and it is quite possible that a majority of the ochronosis cases are associated with alkaptonuria. I see your paper referred to several times in a new study of the condition in the Deutsches Arch. f. klin. Med., October 15th, 1903. ¹²

12 Cf. Oler's Paper on Ochronosis Smet Land, Jan. 2 1904

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From the following to Thomas McCrae, his Resident Physician, it appears that a proposal that he write a System of Medicine - a project to which he subsequently submitted - had been abandoned because of pressure of work.

November 24, 1903.

Dear McCrae I have had to give up the Lea proposal. I have got to my limit so far as work is concerned. The last few weeks have shown me how useless it would be to attempt any additional responsibilities. I am awfully sorry as we could have made a good System together. I think we can arrange for you so as to keep you here. The work in Therapeutics could be made a special Lectureship, and I will try to arrange the matter of salary. There would be plenty of work to do.

During all this time, in Maryland as well as in other parts of the country, the tuberculosis crusade was being energetically waged and many unrelated groups of people were planning to hold congresses. In Baltimore the movement was on foot for a tuberculosis exhibition to aid ^{farther} in the education of the public, ^{the} which in part explains the following letter to Dr. S. A. Knopf, who had sent for Osler's criticism a ^{document} ~~letter~~ regarding the forthcoming congresses over which there

*"American and International Congresses on Tuberculosis and Tuberculosis Exhibits for the Years 1904 and 1905." American Medicine, Letter to Editor, Dec. 5, 1903, vi, 891-2.

was likely to be a great deal of confusion unless some authoratative group of people took the matter in hand.

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Nov. 25, 1903.

Dear Dr. Knopf: Excellent in every way! There is not a word to alter, and I have nothing to suggest. It hits the nail fairly and squarely on the head. I feel that we should organize a national committee which should be composed of good men from each state. That we could do during the Baltimore meeting. The Maryland Medical Journal is the one in which the letter should be published. Sincerely yours

W^m Osler

Osler had promised to give one of a series of semi-public lectures arranged for by Dr. Flick under the auspices of the Henry Phipps Institute. The first had been given by Trudeau in October and Osler's lecture was scheduled for December 3rd. On the day before, he wrote to John H. Musser.

1 West Franklin Street,
Dec. 2, 1903.

Dear Musser: I was awfully sorry I could not be with you all last night, but I had not my Phipps address written, and I took cold on Sunday, so I thought it was better to stay at home. You asked me about something with reference to our work here. Personally I think the only good thing I have ever done in connection with tuberculosis (though I have written a good many papers) is the article in my text-book, which Pepper always said was

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the best thing I had ever written. Of our recent work at the hospital, the Laennec Society certainly stimulated a great deal of interest, and our hospital and dispensary records have, I think, in the matter of tuberculosis improved very much since. We have started a very good special library of tuberculosis, and this year Mr. Phipps has given us twenty thousand dollars to have a special out-patient dispensary for our tuberculosis cases, &c.

The lecture given on December 3rd in the auditorium of Witherspoon Hall was entitled "The Home in its Relation to the Tuberculosis Problem" and he begins in this fashion:

*Published Medical News, N.Y., Dec. 12, 1903. *and elsewhere.*

In its most important aspects the problem of tuberculosis is a home problem. In an immense porportion of all cases the scene of the drama is the home; on its stage the acts are played, whether to the happy issue of a recovery, or to the dark ending of a tragedy, so commonplace as to have dulled our appreciation of its magnitude. In more than 400 homes of this country there are lamentations and woe tonight; husbands for their wives, wives for their husbands, parents for their children, children for their parents. A mere repetition of yesterday's calamities! and if the ears of your hearts are opened you can hear, as I speak, the beating of the wings of the angels of death hastening to the 400, appointed for tomorrow. That this appalling sacrifice of life is in large part unnecessary, that it can be diminished, that there is hope even for the poor consumptive - this represents a revulsion of feeling from an attitude of oriental fatalism which is a triumph of modern medicine The present crusade against

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tuberculosis, which is destined to achieve results we little dream of, has three specific objects; first, educational - the instruction of the profession and the instruction of the people; second, preventive - the promotion of measures which will check the progress of the disease in the community; third, curative - the study of methods by which the progress of the disease in individuals may be arrested or healed. The three are of equal importance, and the first and the second closely related and interdependent. The educational aspects of the problem are fundamental. Nothing can be done without the intelligent cooperation of the general practitioners and of the community, and it is a wise action on the part of the Phipps Institute to take up actively this part of the work, and to spread a sound knowledge by lecture courses and by publications.

In the further course of the address he stated that the three pieces of work, of the first rank, so far accomplished in this country were, that of Trudeau in the Adirondacks, on the value of sanitarium; of Biggs in New York City on organization; and of Flick the Director of the Phipps Institute, in demonstrating the relation of the home to the propagation of the disease, for there it is practically born and bred. He says little about his own part in all this, though the story of the ~~last four years of~~ ^{during the preceding four years} work at the Hopkins, - from the time the sum of money was given by two ladies! - is fully retold, ~~and he gives~~ ^{with an} a full account of the home conditions of the consumptives visited by the women

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medical students, to whom in sequence, by this time, Miss Elizabeth Blauvelt and Miss Esther Rosencrantz had been added, representing, as heretofore stated, the first beginnings of the ^social ^service [~]Movement in America.

