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*and*

*The Harvard Grad.*

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Chapter XXVI  
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1905-1906

*had not been*

It ~~was not~~ an idle statement, made to ease the parting, that they would

be back every year. It was doubtless their intention, for no two people have ever been more tenacious of friendships. Both of them had aged mothers as well as large family connections in New England and in Canada, not all of whom could be gathered at one time in Oxford though it sometimes appeared that they made the endeavour. Nor was the repeated statement that he was to have a good month's rest with the boys in the hospital entirely idle, for to work and play with them for a month savoured at least of recreation. But such a hullabaloo was made over him on this and his succeeding visits, and he returned each time so exhausted, that these sojourns in America came to be looked upon with not a little apprehension. 'They pulled too severely on his heart-strings', as Mrs. Osler expressed it *in one of her letters.*

*December*

For this their first visit they sailed on Saturday ~~the~~ 16th by the "Carenia" and reached Canton, Mass., at 9:00 p.m. ~~December~~ *on the* 24th in time to hang up their stockings in company with many Revere children. And the following day, despite its many festivities, he finds time to send off a number of letters which give his itinerary if nothing else:

Dec.  
1905To F. J. Shepherd from W.O.Canton,  
Xmas Day.

Dear Shepherd Can you give me a bed on Friday night? I leave here on Thursday Eve & should reach you by breakfast time. If you are full turn me over to Gardner. I shall spend Friday & Saturday with you and go on to Toronto in the Eve. I hope to spend some hours in the Museum. Dr. Abbotts catalogue grows apace - it will be one of the best pieces of work ever done at the School, and we should encourage her to take up the other systems in order. She evidently has a genius for this sort of thing. The sections I have just finished (Endocardium) are really remarkable. I do not believe there is a museum in Gt. Britain with a better collection - there is nothing like it on this side. We had a good crossing tho several rough days. The Caronia is a big Ocean Club House. Love to Cecil & Dorothy Yours ever

Wm Osler.

And to Dr. <sup>Maudie</sup> Abbott this same Christmas Day he sends but one of a succession of encouraging letters: "What are museums for but to educate? ~~and~~ <sup>A</sup> good catalogue such as you have prepared acts as the showman. ~~I am sure Dr Adams~~ ~~will give you a free hand.~~ I will meet you in the museum Friday morning at 11." Thus he begins pouring himself out for others.

~~On the 3rd of January,~~ <sup>a January 3rd</sup> from 125 College Street, Toronto, he writes ~~Perfitt~~ that he is 'off in the morning to Baltimore to spend a month with the boys.' <sup>But</sup> ~~So he did,~~ <sup>hard</sup> though it was a discontinuous visit, for a letter on the 15th says,

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"I have been away in Philadelphia and New York. I am having such a festive <sup>time</sup> visit - too much so - too many dinners &c but it is very nice to see my old friends." One of the dinners was at the Maison Rauscher in Washington on January 11th in honour of Dr. Robert Fletcher; and there a group of <sup>men</sup> friends, John S. Billings, Walter D. McCaw, G. T. Vaughan, H. D. Wiley, W. S. Thayer, Osler, and others, who deeply appreciated this modest and courtly old gentleman, gathered to give him a loving-cup and to tell him in prose and verse what they thought of him and his remarkable career which, beginning in anthropology, craniology, and medico-military statistics, had been crowned by his work on the Index Catalogue and Index Medicus.

~~Mrs. Osler was~~ <sup>Osler and his mother were</sup> obliged to return the middle of the month because of <sup>the boys' school and</sup> ~~Re-~~ <sup>Osler subsequently</sup> ~~vere's school and for the remaining time~~ Osler took up his abode as of old in the hospital, where it was easier to dodge consultations <sup>when he might</sup> and he wished to apply himself with McCrae to the task which for a year had consumed far too much of his time. A note scribbled to Thayer on Sunday the 28th indicates what it was.

Johns Hopkins Hospital,  
Sunday.

Dear T. We have been going over the System work - so as to notify the contributors. We shall begin to print at once & Vol. I & II should be ready by Oct. 1st. The MSS of Vol. III & IV should be in hand by Oct. 1st. Get some of your boys at the material so as to have it well in hand for you. Yours, W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

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This was not all, however, for he allowed himself to be worked both at bedside\* and lecture-room by his old staff, nor did he fail to attend the

*J.H.M. Bulletin for*

\*That he profited by it is evident if we trace him through his publications. In an article in the October 1907 ~~Bulletin~~ he says: "On January 21, 1906, while I was taking Dr. Barker's ward classes, I found a patient whose case is here described, and I saw immediately that it was a form of generalized telangiectasis which I had never met with before," etc.

monthly meeting of the Baltimore profession at the old 'Faculty' building

and of course ~~saw~~ <sup>dropped in on</sup> his protégés, the librarians, there, <sup>many</sup> on ~~more than this one~~

occasions. Above all, the students at the Hopkins were beyond words thrilled:

they <sup>flocked on his heels</sup> ~~followed after him~~ in the wards and amphitheatre; and on one of their

regular Monday evening meetings he took part in a symposium on the six holders

of "The Gold-Headed Cane," John Radcliffe naturally being apportioned to him,

and of whom he said in part:

His fortune, by his will, he left wisely and generously. His Yorkshire estate he left to the Masters and Fellows of University College for ever, in trust, for the foundation of two travelling fellowships which still exist. They are conferred upon men who have taken certain degrees at Oxford, the conditions being that six months of the three years during which the fellowship is held must be spent abroad,

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and any surplus must be turned in and used by University College. In addition, his will provided £5000 for the enlargement of the buildings of University College, where he himself had been educated; £40,000 for the building of a library, and instructions regarding the purchase of books on medical and natural history. Some years ago this building became so full that the library was moved, and at the cost of the Drapers Company, of London, £60,000 being spent and a new Radcliffe library built. Then in the fourth place he left £500 annually toward mending the diet of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the balance of his property being handed to his trustees to do as they saw fit. They built the large Radcliffe Observatory and pay all its expenses, and in 1770 built the Radcliffe Infirmary, paying the major part of its cost.

*Footnote.*

*\* An Inquis Professor of Medicine Osler was a member of the Radcliffe Trust.*

So there are at least four special foundations connected with his name, all are associated with scientific work, and certainly there is no modern physician with so many large and important monuments. Yet he put ~~no~~ <sup>2</sup> line to paper, but saved with a special object in view. One lesson learned from his life is that if you do not write, make money, and, after you finish, leave it to the Johns Hopkins Trust.

Osler himself in his make-up was a sort of twentieth-century edition of these six men rolled into one - though with less of Radcliffe perhaps than of the others, and of Richard Mead more. Samuel Johnson once said of Mead that he lived more in the broad sunshine of life than any man he knew; Osler's

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nature, likewise, had a southern exposure: He shared, too, with Mead and Askew in their love of rare books, and like them also was <sup>the kind of</sup> a most generous collector and <sup>who</sup> made his books accessible to others - qualities not always possessed by <sup>bibliophiles,</sup> book collectors. What Austin Dobson said of Mead, that "neither the princely Grolier nor the unparalleled Peiriac<sup>asc</sup>(?) could have made a more unselfish use of their possessions" might equally well be said of William Osler.

On the morning of his departure this friendly appeal was sent to his old friend and colleague of McGill days:

To F. J. Shepherd from W. O.

Johns Hopkins Hospital,  
Jan. 30th.

Dear Shepherd How stupid of the railway people, considering the number of parcels we get. Thanks all the same for the apples. Perhaps they will be there on our return. It is too bad that the M.G.H. should be depleted at intervals, but I cannot but feel that the persistency of a hostile feeling, latent or manifest, between the two great institutions is very detrimental, and it is having a very bad influence among the younger men. I hear it talked about outside Montreal. I think that the seniors among you should put a stop to it and make the school a rallying point, and reach a mental attitude that makes no difference whether a man is at the R.V.H. or the M.G.H. so long as he is a good McGill man and working earnestly at a school. After all, the hospitals are only clinical laboratories for the school and what the deuce difference does it make at

cf. Macdonald  
letter Aug 27, '13

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which one of them a man works? Do get ~~Armstrong, Bell~~ and the <sup>other</sup> other men  
to take a more rational view of the situation. . . . Do get ~~one~~ of  
your young fellows to help Dr. Abbott with the anatomical part of the Mu-  
seum Catalogue. It would be very nice to have a series of good illustra-  
tions of the chief anomalies. I am sure her work is going to be of  
great importance. Sincerely yours,

~~Wm~~ Osler

The last few days were passed in Toronto to say good-bye to his mother,  
and at eight o'clock on Saturday morning from the University <sup>of New York</sup> Club two hours  
before sailing with his protégé, Dr. Campbell Howard, on the "Campania", there  
issued a shower of bread-and-butter notes like the following to his suc-  
cessor:

Saturday

Dear Barker It has been a great pleasure to be with you all again &  
particularly to see how well you have settled in the new work. I had no  
fear about it whatever, so I only saw what I expected - all the same it  
is delightful to hear on all sides such good accounts. It will be so  
nice to have Cole with you - he is such a tramp. Keep your eye on Boggs  
too - he has possibilities. With love to Mrs Barker & Jack Ever yours  
Wm Osler Get at the local societies - anything in the way of good  
practical cases - they need your stimulation.

And in one of his letters tells he says "I had no one."

→ next page.