How [he says] are we to combat these conditions? First, by an educational health campaign in the homes. The young women who have been engaged in this work in Baltimore have frequently reported to me the readiness with which their suggestions have been accepted, particularly in regard to the care of the sputum. To be successful such a campaign must be carried out by the Board of Health, and a staff of trained visitors, women preferably, should do the work ~~['social service workers', in short]~~. To carry this out effectually there should be, secondly, in all cities a compulsory notification of cases. The plan has worked most successfully in New York, and it should be everywhere followed. There are no difficulties which cannot be readily surmounted, and there need be no hardships. Thirdly, in most cities the powers of the Health Boards should be greatly enlarged, so as to deal efficiently with the question of proper disinfection of the houses occupied by tuberculous patients. Fourthly, the question of the housing of the poor needs attention, particularly in the matter of proper control of tenements, and the regulation, by law, of the number of persons in each house. Fifthly, by placing upon the landlord the responsibility of providing, under the control of the Board of Health, a clean, wholesome house for a new tenant. Sixthly, the wholesale condemnation of unsanitary streets and blocks, and the rebuilding by the municipality, as has been done in Glasgow and elsewhere. We cannot make people cleanly or virtuous

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by act of legislature, at the same time we cannot leave important sanitary details in the hands of irresponsible persons whose view of life is limited to returns and rentals. The extraordinary reduction in the mortality from consumption in the large cities is due directly to an improvement in environment. That much more remains to be done in the way of betterment the facts I have presented fully show.

And in the last section of the address he goes on to emphasize that 'in the warfare against tuberculosis the man behind the gun is the general practitioner,' to whom he gives some very picturesque and sound advice.

He was laid up with what he calls his periodical 'Schnupfen' for a few days, after this address ^{giving} in a draughty public hall, and regrets in a letter to Camac that, in consequence, he was unable to attend the Janeway dinner in New York. 'Colds' were apparently epidemic in Philadelphia, where someone else was housed with one on the very day of the lecture:

To W. O. from S. Weir Mitchell.

1524 Walnut Street, Philadelphia,
3rd Dec. 1903.

Dear Osler, I am having just enough of a cold to claim the privilege of a day at home. Hinc. illa lachrymae aramenti, which is equal to the damn dog-latin of Harvey over which I am more than puzzled. I think a commentary on the Lecture notes would tax the wits of the most ingeniously learned see p. 7 for one puzzle. Solomon "Eccles^s 19. 28" what on earth has it to

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do with 'waddle like a puffin.' There is scarce a page without its problem. I wrote you of the lecture, to be adjourned until Jan'y. I have to thank you for Beaumont which I like very much and if I measured thanks - not so much for the Canada address ^[The Master Word] or rather the first part, the last I find as Harvey says 'full of Admiry.' In quoting's on p. 23 I should like to have whispered (see book) from the German Bible. Sufficient unto the day are not the evils - but the cares of the day. The good word about faith and science ['the ordeal of every student of this generation who sooner or later tries to mix the waters of science with the oil of faith'] made me like you more and more. I please myself with yr. phrase of the light that beats upon our homes [hearth] and curses with publicity. But Addison grumbled over it, and clever men in his day had their home at Inns and Clubs. I have Beaumont's own copy somewhere of that little classic. Yr. ever friend,

Weir Mitchell.

A few days later he paid his first visit to Milwaukee where he had been called in consultation by his old friend H. V. Ogden, and, shortly before, writes to Montreal where another of his old friends evidently was ill.

1 West Franklin Street.
[Postmarked Dec. 7]

Dear Martin So sorry to hear of poor Blackader What a sad time he is having - Please ask Campbell or Murray - one of the florists, to send him a fine bunch of roses & let me have the memo. What an anomalous

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condition. . . Love to Bill - tell him I am just off to Milwaukee
to put a bung in Mr Pabst. Yours ever

W. O.

I will look after your endocarditic honeymooner!

Ogden gave him a busy day, ending up with a special meeting of the Milwaukee Medical Society where Osler gave an informal address on medical libraries. Incidentally there were many people to see, one of whom had been the source of much correspondence, and on parting Osler said, "Well, I'll have to call you Ogden's alkaptonuric friend and my ochronotic friend," much to the gentleman's amusement.

To Archibald Garrod from W. O.