*Came in one of his Steamer Callins Co says*

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To H. V. Ogden

R.M.S. "Campania"  
9th

*stet*

Dear O. I was so glad to have your letter on the ship forwarded from B. by Miss ~~Hampton~~. " I had a rushing visit, too much so - Montreal Toronto (twice) Boston, <sup>Baltimore,</sup> N. Y. & Phila. I did not get much work done but it was nice to see the many old friends again. " *Small wonder that on his return* I am glad to have good accounts of the baby. What a joy a child is! Mrs O & Issac Walton (R. is nothing but a fisherman) sailed two weeks ago - he had to return to school. We have settled very comfortably in Oxford & when we get our own house it will be delightful. At present we are in the Max-Müllers which is comfortable but I have not got out my books. It would be a great pleasure to see you (& the family) in Oxford. Give my love to all your people. I suppose your mother is daft about the baby. With much love to Mrs Ogden Ever yours W<sup>m</sup> Osler Remember me to Mr. Ochronosis Bibliotheca

*his return* And not long after Mrs. Osler *says in one of her letters!* ~~sends a belated reply to a letter to from~~

~~H. V. Ogden, saying, "I think I have not been altogether responsible for myself during the last 18 months - the move seems to have gone to my head but we have had a very happy life here: it agrees with us all fortunately and the winter has been unusually good. " *making home his wife should write:* " Dr Osler nearly killed himself when he was over and I shall never let him go again for a month in the winter. He came back a wreck." One 6~~

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One of his periodic bronchial attacks <sup>indeed</sup> had followed the fatigue and exposure incidental to his 'quiet month with the boys' but, even so, his spirits <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ unsinkable, and that he <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ reading as usual with a pen in hand and keeping track of his old pupils, notes such as the following indicate.

7, Norham Gardens,  
Oxford, Feb. 16, 1906.

Dear Warfield: I am very glad to see your work in the St. Louis Medical Review. Keep it up and go slowly. You have plenty of time and do not forget how much room there is at the top. Is the Miss Green I met at the Fischels still without cardio-vascular attachments? If so, please tell her from me - no, I had better not say, but you will understand the message I would like to send her. Sincerely yours, W<sup>m</sup> Osler Love to the Fischels.

And on February 26th a postcard from Oxford to W. S. Thayer:

I am sending you today the Biographie Médicale of Bayle - a reference treasure for all sorts of personal & bibliographical facts. There is nothing so good in the literature I had a good trip back, but caught a heavy cold on landing which has rather knocked me out. Fine weather here & all well. Love to S. S.

Many engagements for the year have already been made, the Harveian

Oration among them: of this he must have told Weir Mitchell who writes:

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"There is room for an essay on the Harveian Orations. The older ones might be interesting. Many were missing when I looked them up at the

C. of P. Why not do this?" He was preparing more immediately for ~~an~~ a meeting

*Path. Soc. meeting*  
*at the Pathological Society to be held*  
address, in Manchester, for which he planned to review *certain aspects of* his angina pectoris

material, and long and detailed letters go to T. R. Boggs and others in

Baltimore asking for minutiae about many old patients of whom his notes

are incomplete. Then, too, plans are already under way for the August

*in Toronto*  
meeting of the British Medical Association which he expects to attend,

and in an official capacity is soliciting papers. "We are anxious," he

writes to his Gröningen friend, Wenckebach, "to have you take part in a

joint discussion on the subject of Heart-Block." \* Meanwhile his pro-

\*This, it may be said, was an old story to physicians under the guise of Stokes-Adams disease - a condition which had actively roused Osler's interest. John Bruce MacCallum a few years before had made his illuminating studies of the cardiac musculature in Mall's laboratory, and Joseph Erlanger then in Howell's laboratory had, at Osler's instigation, made in 1904 the first successful experiments demonstrating the physiological significance on the 'bundle of His.' Professor Erlanger writes: "Dr. Osler got me interested in the study of Stokes-Adams disease because he realized it was worth studying and, in addition, he saw to it that every facility of his service was put at my disposal during my work in his wards." It was not a common thing in those days for physiologists to be thus invited into a clinic.

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jected System of Medicine was on his hands, and he was giving McCrae

troubles.

March 2nd, 1906.

Dear Mac: I have not yet got my introduction ready. They must go on with the printing and not wait. I will cable on Monday. There is nothing in it which deals with disease specifically as the first articles do, so that there is no impropriety in having the general introduction in Roman type and in front. It is so in all the other Systems. In the new Allbutt the introduction precedes a group of worthy articles - not as in our System a consideration at once of the special diseases. I must insist on this. So let them go ahead with the printing and that will give plenty of time. ~~Yours sincerely~~

~~Wm Osler~~

Later in the month he wrote to one of his old neighbours at 3 West

Franklin Street:

Things move on here quietly. We are still houseless but hopeful. I am feeling all right again. I was rather knocked out by the racket in America. I am evidently reaching a state of pre-senile enfeeblement. Have you a copy of Gui Patin's letters? I am reading them at night now with the greatest interest. He was a unique old rascal but devoted to books. You will be glad to hear that I was elected to the Athenaeum Club the other day. The committee is allowed to elect nine every year among men who have a certain measure of respectability. Otherwise you have to

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wait your turn on a waiting-list of four or five hundred. I have been elected a member of the Bibliographical Society, which is most interesting. I attended the first meeting last Monday and heard a very good paper on the old Chapter House at Canterbury. . .

'A certain measure of respectability.' The seriousness with which that eminently respectable institution the Athenaeum Club is taken by Englishmen often stirred the E.Y.D'ish streak in Osler in ways which reacted differently upon the members of this 'synthesis of national intellect and responsibility.' One of them writes, "The way he would slap you on the back and pick your tail pockets while you were reading the telegrams was delightful. Everyone, I think, looked upon him as a personal friend, almost as a special friend of his own." Another, less understanding, felt that it was 'undignified of Osler to secretly insert bulky objects in one's coat-tail pocket while ~~he was~~ leaning over the umbrella-stand harmlessly deciding upon <sup>one's</sup> ~~his~~ own property, <sup>- an episode reminiscent</sup> one is reminded of what Lord Salisbury said about the fallibility of Bishops at the <sup>Athenaeum</sup> umbrella-stand - the recreation-ground of their weaknesses. And <sup>or another</sup> ~~it is~~ of this same club that the story, perhaps apocryphal, is told, of a member whispering to one of the attendants, suggesting

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~~that he remove the person apparently dozing in a corner with a copy of  
The Times in his lap, for he had been dead at least two days.~~

But more important than the Athenaeum Club was his reference in the last letter to his election to the Bibliographical Society <sup>of</sup> ~~to~~ which he had been <sup>made</sup> ~~elected~~ a 'candidate member' on March 19th. The Society at this time, <sup>according to</sup> ~~as~~ its Secretary Mr. A. W. Pollard, ~~has said~~ was passing through the rather difficult period of its 'teens, and was as yet <sup>not</sup> ~~hardly~~ sufficiently established for many book-lovers to wish to join it. The Society, indeed, needed new inspiration, and this Osler brought to it and his first attendance is vividly recalled by one of the members who says: "A meeting had begun, when the entrance of a stranger with an attractively mobile face, alert figure, and notably light tread, caused a whispered secretarial inquiry as to who he was. The answer came back that it was Professor Osler, and the Secretary had an instinctive conviction that his coming meant much for the Society."

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The active interest which Osler had shown while in Philadelphia in the Library of the College of Physicians, and while in Baltimore with that of the old Maryland 'Faculty' had been whole-heartedly transferred, <sup>Erud</sup> on his reaching Oxford, to the Bodleian, to which he makes constant reference in his brief letters. His Regius chair made him <sup>one of the Eruditi and</sup> ex officio ~~a~~ Curator, a body which meets only twice each term, but he was soon made a member of, and <sup>selected</sup> welcomed each year to, the Standing Committee a far more important body that meets every Friday noon. ¶ At the Bodleian he became a familiar figure and scarcely a day passed when "the Tower of Five Orders" dominating the Bodleian quadrangle did not see him pop in at the unpretentious entrance to the library, to skip two steps at a time up the winding and worn flight of stairs to Duke Humphrey's Library where there was a cheerful greeting to all, from old Nicholson the librarian to the boy lowest on the pay list. This was what is chiefly remembered, and so when one asks of Bodleian offi-

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cials what he did for the library they look about and say, "Why, he gave the new clock, and guaranteed the cost of the Quarterly Record, but the chief reason of our grateful and affectionate feeling for him is of a more general kind."

*[Bordey's Librarian]*  
It was not merely *[writes A. Cowley]* that he was always cheery and breezy. As an ex-officio Curator~~of~~ he might have performed his duties perfunctorily, and as a medical specialist he might have taken little interest in literary matters. But he was always enthusiastic about anything that could be done for the good of the Library or to increase its efficiency. If he bought a remarkable book he would bring it to us to see - if he heard of a new publication or a collection of manuscripts he would come and tell us - if he had a distinguished visitor he would bring him to the Library and introduce him - if any of the staff were ill he would go and visit them. He was frequently in the Library, interested in all its details, always ready to sympathize in one's difficulties, full of encouragement for our efforts and very jealous for the prestige of the place.

We miss him, not because he promoted this or that piece of work, but because of his living influence, which helped and stimulated us all.

A character, in short, sloping toward the sunny side. But Osler's real work was done, as must again be pointed out, most often behind the scenes,

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whence the spotlight was turned on other actors. There is given out to ~~readers~~  
 visitors at the Bodleian a small <sup>manual in the back of</sup> leaflet in which, in chronological order,  
<sup>listed</sup> are ~~given~~ some of the more important happenings since

1598 [when] Sir Thomas Bodley a statesman and diplomat high in the  
 favour of Queen Elizabeth, being weary of state-craft, determined 'to  
 set up' his 'staffe at the Librarie-dore in Oxon,' and once again fur-  
 nished Duke Humphrey's walls with book-cases, and became, to his eternal  
 glory, the founder of the Bodleian Library.

A perusal of this leaflet shows that from 1860 to 1906, except for the  
 Shelley relics, there had been little to note in the history of the library,  
 till 1906 <sup>h</sup> when things for some unapparent reason began to happen, - things  
 which required imagination, and initiative and energetic action, all of which  
 a newly appointed curator possessed. The first entry follows:

1906 The original copy of the First Folio of Shakespeare which came to  
 the library in 1623 under the agreement with the Stationers' Company (see  
sub anno 1610 above) and which had been parted with after the Restoration  
 as superceded, was bought from W. G. Turbott, Esq., of Ogston Hall, Derby-  
 sire, for £3,000.

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At the risk of telling the story backward, a letter of <sup>later</sup> present date

which between the lines tells much if it may be given:

From Lord Strathcona to W. O.

29th March, 1906.

Dear Dr. Osler, Your letter of the 27th I received somewhat late yesterday, and in the evening I telegraphed you that it would afford me pleasure to send you today my cheque for Five Hundred Pounds to help to secure the First Folio of Shakespeare for the Bodleian Library. Your telegram I am also glad to have this morning, and it gives me much gratification to send you with this my cheque No. X10184, of even date, on the Bank of Montreal, to your order, for the sum mentioned, say Five Hundred Pounds. It would indeed have been a misfortune had you not been able to secure the book, and I congratulate you and Library on the success of their efforts.

Very sincerely yours,

Strathcona.

<sup>But to</sup> And now, ~~to~~ go back to the beginning, ~~of the story,~~ there <sup>had been</sup> was <sup>by</sup> issued,

Bodley's librarian <sup>three months before</sup> in ~~January, 1906,~~ an appeal <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ Oxford graduates <sup>what appears or follows:</sup> which ~~be-~~ ~~gins~~

gins as follows:

Bodleian Library  
Oxford  
Jan. 1906

PRIVATE

PROPOSED REPURCHASE FOR THE BODLEIAN  
OF THE ORIGINAL BODLEIAN COPY OF  
THE 1st FOLIO SHAKESPEARE (1623)

In 1623 or 1624 the Company of Stationers sent to the Bodleian in sheets a copy of the newly published first collected edition of Shakespeare's works. They did so under an agreement made with them by Sir Thomas Bodley in 1610-11. In those days there was no Copyright-act, so that the copy sent by the Company to the Bodleian may be said to be the one most authentic copy existing. 'It is the only one which can be regarded as a standard exemplar. It was the copy selected by the publisher for permanent preservation.'

The Bodleian sent the sheets on Feb. 17, 162 $\frac{3}{4}$ , to the Oxford binder, William Wildgoose, and on its return the book was duly chained on the shelves, where it remained till 1664. But in 1674 it had disappeared from the catalogue.

The Bodleian Statute then in force contained a most unhappy clause allowing the Curators, if unanimous, to consign books to be changed for others of a better edition, or to be removed as superfluous and of little use. And there is no reasonable doubt that the First Folio was got rid of between Sept. 1663 and Sept. 1664, among a number of 'superfluous Library Books sold by order of the Curators' for which an Oxford bookseller, Richard Davis, paid the Library £24. For in 1664 there had come into the Library the 2nd issue of the Third Folio, containing 7 additional plays - though it is now admitted that 6 of these are not Shakespeare's, and that of the 7th (Pericles) he only wrote part.

The subsequent history of the First Folio thus thrown out as 'superfluous' is unknown till about the middle of the 18th cent.. Apparently at some time before 1759 it was acquired by Mr. Richard Turbutt, of Ogston Hall, Derbyshire, and now belongs to his great-great-grandson, Mr. W. G. Turbutt, J.P., D.L., an

old Christ Church man.

On Jan. 23, 1905, Mr. Turbutt's son, Mr. G. M. R. Turbutt, B.A., of Magdalen, brought the book, which had suffered some damage, to Mr. F. Madan, senior Sub-Librarian of the Bodleian, to ask his advice about it. As it was in ancient binding, Mr. Madan showed it to Mr. Strickland Gibson, also of the Bodleian staff, who has rapidly made a reputation as one of the chief British authorities on the history of binding. Mr. Gibson at once saw that it was Oxford binding, and in a few minutes had found the proofs that it was the old Bodleian copy.

I lost no time in writing to Mr. Turbutt to ask whether he would consent to allow the volume to be repurchased for the Bodleian by subscriptions from past and present members of the University, and offered to submit to him proposals for valuation. He was unable to reply definitely then, but near the end of October he informed us that he had received an offer of £3000 for a purchaser who was represented by a certain well known London firm, and that he had suspended his answer for a month in the hope that the Bodleian might be able to give the same price. He has since most generously extended the time for doing so till March 31. . . .

*Bold-face type.*

*Bold-face type*

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And the frantic Librarian went on to say that it was practically certain that the offer had been made from the United States, and "for the Bodleian to pay £3000 for any printed book is simply impossible. The second greatest library in the Empire, and the sixth in the world, has only about one third the income of Manchester Free Libraries, and is obliged to leave practical objects of the highest importance unattained for want of a few thousand pounds. It dares not even borrow the sum required for the recovery of its Shakespeare: to do so would be to cripple itself for an indefinite number of years."

Osler too was very much exercised, and not only subscribed generously to the fund himself but secured still larger contributions from Lord Mounts~~Stephen~~ Stephen and from Mr. Henry Phipps, but the weeks went on until the end of March drew near with the total amount far short of the purchase price, in spite of ~~a generous contribution from Mr. Turbutt himself, the owner of the book,~~ and a <sup>second</sup> letter of appeal to Oxford men published in The Times. To everyone's despair it looked as though the volume would be lost, <sup>and</sup> ~~under~~ the date of March 28th, with only three days remaining, Mr. Nicholson sent

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a note to Osler saying, "Paid or promised £2598: 13s: 3d." <sup>Time</sup> Some ~~weeks~~ before,  
Osler had <sup>endeavored to enlist</sup> ~~gone to London to interview~~ Strathcona, <sup>interest apparently without avail: but</sup> ~~now in his ninetieth(?) year,~~  
and ~~told him the story.~~ Strathcona appeared interested but made no comment,  
and so, after talking of other matters <sup>Osler</sup> he rather disconsolately took his  
way home to Oxford. <sup>the way of</sup> But knowing his old friend, he must have written again  
at the last moment, and early the next morning to 7 Norham Gardens came a  
telegram which led Mrs. Osler to <sup>send word</sup> telephone to Mr. Nicholson that she must  
see him immediately. <sup>B. Allen</sup> ~~Me~~ This was <sup>rest of the</sup> almost before the <sup>was</sup> family was up, and, half-  
clad, with her hair down, she says, she met the old man on the stairs when  
he had hurried over to see what was wanted of him and <sup>He</sup> was so overcome at  
the news that he collapsed on the floor and wept.

Bodleian Library, Oxford,  
29 March, 1906.

My dear Osler, You deserve a statue in the Bodleian quadrangle. I have  
wired Turbutt. I'll take my chance of seeing you later in the day. I  
shall write to the papers and send out a circular to the subscribers."

Yours most sincerely,

E. W. B. Nicholson.

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<sup>a</sup> ~~In his letter to The Times which followed, he says, "We owe nearly a fifth of the sum raised to Dr. Osler."~~ <sup>Subsequently written</sup> And ~~Among~~ Osler's papers under the date of April 12, 1906, occurs this note: "Mr. Nicholson told me today a curious sequel. He had a telegram from Sothron that the man who offered £3000 now wished to offer the Bodleian £1500 if he could have the Turbott folio for his life-time." <sup>Evidently</sup> ~~But~~ Bodley's was unwilling to take any such chances.

At about this time, too, there had been renewed sittings for his portion of the 'big four' portrait which had given the artist some trouble, and Osler <sup>Sends word</sup> writes <sup>William</sup> to J.W. White, "Sargent was asking after you the day before yesterday - he has finished the picture and I think it is really first class." Moderate praise this: but his wife writes, "Mr. E.A. Abbey says the portrait of W.O. is the most interesting one Sargent has ever done." ~~And~~ <sup>It</sup> Still under the belief that <sup>the autumn</sup> August will see him again in America he writes one of the 'latch-keyers' on the 13th of April:

Sorry to hear there is not much chance of seeing you over here this summer. You will of course be in Toronto. I shall come out early in August. We have bought a house in Norham Gardens, which will I think be very satisfactory. We will have to add to it. There is a very nice garden of about an acre. We cannot get possession until August the first. I forget whether I told you about the 17th and 18th century medical li-

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brary I am trying to secure for the Johns Hopkins University. I am just having the books catalogued before making a final statement, as I found there were a great many blanks. Isaac has bought a boat. He is very well and wonderfully happy here. ~~He is~~ a different child.

This library to which he refers was "the Warrington collection" now

*Medical School -*

housed in the Johns Hopkins ~~Library~~ - an interesting though not especially

*lot of books*  
valuable ~~collection~~ which had been gathered in the heyday of the old War-

rington group of physicians when John Aiken and others flourished there.

On the fly-leaf of one of these volumes, a Malpighi which ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> retained, is

written:

In 1906 I had a visit from Sawyer a London bookseller offering the Library of the Warrington Dispensary, which had been collected in the 18th century, containing about 1200 volumes. I wrote to W. A. Marburg who offered to buy the collection for the Johns Hopkins medical school. With the repair of bindings etc. the cost was about £250. The Library was very rich in English Pamphlets and had nearly 150 items not in the Royal College of Surgeons Library. After the books had gone, a supplementary set was sent to Sawyer from Warrington which were not, it is said, in the original list offered, tho' they were all marked with the same name. Among them were some fine folios, and a superb copy of Cruveilhier was among them.