1 West Franklin Street,
Baltimore, Dec. 18th, 1903.

Dear Garrod: Thanks for your kindness about the Lancet proof.* I have

*Osler's paper on Ochrnosis: the pigmentation of cartilages, sclerotics and skin in alkaptonuria, was published in The Lancet, London, for Jan. 2, 1904.

just returned from Milwaukee, where I saw Ogden's case. He will send you the full notes. The ochronosis is well marked in the ears and beginning in the sclerotics. It is interesting, too, that he has slight pigmentation, brownish in colour, of the conjunctivae. My old patient returned to town the other day, and I looked him over with the greatest interest. Since I

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last saw him all the ligamentous tissues about the knuckles and the tendons have become of a steel gray colour. When he makes a fist the knuckles have a blueish gray colour and the joints of the fingers look bluish. The staining of the sclerotics has become much more marked. A very remarkable point, by the way, about Ogden's case is that he has the same curious gait as the Jackson brothers, - a stoop at the hips, with a curious swinging of the arms. With kind regards and greetings for Christmas and the New Year,

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler

During the month plans were actively under way for the tuberculosis demonstration set for the New Year, and he writes Parfitt, who since his recovery had been in charge of a successful sanitarium: "I do hope you and Elliott will send something representing your work for our January exhibit at the end of the month. I think we are going to have a very interesting display. I am looking after the literary side of it, and hope to have a most interesting bibliographical exhibit." And soon to George Adami, on December 15th:

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As you may have heard, we are to have quite an interesting tuberculosis exhibition here during the last week in January, and we are arranging to have a series of talks at five o'clock each afternoon. I am instructed by the Committee to ask you to take the hour on Friday, the 29th, at five o'clock. The exhibition will be in McCoy Hall, and the subject of the lecture is of course left to you, either semi-popular, in which case we would invite the public, or strictly professional, in which case we would invite the physicians and medical students of the city.

To this Adams agrees, and in reply to his acceptance Osler wrote again, December 22nd: "Yes, do take up that subject. We shall all be very delighted to hear you on it. The other speakers are Drs. Flick and Ravenal of Philadelphia, Salmon of Washington, Knopf of New York, and Mr. Frederick Hoffman of Newark. I think we shall have a very interesting meeting. We shall of course expect you to stay with us."

As an interlude to all this about tuberculosis it is pleasant to picture him at home on the Saturday evening of December 26th, his clinical clerks gone for the holidays, reading the new edition of Sir Thomas Browne by James G. Starkey from which are transcribed into his commonplace-book a page or two of quotations, among them the Golden Rule of Confucius which he soon uses in a paper - "It is a wise rule to take the world as we find it, not always to leave it so." *And still pleasant*

to picture him sitting at five o'clock with Osler just over his shoulder, and now a third man will ^{over} ~~arrive~~ ~~from~~ his ~~unhappy~~ ~~company~~ but not yet

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Though Revere nearing his eighth birthday was long before this well over his whooping-cough, he had not yet recovered from his violent attack of mythology. The nursery, indeed, was hung with pictures of mythological heroes, and every ^{late} afternoon at play-time when he and his father were not 'cutting up', having a pillow fight, or playing with toy trains sprawled on the nursery floor, the two would be making up imaginary tales from the legends of the ancient heroes. Thus it is that Ulysses en route to Montreal sends a birthday card, postmarked New York, December 27th, 6.30 p.m., on which is written:

Many happy returns of The Day
to the small Telemachus
Care of Mistress
Penelope
from old Ulysses
on the Island of Aegia

Thus the last days of the year found him in ~~Montreal~~ giving a paper in ~~Montreal~~ before the Medico-Chirurgical Society ^{of Montreal} which in the 70's he had done so much

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to activate and of which H.S. Birkett at this time was President. Shortly before, the Montreal correspondent of the Canada Lancet, Dr. Malcolm Mackay whom he had never met, had sent him a note which brought this reply on a postcard.

20 12 03

Yes, I will give you an abstract. I shall not have my paper ready but shall give a 'talk' on our experience here with aneurysm of the abdominal aorta
Yours &c. W Osler

A small matter, but Dr. Mackay adds that: "after the meeting there was a reception and I was introduced by Dr. C.F. Martin; and although Dr. Osler had shaken hands with over 200 physicians that night, as soon as he heard "Dr. Mackay" he said - "Oh yes, Malcolm Mackay. I will give you my notes before I leave."

There is no difficulty in accounting for Osler's popularity among the profession. Particularly in Montreal they had come to idolize him and at this time through a fund which had been quietly raised among the McGill graduates he sat for a portrait which was to commemorate his connection with the University.*

*It was stated in the notice, sent out by William Gardner asking for five-dollar subscriptions, that 'any amount in excess of that required for the picture will be expended in such a manner as Dr. Osler shall designate,' and the notice ends: "It is worth the subscription to see what he will do with it."

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But in circles removed from medicine he was equally idolized. In Barrie's unfinished play "Heroes" the boy's parents asked the Senatus to tear up the scroll they had received, for the grand person thereon described was not the boy they knew. So this same Dr. Mackay writes that he had attended in her ninety-sixth year during her last illness an old Dundas friend and neighbour of the Oslers known as 'Granny' Wyld, who continually talked of 'Willie' Osler, of whose erudition and fame she cared nothing, but dwelt solely on his loving disposition and his partiality as a boy for curious specimens of natural history which would be brought home in his pockets.