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"Everything is moving very quietly," he writes a few days later. "We are having a very extraordinary spring - bright sunshine every day. I am off to Munich next week for the Congress of <sup>Inner Medizin [April 23-26]</sup> ~~Internal~~ Medicine, where I hope to get some inspiration." He went in company with one of the Oxford practitioners who perhaps, too, needed a 'brain dusting,' and whom he introduced to the European clinics, and finally <sup>Sent</sup> ~~went~~ on to Gröningen to visit Wenckeback, though <sup>Osler himself</sup> ~~he~~ had to hurry back to hold examinations the first few days of May in Cambridge. ¶ They stopped at Marburg to see Professor Aschoff in whose laboratory Adami, at Osler's suggestion, had gone to finish off his text-book on pathology. Then to Munich where they spent <sup>most of their</sup> ~~much~~ time, when not at the sessions of the Congress, with Friedrich v. Müller <sup>under</sup> with whom Campbell Howard was at work; and later they went to Frankfurt a/M to see Ehrlich who unfortunately was ill, "but his assistant took us all over the menagerie."

While at Marburg they must have first seen the news of that stupendous calamity which devastated by earthquake and fire four square

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miles of San Francisco, and though, as will be recalled, outside assistance was politely declined, there were other than official ways of holding out a helping hand, ~~and~~ One who had been through the Baltimore fire must show his sympathy in some way, particularly for the doctors who had been hard hit; <sup>so</sup> ~~and~~ on his return he promptly wrote to J. H. Musser and John S. Billings urging that a committee be organized to collect books for the San Francisco Library, adding, "I am sure we could gather a great many interesting volumes here, particularly the sets of journals and Transactions."

On May 18th he writes, giving an account of himself as follows:

I have taken my passage for August 4th, Billy Francis and I together. I shall probably go to Baltimore before Toronto. Ask Fatcher to get Anderson or MacKenzie to billet a group of you respectable young fellows in one of the college halls. Have you a copy of Guy Patin's letters? I think I asked you before. I am just finishing them and am perfectly enchanted with the old rascal. Everybody is raving about the picture, with which there is nothing else in the Academy to compare. I am very busy doing nothing. The days seem very full, but I am gradually developing the proper brand of Oxonian mental inertia. . . . Ask Fatcher when he sails. I wish you were here for the races this week. The Marburg collection is being furbished and will, I think, be a great addition to the school library.

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The days were indeed very full of his sort of 'doing nothing,' and Mrs. Osler writes: "Apparently this is the promoting agency for the B.M.A. in Toronto. About six men a week come for advice - what to speak about and what to wear. I say linen or pongee every time. Fancy a visit to America for the first time in August!" <sup>transfer to Oxford</sup> About the time of Osler's arrival in England there was a movement on foot, fostered chiefly by Wilmot Herringham, Archibald E. Garrod (now Osler's successor) ~~in Oxford~~, Wm. Hale-White, H.D. Rolleston, J. Rose Bradford and R. Hutchinson, ~~all of whom have since been knighted~~, to start a new medical journal of a somewhat higher type than any being published in England, and recognizing how great would be the value of his support, Osler was approached on the subject. To judge from contemporary letters, <sup>he</sup> Osler had another project in mind and saw the chance of fusing his scheme with this other one. Accordingly at the preliminary meeting held on May 23rd at Herringham's house, in the course of the discussion he casually asked, "Why not form a National Association of Physicians first, and let the journal come to be its official organ?" - adding that the Clarendon Press might be prevailed upon to undertake the publication though it was somewhat out of their line. The suggestion was warmly welcomed, and as an outcome of this informal gathering the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, with the Quarterly Journal of Medicine as its offi-

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cial mouthpiece, came into being, and the Oxford University Press made its first venture into the field of medical publications. Though Osler never held an official position in the Association he served for the following twelve years and until the time of his death as one of the editors of the journal, <sup>as Robert Sord</sup> and proved 'indefatigable in encouraging its growth, shaping its policies and smoothing out its difficulties.'

The formation of the Association naturally took precedence over the establishment of the journal, and some 250 physicians connected with hospitals "at which the curriculum of professional education may be completed" were invited to join - men actively engaged in teaching or research. He had had abundant experience not only with the editing of medical journals but with the founding of medical societies, and knew full well that they both required at the outset much careful steering. In this instance it was particularly important, if the good-will of the Scotch and Irish physicians was to be gained, that the London group should not be too much to the fore. Consequently emissaries were sent to the provincial medical centres, as well as to Edinburgh and Dublin to explain the project - Osler agreeing to go to Dublin.

*Stel.*

*hannah*

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Meanwhile Sargent's picture has been given the most prominent place in the summer exhibition of the Academy, and Osler comments upon it in a letter to the wife of a former Baltimore colleague ~~who is~~ <sup>of</sup> Quaker ancestry;

To Mrs. Henry M. Thomas from W. O.

7, Norham Gardens,  
Oxford, May 25.

Dear Mrs Harry T. How is it with thee and the dear family? Do drop me a line now and then to say how you all are. It is just a year since we landed. On the whole I think the move has been a success - certainly it has been so for Revere and Grace and I have borne the transplantation wonderfully - considering our years and the wrench to our hearts caused by leaving. It was pretty hard at first but there are many compensations & this is a wonderful spot. I am getting into my niche gradually. I have never had so idle a year but it has been good for me. We have bought a house not far from this, not what we wanted particularly as it will need many changes, but there is an acre of gardens and it is on the park. Mrs Revere, Miss Chapin and Will Revere came last week so we have the house full.

The picture is an astounding success. The critics are extravagantly enthusiastic. "No such group since Rembrandt" etc. I cannot feel that he has done justice to Halsted and Kelly. Welch is wonderfully good. You can see his strength as a halo. He has caught my eyes and the ochrous hue of my dour face, but he evidently has no surgical leanings as there is a hidden want in the other two. . .

~~Tell Harry T he must come to Toronto. I hope Hal is fatter and that~~

29 27<sup>th</sup>  
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Early in June, from the 6th to the 12th, Osler gave the Thomas Young Lectures at St. George's Hospital, six of them in all; the first devoted to the life and works of that amazing person Thomas Young, and the others to the general subject of abdominal tumours and the patterns they make on the abdominal walls - a subject, as his students well remember, which always interested him. ~~Though some of the material was used for subsequent pa-~~

~~pers~~ The lectures were never published; ~~in full~~; indeed, he did not even finish his sketch of Thomas Young though there <sup>in a box written longhand</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>are fragments</sup> of the address among his posthumous papers, <sup>During this</sup> including this quotation from Helmholtz:

He was one of the most clear-sighted men who ever lived, but he had the misfortune to be too greatly superior in sagacity to his contemporaries. They gazed at him with astonishment but could not always follow the bold flights of his intellect and thus a multitude of his most important ideas lay buried and forgotten in the great tomes of the Royal Society till a later generation in tardy advance, remade his discoveries and convinced itself of the accuracy and force of his inferences.

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~~his pump is gorking quietly. I think there are positions here which would suit her - managing a head of a house! Mrs Osler joins me in love to you all. Yours ever W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.~~

~~At the foot of this letter Revere had added his personal word of boyish greeting to these old friends whom they had left, as his father says, just a year before.~~ During this <sup>long period</sup> ~~twelve months~~ Osler had had no secretary - or only a makeshift secretary, for such a thing as a women medical stenographer was a rare bird in Oxford in those days, and his correspondence and papers had been written for the most part in long-hand. However, an amanuensis was finally <sup>engaged</sup> ~~secured~~ and at the top of a letter written to L. F. Barker late in

the month of June, for the benefit of his former secretary whom <sup>Dr. Barker</sup> ~~his succes-~~ ~~ser~~ had inherited, the following message was scribbled, "Dear Miss H. Please forward. All well here. Mrs Revere sails today. I have a new sec, coming

this eve and am scared to death. Tom will shoot her at sight." <sup>Tom was of course</sup> ~~Such as they~~

~~Revere to whom his father alludes to as a friend at least never fail to allude are, his letters to his friends old and new almost invariably contain some~~

~~allusions to his son - "Tommy is a new boy, full of energy at school and at~~

~~games - he's beginning to bowl a very good ball at cricket." But other children receive his attention no less even though less likely to be mentioned in his correspondence. One of them writes:~~

He just come

Marshall Jones

so well expressed in Matthew Arnold's line - "We mortal millions live alone". Even in populous districts the practice of medicine is a lonely road which winds up-hill all the way and a man may easily go astray and never reach the Delectable Mountains unless he early finds those shepherd guides of which Bunyan tells, Knowledge, Experience, Watchful and Sincere. The circumstances of life mould him into a masterful, self-confident, self-centred man, whose worst faults often partake of his best qualities. The peril is that should he cease to think for himself he becomes a mere automaton, doing a penny-in-the-slot business which places him on a level with the chemist's clerk who can hand out specifics for every ill, from the 'pip' to the pox. The salt of life for him is a judicious scepticism, not the coarse crude form, but the sober sense of honest doubt expressed in the maxim of the sly old Sicilian Epicharmus, "Be sober and distrustful; these are the sinews of the understanding." ~~A great advantage, too, of a sceptical attitude of mind is, as Green the historian remarks, "one is never very surprised or angry to find that one's opponents are in the right." It may keep him from self-deception and from falling into that medical slumber into which so many drop, deep as the theological slumber so lashed by Erasmus, in which a man may write letters, debauch himself, get drunk, and even make money - a slumber so deep at times that no torpedo touch can waken him.~~

*Repetition -  
of p. 1070, Post line.*

The address, which ended with the following paragraph, would almost stand as a fit biography of William Osler, could one read sufficiently widely and far between the lines:

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The Toronto meeting of the B. M. A., though subsequently given up, was still <sup>on</sup> ~~on his conscience~~ <sup>to</sup> judge from the following letter, <sup>which shows how the</sup> ~~to Prof-~~ <sup>essor</sup> A. B. Macallum, which gives perhaps another reason to that which he chose to offer as an explanation of his inability to attend. For pressure had been brought to bear upon him to take the presidency of the University, and as it was somewhat mystifying to Toronto people that he should prefer Oxford to a lively and growing place which was no longer 'Muddy York', it may have seemed best to him to dodge the making of excuses and explanations on the spot.

*circumstances were being made when suggesting a change of date.*

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

June 12, 1906.

Dear Macallum: I am sorry you have had trouble about the subsidies. I think an erroneous impression got abroad through the B.A.A.S. experiences. I am so glad to hear from Adami this week that Aschoff has taken his passage. He is a very strong card and the best of the younger men in Germany. I wrote to MacKenzie the other day, asking who was to look after Aschoff. He speaks English perfectly. I think it would be nice to pay his travelling expenses all the way. He has not, of course,

\*(Information from Who's Who): Gerrans, Henry Tresawna, M.A.,  
Fellow, Vice-Provost, and Lecturer, sometime Bursar and Tutor, Wor-  
cester College, Oxford; Secretary to Delegates of Local Examinations  
since 1887. b. Plymouth, 23 Aug., 1858 . . . Member Hebdomadal  
Council; Curator of the Chest; Member of the Board of Finance; . . .  
Delegate of the Oxford Univ. Press, Museum, Local Examinations and  
for the Training of Teachers; F.R.A.S., F.C.S., F.S.A.; member London  
Mathematical Society; the Mathematical Assoc., the Physical Society;  
American Mathematical Soc., the Société Mathématique de France; the  
Circolo Matematico di Palermo; Member of Secondary School Exam. Council.

. . .

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a large salary, and he is just moving to Freiburg. I am making arrangements in New York to have him met and taken care of, so that he will have no expenses there. I do not think there is any chance for Gotch. I will attack him again. [Sir Victor] Horsley was operated on for appendicitis last week. It has been an old trouble and I do not think it will interfere with his trip, though Lady Horsley said their plans were somewhat uncertain.

[Sir James] the Provincial Prime Minister

I have had some communication with Whitney on the subject of the Presidency, but I am not a suitable man for such a position at all, not having special executive ability. Why should they not take you? If they cannot settle upon a Canadian, there is a man here called Garrens, who practically runs the University. He married a Canadian woman, and is a man of very wide sympathies. I sail August the 4th on the "Campania." Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

~~One thing, let us hope, his new secretary helped him to prepare, namely~~

a long anonymous account of the Oxford Medical School published in the

*This appeared in the*

British Medical Journal for June 23rd - an article written to dispell 'the

misconception even now too prevalent among public and profession that there

is no medical school at Oxford.' It is a little pathetic that he should

have been engaged almost single-handed in the task of pulling the Oxford

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School of Medicine up by the boot-straps - a man who a short year before had countless satellites at his beck and call, the strongest university backing, a superb clinic and ample laboratories. He had to stretch matters a little ~~in referring to Medicine in mediaeval Oxford~~ to claim John of Gaddesden, one-time Fellow of Merton <sup>and supposedly,</sup> the original of Chaucer's "Doctour of Physick", as an early Oxford graduate in medicine, for even as late as the seventeenth century all that was required of the Regius Professor of Medicine was that he should read a lecture to whoever cared to listen, twice a week, on the text of Hippocrates or Galen, <sup>in addition to which</sup> and there was one dissection a year <sup>by the Reader in Anatomy,</sup> to be carried out in Lent 'if the execution of a criminal happened opportunely.' <sup>At best, little was offered, at Oxford</sup> ~~It was very little at best,~~ and until the time of Radcliffe's benefactions the student sought his medical training abroad. Indeed it was a decaying school, and until the <sup>advent of Henry VIII.</sup> ~~time when~~ of Acland came as Reader in Anatomy, 'science lay under suspicion of heterodoxy and her votaries were few.' <sup>is told</sup> And Osler tells the story of the Regius Professor of Acland's early days, who being shown a delicate preparation

under the microscope declared, first, that he did not believe it, and, secondly, that if it were true he did not think God meant us to know it! But, in time, a scientific renaissance came to Oxford through Acland - 'a man of enlightened mind and a strenuous fighter against the academic powers of darkness.'

*(Whoever wrote and it sounds like Acland)*

The article<sup>n</sup> contains much more of this. The Oxford Medical School had imported a champion who was as fearless as he was picturesque in speech - as wise as he was fearless: one, moreover, who could hobnob over Aristotelian philosophy and the old humanities with the Dons at the high table, no less interestingly than he could talk arm in arm with the youths below over the new science. ~~He went on to give the characteristics~~ *The article* of the Oxford Medical student, as he found them (there were about twenty-five in each class at the time) <sup>was</sup> men of somewhat less uniformity than their ~~somewhat~~ younger analogues of the London schools, for in the lecture room 'men who have taken a first in "Greats" sit side by side with unfortunate fellow-creatures who have not succeeded in surmounting the not very

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serious difficulties of the "Divers".' <sup>the article</sup> So ~~he~~ went on to tell of the course of study and examinations, of the teaching and the teachers, of the museum which John Ruskin and Acland had planned together and of the laboratories associated with it - where physiology, anatomy and pathology were properly housed and admirably taught; but of the department of pharmacology <sup>it</sup> ~~he~~ said:

Pharmacology is excellently taught at Oxford, but it is only right to say that the credit for this belongs not to the University but to the lecturer. Dr. Smith-Jerome, in his teaching capacity, presents the picture, said by the ancients to be pleasing to the gods, of a good man struggling with adversity. He is an enthusiast who devotes himself to teaching as a labour of love. He lectures, prepares solutions, makes the arrangements for experiments and directs the practical work of his students in a sort of out-house in the Museum ground which is little better than a shed. For nine years he has done all this for a pittance which does not cover the expenses of his department. His only assistant is a boy who does little more than sweep out the rooms. All the mechanical work is done by the lecturer. Great part of the apparatus belongs to himself, and there is no convenient place to lodge it in safety where his lectures are given. It is surely a disgrace that a great University like Oxford should be without a properly equipped department of pharmacology. . . .

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~~This was plain talk to have come from~~ <sup>her</sup> a new-comer; but there were

pleasanter things to say of the Radcliffe Infirmary and Library, and suddenly the article, which feigns to have been written by a representative of the British Medical Journal, suddenly breaks off from what is evidently Osler to what is 'representative' and there is a pen picture of the method of lecturing by the Regius Professor of Medicine - 'the most remarkable thing to be seen in Oxford today.' This was embarrassing, and probably the inevitable reaction of journalism, but the article savouring as it did of advertising, served at least to call the attention of the United Kingdom to the fact that Oxford had a medical school to be reckoned with.

The end of the month found him at St. Thomas's Hospital distributing the annual prizes to the medical students, a privilege which carries with it the need of making an address, partly to the students, partly to their teachers; and in the course of his remarks he dwelt at some length upon that thorny subject, not yet solved by London hospitals, - the paying ~~wards for the 'poor rich' or contrasted with the 'rich poor'.~~ <sup>As for the students, he took them</sup> wards. He next appears in Dublin for the first four days in July, though

in his usual vein 'to educate and develop their hearts - not the heart usually so called for this they find better kept in cold storage for some years, but their intellectual heart.'

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it could not have taken all of this time to acquaint the Irish physicians, as he had agreed to do, with the purposes of the new Association; consequently there must have been other engagements of which there is no record - some of them rather upsetting engagements, to judge from the second of the following notes. These were written to A. Salusbury MacNalty now of the Ministry of Health, who at that time, having left Oxford was at University College Hospital, and Osler had been asked by the students to talk before their medical society and to dine with them beforehand.

Dear MacNalty Kind boys! Yes of course I will dine with you - Trocadero - anywhere! Send me word. Sincerely yours, W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

P.S. Any hints about the Society?

Tuesday.

Dear MacNalty Find out for me like a good fellow the date of the foundation of the Med. Society at U. C. and who were the chief men of the early days. What time do we dine at the Trocadero? Do not order much dinner - at least not for me - I have been on the 'bread of affliction' for a week with a gastro-duodeno-jejuno-ileo-colic catarrh of Irish extraction. Sincerely yours, W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

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It could be foretold that they 'had a most enjoyable dinner and a delightful lecture afterwards on the Advantages of a Medical Society.' But it is difficult, indeed unnecessary, to dog all of Osler's movements while he is 'having such a peaceful time in Oxford.' In a letter of July 17th he writes:

... Such a busy summer so far! Glorious weather & plenty of company. Mrs Revere's visit was a great success. We have a house at last - very good situation 13 Norham Gardens, on the Park. We get possession Aug. 1st & Grace will spend the month in getting the workmen into New England methods. You would not know Isaac Walton. Such changes in a year - an independent schoolboy. We had to give up Mrs M M's house for this month & he has gone to the school to board, G is at London - I have been flitting between Ch Ch & London. The Marburg [Warrington] collection will be a great addition - all sorts of good old books and I have been adding some very good ones, a fine old Burton - a Basle Galen &c. The Ewelme rooms are in order & Grace & Miss N have been there with Bill for four days. I spent my first night there yesterday. Bill sails with me Aug. 4th . . . There is a new Royal Commission on vivisection - I have just been asked to be a member. I do not want to get tied up with these outside things. Already they have been piling up & they take the leisure I need for all sorts of work. I have just come from Manchester - meeting of the New Path. Society of Gt. Britain, very encouraging. Give my love to all the boys & kiss the bairns

Ever yours

W. O.

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To begin at the end: <sup>with</sup> the 'new' Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland which was 'so encouraging.' Though by no means a new project it needed influential backing, and the one-time Pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital played much the same rôle behind the scenes in launching the Society that he had played with the Association of Physicians, and both he and Allbutt lent their presence to this the first meeting held on July 14th at Victoria University, Manchester, where Professor J. Lorrain Smith, who must really be considered the founder of the Society, was chief host. Osler's colleague James Ritchie says that it has always been a feature of the Society that it should be a common meeting-ground for the physician and the professional pathologist, and consequently Osler's interest and regularity of attendance was a never-failing source of encouragement. However, there appear to have been other things in Manchester even more appealing than pathology, for later on he writes one of his American protégés: "I am sending you this week a description of the Ryland Library which I saw this summer. It would be nice if we could

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spend a week there together. The place is ideal."

But more interesting is what went on at Ewelme during the last two weeks of July, when for the first time in <sup>man's</sup> memory ~~of man~~, the Master's rooms were actually occupied by their rightful owner. That the thirteen aged almsmen were thrilled needs no saying, even though they must be punctilious about attending afternoon prayers while the Master was there for he had already once chided them in regard to what he considered a serious neglect, in view of all they owed to Alice of Suffolk, ~~and to the Trustees.~~ ¶ Before his day the connection of the <sup>Master</sup> Regius with this ancient house of benevolence, confined to a few hasty visits, had been of the most formal and perfunctory character. <sup>The 1st Regius in Sequence was a man of a new order: he</sup> But ~~Regius~~ was fascinated with the serene beauty of the place, knew the pains and aches of the old inmates and was generally adored by the villagers among whom he played the rôle of antiquarian, physician, country gentleman, and lover of nature; enjoying everything and enjoyed by all. One day a picnic was given for the old men, with all the children of the village invited, and

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in brakes they were taken to a place with the prickly name of Nettlebed about five miles down the Henley Road, where in an open field booths had been set up, tables spread, an ample tea and its accessories provided. Other people from the neighbourhood who had children were also invited, among them some folks who had a big estate at Swyncombe on the hills above Ewelme, and late in the afternoon ~~an attractive~~ child of ten who had been missed by her mother was found wandering around hand in hand with an unknown man she was calling "William" who had been devoting himself to her, and she was carrying a new doll bought at one of the booths which had been set up at the side of the field. ~~She is now grown up, but remembers vividly the happiness of that afternoon: for while Osler merely fascinated grown-ups at the first meeting, he simply enslaved children and kept them permanently in thrall.~~

But the great event of the week is still to be recorded. Ewelme church with its low squat tower stands on the edge of a hill overlooking a valley scooped out of the lower slopes of the Chilterns. Below lies

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the wee thatched village of some four hundred people, through which runs a stream lined by a watercress ~~farm~~ <sup>farm</sup>. To the visitor who may gain access to the Master's apartments adjoining the church and overlooking the picturesque and cloistered court of 'God's House' where the thirteen almsmen abide, there are many things of interest besides the architecture, of a very ~~old~~ <sup>ancient</sup> building. For example, on the walls is an old engraving whose legend reads:

This Palace derives its name from the Number of Elmes that grew here and formerly was call'd New Elm. W<sup>m</sup> de la Pole duke of Suffolk marrying Alice only daughter of Thos Chaucer had by her large Possessions hereabouts and built this house with Brick - the Estate became Crown Land K. H. VIII made this House an Honour by bestowing on it certain Manours.

The story of the Duke of Suffolk is given in Skaespeare's "Henry VI"

~~and his~~ <sup>and his</sup> but the palace, like the de la Poles themselves, has long since disappeared,

but <sup>together with the</sup> though the church ~~and~~ picturesque 'God's House' and <sup>the</sup> Master's rooms <sup>adjacent to it</sup> remain

intact and unchanged after nearly five centuries. In one of these rooms stood

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an old safe which had <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ been opened, <sup>no one knew when,</sup> ~~in the memory of man,~~ and in this room today is an elephantine folio entitled 'Ewelme Muniments', on the fly-leaf of which, beside a kodak print, is written in Osler's hand:

This photograph was taken on the day [July 28] we opened the Safe in 1906. The Safe had rusted and we had tried in every way to open it and at last had to get Chubb's man from London. The interior was coated uniformly with mould and the documents were reeking with damp. We took them into the graveyard and the photograph shows my nephew Dr. W. W. Francis of Montreal spreading them to dry in the sun. I then took them to the Bodleian where Maltby put them in order and bound them. WILLIAM OSLER Master.

One can imagine Osler's delight at the discovery of this amazing collection of documents of the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries, the earliest of which is dated 1358 - a grant of various manors in England to Thomas de la Pole Knt. by the Abbott and Monks of the Convent of Grestens in Normandy. Ancient title deeds, indentures, audit accounts, conveyances, court rolls, some of these of the later fourteenth century in Norman French; the original charter with the great seal of Henry VI attached, endowing the almshouse

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at Ewelme (~~meaning 'gushing water' in Anglo-Saxon and having nothing to do with 'New Elm' despite the engraving~~) with the manors of Marsh, Connock and Ramridge. There is a parchment roll in Latin giving a receipt for making gunpowder - as yet unknown to war: "Cape Salepetr-poudus xvjd, de sulfure." One might almost think Roger Bacon had been at Ewelme. And there are letters written on bits of parchment by Alice to her house-steward:

William Bylton, I grete you wele, and pray you my good William yif my boke be in myther [my there] closette by grounde, that you woll put them in some other place for takynge of harme. And God kepe you. Written in myne Inne the xxiiii day of Janyver. ALYCE.

My good Cok of Bylton, I grete you wele, and wol and pray you that ye take my litell Cofve of Golde, and wrappe it sure and fast in some cloth, and seele it wele, and sent it heder to me by some sure felyship that cometh betwix, and in any wise that it be surely sent. And God have you in his merciful keping. Written in London in myne Inne the xiiii day of Marche. ALYCE.

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This was all very exciting, and naturally enough when the muniments had been restored by Maltby and were returned to their proper quarters there were many visitors to see them; and 'the Master of the Hospital' once invited the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society and, as <sup>is recorded</sup> ~~the~~ Secretary of the Society records, "learnedly discoursed on the foundation, respecting which he exhibited interesting munimentary information."

They got possession of their new house at 13, Norham Gardens, on August 1st, and began immediately with ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> preparations, but a few days

later he writes:

I have had to give up my sailing today. I am in a mess with the contractor for the changes in a new house and as we have to give up this one Nov. 1st I must have the papers signed before I leave. I have transferred my passage to the 11th in the hope of having everything settled but as we only got possession of the place on the 1st it may not be possible in which case I cannot leave.

Many amusing stories are told of their getting into their new house - of an architect unacquainted with any but the huge bathtubs of English extraction built into a room; of the scandal among Oxford plumbers not only

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*the Reginald Professor's wife*  
 when Mrs. Osler appeared in the shop to see an imported porcelain tub but actually climbed into it to see if it was big enough, while they discreetly turned their backs; but still more when they learned that four of <sup>these objects</sup> ~~them~~ without zinc trays underneath were to be put into 13, Norham Gardens, for a professor and his family, who with their guests apparently needed considerable washing; of their efforts to get a tree cut down in order to let in more sunlight, an unheard-of request, which almost required an Act of Parliament. There were delays without seeming end, but meanwhile during August he managed to read Miss Haldane's Life of Descartes from which his commonplace-book gets many extracts.

They were in Scotland for a fortnight early in September - at Colonsay House again with Strathcona and the Howards; and possibly with Mr. Phipps, who at least had sent this characteristic and cordial invitation:

. . . and so [he says] we have taken Glenquoitch. It is the place Lord Burton had for 32 years. We do not let the entire acreage, but we have 34,000 acres, which is ample for shooting and fishing. A character in Shakespeare says, "A dukedom large enough for me," so I suppose 34,000 will be a dukedom large enough for us. The fishing I understand

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is very good, and this will come in well for Isaac Walton Jr. We do not expect to have many visitors, but we hope that you and Mrs. Osler and Revere can come to us.

<sup>ewellys</sup>  
To L. F. Barker from W. O.

7, Norham Gardens, Oxford.  
September 17th, 1906.

Dear Barker: I am glad to see that you gave a talk at Toronto on Hospital Organization, a topic on which they need enlightenment, and not only in Toronto I fear. I hope you are returning in good form for the autumn's work. The meeting seems to have been an unusual success. I had most enthusiastic letters from some of the Englishmen. We have just returned from Scotland, and we go back next week to the Aberdeen celebration. The summer here has been delightful. I am at present struggling with the Harveian Oration - an awful task. It seems hopeless to make anything decent of it, but I am getting some information on the way about these sixteenth-century fellows. I am sorry that I had not an option, as I should have liked to have been prosector to Fabricius. Emerson's book is excellent - is it not? I have had several very enthusiastic letters from men to whom I sent it here. We hope to sail about the first of December. Sincerely yours, W<sup>m</sup> OSLER. Greetings to the family & the staff.

The quater-centenary of the University of Aberdeen - there is something enduring as granite in the very phrase - was held from September 25th to 29th with 'due pomp and circumstance'. <sup>The fair</sup> ~~There comes to mind the lines of the old jingle;~~

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There's an old University town,  
Between the Don and the Dee;  
Looking over the grey sand-dunes,  
Looking out on the cold North Sea.

There had been, indeed, two universities in Aberdeen, as many as there once were in all England, one in the 'Aulton' and one in the new: King's and Marischal - and though called colleges they had become officially fused in 1858 after two and a half centuries of rivalry and controversy.

The four Scottish universities have a stamp peculiar to themselves, the influence of Bologna and Paris still being apparent in their constitutions. Especially at Aberdeen the spirit of simplicity, austerity and earnestness had overcome the hindrances of poverty, meagre equipment and adversity.

But <sup>by</sup> now the benefactions of Andrew Carnegie had made the university education which

Bishop Elphinstone intended to put in the hands of every ambitious youth

even more accessible than it had been before; and <sup>by</sup> an equally strange turn of

~~fortune~~ <sup>eighty nearly seventy years before had trudged all the way from Founes to Aberdeen</sup> another who ~~had missed this education and gone to Canada as a boy was~~

~~when the last ship for Canada was~~

now Chancellor of the University. Strathcona indeed had been one of the

chief contributors to the new <sup>and beautiful</sup> building of ~~rare architectural beauty~~ for Mari-

schal College which the King was about to dedicate.

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Edinburgh, the youngest of the quartette, had led off with her tercentenary in 1884, Glasgow had followed in 1901, and now the Aberdonians planned to outdo them both on a scale which St. Andrews the oldest of the four, could hardly meet for her fifth centenary in 1911.

Town, gown and weather all coöperated to make the occasion most auspicious. On the opening day there was a service in the founders' chapel, and in the afternoon there paraded in their brilliant robes all the way from the new Marischal College through the town to the Gallowgate where Strathcona had caused to be erected a temporary hall to hold five thousand persons, a long procession of graduates, of friends, and of delegates from all over the academic world who duly presented their felicitations. The next day one-hundred and fifty of them were given degrees and duly capped by the Chancellor; but Thursday was the crowning day, when the King and Queen were present to declare the new building open; and that evening the great Strathcona banquet about which so much was written at the time, was given to twenty-four hundred guests; and there were fireworks afterward and the usual students' torchlight parade.

ho: W.O. has  
given Aberdeen  
D.C. in 1898.

*celebrated*

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But Osler slipped away from the banks of the Dee and this gay company, and is found on the evening of the 28th reading a paper on Pneumonia at Cupar-Fife before the Fifeshire medical society, an act which probably pleased the profession of Scotland more, and was better for his health, than if he had stayed to the end in Aberdeen.

Not only was the Harveian Oration, of which he had written to Barker, giving him trouble at this time, but he is constantly being prodded by McCrae for his introduction to the forthcoming System of Medicine; and as is evident from another letter to his successor in Baltimore, he is planning for an address eight months ahead which was to have a somewhat similar historical background.

7, Norham Gardens,  
Sept. 21, 1906.

Dear Barker: ... ~~I do hope that the attack on the tensils may prove successful. I am sure it is right to have it done. Drop me a line, please, on your return.~~

(It is by no means easy to settle the distribution of our subjects for our symposium <sup>[Washington, May 7 1907]</sup>. Under our title the question of Functional Diagnosis could come in very well, but it is impossible to say how far such a subject would appeal to Krehl. I think I had better write to him, but I hear, through a student, that he does not return to Strassburg until October first. Any change you, Stengel and Cabot care to make in the sub-division suggestion would, of course, be agreeable to me. The part

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I have selected, namely, The evolution of the idea of experiment in the study of nature, would form an interesting histological introduction. I will sent Krehl's answer at once. I have sent a copy of this letter to Stengel and Cabot. . . .

~~Occasional~~ <sup>But the incoming,</sup> letters of ~~others~~ <sup>of ten times</sup> to Osler are ~~sometimes~~ more illuminating than his brief outgoing <sup>ones</sup> letters, and the following, which <sup>he</sup> is inserted in an 1812 edition of John Ferriar's "Illustrations of Sterne" ~~in his library,~~ is evidently an aftermath of the two visits earlier in the year to Manchester where he evidently accumulated some new friends.

From E. M. Brockbank to W. O.

51 Palatine Road, Manchester,  
September 22, 1906.

Dear Dr. Osler, I knew you would be very grieved to hear of Harris's death. I thought you were away or would have written to you about it. The illness resulted from too much work (for him) of 5 years' standing, sleeplessness of some years or so, no sleep for last week during all the very hot weather which we had, and shooting in the sun temp 90° in the shade. He absolutely overdid himself and suddenly symptoms of acute mania or its equivalent developed and he died in three days or so. You may be pleased to hear that when he was very ill he asked for "Osler" and when an injection of morphia was given him he smiled and said, "Ah! Osler has come." Many of his friends had urged him to take a decent

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holiday and his wife had begged him to but he wouldn't. However, at the end he told Mrs. Harris that "she was right, he ought to have gone away, but he thought he could pick up without, and that he was 'playing the game.'" We are all very much upset, as apart from the loss to his family, he undoubtedly was the ablest all-round man on the medical side of the Infirmary and we can't replace him.

So much for our sad news. Now my 'nice thing.' If you have not guessed who it is by now - it is Ferriar. Taken from a miniature in the possession of the Challinors of Leek to whom it was left by Miss Ferriar. I knew that they had the miniature, but omitted reference to it in my sketch. Recently I thought I would like a copy and wrote for two, one for you and one for myself. Mrs. Challinor has written me some very nice letters asking me to go to Leek (Staffs) as they have some of Ferriar's library - "3rd folio Shakespeare, 1st ed. George Herbert's poems and others of which I fear we know but little - one is so dreadfully ignorant. Wouldn't this be a nice afternoon's outing for us? I should enjoy it with you very much. . .

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The 15th of October came round and with it the Harveian Oration, that 'awful task' with which he had long been struggling; and as he subsequently wrote Adami, "I have had good fun reading all summer for it, but as usual put ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> off until the last moment and only finished ~~it~~ the evening before." This oration, it may be said, is the blue-ribbon event of British Medicine, and almost without interruption an annual lecture has been given since 1651 when William Harvey 'gave to the College of Physicians during his lifetime his patrimonial estate at Burmarsh in Kent then valued at £56 a year.' Among other things Harvey directed that:

...once every year there shall be a general Feast kept within the said College for all the Fellows that shall please to come; and on a day when such feast shall be kept some one person (member of the College) . . . shall make an oration in Latin publicly in the said College wherein shall be a commemoration of all the Benefactors of the said College by name . . . with an exhortation to imitate these Benefactors . . . and to the Fellows and Members to search and study out the secrets of Nature by way of experiment; and also for the honour of the profession, to continue in mutual love and affection amongst themselves

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without which neither the dignity of the College can be preserved, nor yet particular men receive that benefit by their admission into the College which else they might except, ever remembering that Concordia res parvae crescunt, discordia magnae dilabuntur.

These then are the terms of the gift left by the immortal discoverer of the circulation of the blood, to the College of which he was justly proud - terms, it may be added, not entirely lived up to except for the Feast which is always good, and the Oration which often is.

The Royal College of Physicians, as can be gathered, is an ancient institution; in its way as conservative and respectable as is the Athenaeum

\*Henry VIII in the tenth year of his reign founded the college on the solicitation of Thomas Linacre, the 'restorer of learning' to England, and by the advice of Cardinal Wolsey.

Club which faces the other end of Pall Mall. It occupies a handsome building adjacent to Trafalgar Square, which <sup>contains</sup> ~~houses~~ a magnificent though little-used library and ~~contains~~ a most precious collection of portraits and medical memorabilia. It has been seen that Osler was made an Honorary F.R.C.P. in his Montreal days and subsequently gave the Goulstonian Lecture,

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but there is no gainsaying that <sup>the College</sup> ~~it~~ was one of the few British institutions that failed to receive the new-comer <sup>twenty years later</sup> with open arms. No practising physician or surgeon can be transplanted to another community without provoking a certain amount of jealousy on the part of those who <sup>picture him as a possible</sup> ~~imagine them-~~ selves as rivals for professional favour. But Osler never heeded pin-pricks. He had lived for five years in Philadelphia with Pepper and kept on the friendliest terms, and would not have recognized Jealousy had he met her, green eyes and all. She and Gossip were almost the only people who never sat at his table and sojourned under his roof.

But Osler's unconventional ways were <sup>unquestionably</sup> caviare to the 'old brigade' in the College whose destinies were largely in their hands, the younger men remaining inactive in the background. Time has brought it about that the British Medical Association rather than the old college of Linacre has become the mouthpiece of the profession, and the growth of other societies has robbed the R. C. P. of its function of presiding over medical progress with the result that it has become largely an administrative body

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concerned, in the main, with only the undergraduate education of its licentiates and members and the conduct of its diplomates. Osler took little interest in administration as such, regarded the system of examinations as not only antiquated but opposed to the best interests of the profession, and fell into no comfortable position in an institution that had lost close touch with progressive medicine. He was too generous and kind to let such things as these generate any antipathy in his mind, but he did not feel drawn to take an active part in its work. Had he been forced to do so by an election to the presidency there is little doubt that his progressive instincts, his ability, his wide following particularly among the younger men, his tendency to activate dormant institutions like the old Maryland 'Faculty' into renewed vigour - all these qualities might have combined to make an ideal presiding officer who could, if anyone, pull the old College out of its doldrums. <sup>according to precedent</sup> But the President of the College is only chosen from among the London Fellows and it

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would appear that despite his keen sense of appreciation for its long and honourable history the only feature of the College which he found after his own heart was its ~~magnificent~~ library and this he used constantly, and on it as on all libraries he used, he showered gifts. Indeed he ~~went through~~ <sup>in search of material for</sup> ~~used~~ the library so thoroughly ~~during the preparation of~~ his address that he found the Royal Charter granted to William Harvey, his pension, diplomas, and so on, to be sorely in need of proper care, and so in characteristic fashion he donated his honorarium to the College for the purpose of having them properly bound.

For the Oration, Osler did not follow Weir Mitchell's advice given earlier in the year, but chose as his title "The Growth of Truth as Illustrated in the Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood." He took his hearers back in spirit three centuries, to days when 'the dead hand of the great Pergamite still lay heavy on all thought, and Descartes had not yet changed the beginning of philosophy from wonder to doubt.' No summary could do justice to <sup>his</sup> ~~Osler's~~ review of the state of knowledge and the men-

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tal attitude of men toward scientific truth at the time when Harvey broke the bonds holding their minds in slavish submission to authority. Perhaps his <sup>vivid</sup> description of Harvey's Lumleian Lecture in the middle section of the address may best serve to give an idea of the text. He had spoken of the fact that the really notable years in the annals of Medicine were few, and that with many of the greatest names and events we cannot associate any fixed dates. But, he said:

There is one dies mirabilis in the history of the College - in the history, indeed, of the medical profession of this country, and the circumstances which made it memorable are well known to us. At ten o'clock on a bright spring morning, April 17, 1616, an unusually large company was attracted to the New Anatomical Theatre of the Physician's College, Amen Street. The second Lumleian Lecture of the annual course, given that year by a new man, had drawn a larger gathering than usual, due in part to the brilliancy of the demonstration on the previous day, but also it may be because rumours had spread abroad about strange views to be propounded by the lecturer. I do not know if at the College the same stringent rules as to compulsory attendance prevailed as at the Barber Surgeons' Hall. Doubtless not; but the President, and Censors, and Fellows would be there in due array; and with the help of the picture of "The Anatomy Lecture" by Bannister, which is in the Hunterian collection, Glasgow, and a photograph of which Dr. Payne has

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recently put in our library, we can bring to mind this memorable occasion. We see the "Anatomy," one of the six annually handed over to the College, on the table, the prosector standing by the skeleton near at hand, and very probably on the wall the very Tabulae of dissection of the arteries, veins and nerves that hang above us today. But the centre of attention is the lecturer - a small, dark man, wand in hand, with black piercing eyes, a quick vivacious manner, and with an ease and grace in demonstrating which bespeaks the mastery of a subject studied for twenty years with a devotion that we can describe as Hunterian. A Fellow of nine years' standing, there was still the salt of youth in William Harvey when, not as we may suppose, without some trepidation, he faced his auditors on this second day - a not uncritical audience, including many men well versed in the knowledge of the time and many who had heard all the best lecturers of Europe. . . . And we may be sure that Harvey's old fellow-students at Padua - Fortescue, Fox, Willoughby, Mounsell, and Darcy - would honour their friend and colleague with their presence; and Edward Lister, also a fellow-Paduan, the first of his name in a family which has given three other members to our profession - two distinguished and one immortal. It was not a large gathering, as the Fellows, members, licentiates, and candidates numbered only about forty; but as the lecture was a great event in the community, there would be present many interested and intelligent laymen of the type of Digby, and Ashmole, and Pepys - the 'curious,' as they were called, for whom throughout the seventeenth century the anatomy lecture equalled in attraction the play. Delivered in Latin and interspersed here and there with English words and illustrations, there were probably more who saw than comprehended, as Sir Thomas Browne indicated to his son Edward when he lectured at Chirurgeon's Hall.

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And in an exposition of the difficulties that hinder the growth of <sup>Truth</sup> he went on to describe the opposition aroused by Harvey's revolutionary views, whose publication was delayed for another twelve years and the tardy acceptance of which, so well illustrated the truth of Locke's dictum that 'Truth scarce ever carried it by vote anywhere at its first appearance.'\*

[ Osler avoided mention of the statement commonly made that no contemporary physician who had passed the age of forty accepted Harvey's teaching.

It was subsequently said by one who was present, that the delivery of the annual panegyric on William Harvey has become so great a tax on human ingenuity that many go to hear the oration much as people fond of sensation go to see a performance on a tightrope, for ~~that~~ it is as difficult to say anything original in a Harveian Oration as in a Bampton Lecture.\* Osler, how-

[ \*These lectures, endowed by John Bampton (1790-1851), were originally a series of eight lectures to be given in University Church, Oxford; now given biennially, on subjects connected with the Christian faith.

ever, had no need to stoop to the usual artifices, for as poor Stella said of Swift, he could write beautifully on a broomstick, and with no display

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of learning hastily borrowed or 'conveyed' for the occasion. Even his method of handling his obligation to the founder's admonitions <sup>in his closing paragraphs</sup> is of interest in showing something of <sup>his</sup> ~~Esler's~~ reverence <sup>for tradition:</sup>

But the moving hand reminds your orator, Mr. President, of a bounden duty laid upon him by our great Dictator to commemorate on this occasion by name all of our benefactors: to urge others to follow their example; to exhort the Fellows and Members to study out the secrets of Nature by way of experiment; and lastly, for the honour of the profession, to continue in love and affection among ourselves. No greater tribute to Harvey exists than in these simple sentences in which he established this lectureship, breathing as they do the very spirit of the man, and revealing to us his heart of hearts. Doubtless, no one more than he rejoices that our benefactors have now become so numerous as to nullify the first injunction; and the best one can do is to give a general expression of our thanks, and to mention here and there, as I have done, the more notable among them. But this is not enough. While we are praising famous men, honoured in their day and still the glory of this College, the touching words of the son of Sirach remind us: "Some there be that have no memory, who are perished as though they had never been, and are become as though they had never been born." Such renown as they had, time has blotted out; and on them the iniquity of oblivion has blindly scattered her poppy. A few are embalmed in the biographical dictionaries; a few are dragged to light every year at Sotheby's, or the memory is stirred to reminiscence as one takes down an old volume from our shelves. But for the immense ma-

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majority on the long roll of our Fellows - names! names! names! - nothing more; a catalogue as dry and meaningless as that of the ships, or as the genealogy of David in the Book of Chronicles. Even the dignity of the Presidential chair does not suffice to float a man down the few centuries that have passed since the foundation of the College. Who was Richard Forster? Who was Henry Atkins? Perhaps two or three among us could tell at once. And yet by these men the continuity and organic life of the College has been carried on, and in maintaining its honour, and furthering its welfare, each one in his day was a benefactor, whose memory it is our duty, as well as our pleasure, to recall. Much of the nobility of the profession depends upon this great cloud of witnesses, who pass into the silent land - pass, and leave no sign, becoming as though they had never been born. And it was the pathos of this fate, not less pathetic because common to all but a few, that wrung from the poet that sadly true comparison of the race of man to the race of leaves!

The story of Harvey's life, and a knowledge of the method of his work, should be the best stimulus to the Fellows and Members to carry out the second and third of his commands; and the final one, to continue in love and affection among ourselves, should not be difficult to realize. Sorely tried as he must have been, and naturally testy, only once in his writings, so far as I have read, does the old Adam break out. With his temperament, and with such provocation, this is an unexampled record, and one can appreciate how much was resisted in those days when tongue and pen were free. Over and over again he must have restrained himself as he did in the controversy with Riolan, of whom, for the sake of old friendship, he

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could not find it in his heart to say anything severe. Today his commands are easier to follow, when the deepened courtesies of life have made us all more tolerant of those small weaknesses, inherent in our nature, which give diversity to character without necessarily marring it. To no man does the right spirit in these matters come by nature, and I would urge upon our younger Fellows and Members, weighing well these winged words, to emulate our great exemplar, whose work shed such lustre upon British Medicine, and whom we honour in this College not less for the scientific method which he inculcated than for the admirable virtues of his character.

An interesting ceremony occurred at the close of the oration which permitted Osler to turn congratulations upon another - an unusual ceremony where- at a member of the College of Surgeons for the first time was presented with the Moxon Medal of the College of Physicians, 'for his long and valuable services to clinical medicine.' This was his old and greatly valued friend Mr. Jonathon Hutchinson who had written to say that he was aware the award had had been made through Osler's instigation. Then there followed the Feast, to which Osler had invited two guests, one of them Mr. Henry Phipps of New York, the other a <sup>Shoemaker, brewer and gentleman of eighty-six</sup> one-time factor of the Hudson Bay Company, now Lord Strathcona and <sup>Chancellor</sup> Mount Royal, of the University of Montreal and Aberdeen.

Needless to say, the oration was widely commented upon in medical circles, even 'the Thunderer' devoted a full column to it; but Osler had disappeared and

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was evidently paying dearly for the experience for in his account-book opposite October 21st is written, "Heavy cold - housed." He recovered however and is found on the 24th buying at an old bookshop in Reading, "Horace in London," 1813, by the author of the Rejected Addresses; and two days later from Oxford he writes, "We have a fine exhibit of Vesal this eve at the Junior Scientific - nearly everything! I got a curious Fabrica the other day, Ingolstadt, 18th century. You will see my Harveian Oration in the Lancet & B.M.J. this week - a hard job over. It seems to have pleased the boys." And that he is looking forward to his annual visit to America for his mother's birthday now appears.

To Lewellys F. Barker from W. O.

7, Norham Gardens, Oxford.  
Nov. 1st

Dear Barker So glad to have your letter this eve & to hear that you are better. You were most wise to have the tonsils attacked. What a source of endless mischief they are! I am much impressed here with the extraordinary frequency of tonsillar enlargements in the children & no doubt the great prevalence of acute rheumatism among them is connected with this. I am so glad that Norton is taking Hurd's place as it will put him in the line for work of this sort. Thanks for the offer for quarters but I have promised to stay with Jacobs & I shall put up for a few days at the Hospital so as to see as much as possible of the boys. . . . The Harveian went off very well. I could not get in all I wished to say & could not touch two interesting points illustrated in all discoveries of the first rank - the law of anticipation & the law of residuals - very well shown in Harveys work. I have a nice little clinical class, &

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the school seems gaining, but the antique collegiate system is very obstructive and it is hard to do much in short terms of 8 weeks - & only three of them. With love to the family all - Yours ever, W.O.

The San Francisco earthquake had served to dislodge into a new position as Professor of Medicine at Yale one of his former house staff, to whom he writes and tells what would be a good thing for Yale but what took Yale some time to learn:

To George A. Blumer from W. O.

November 13th.

Dear Blumer: I am very glad indeed to have your letter with the interesting memorandum of Glisson who was, as you say, really a great observer and a great clinician. I am glad to hear that you like your work at Yale. I wish they could give you a proper Univeristy Hospital. It would be a very good thing for Yale to undertake some good scheme exactly on the same lines as they would undertake a scientific laboratory. Organized by the University, equipped by it, paid for by it, and managed by it without any outside help or interference, separate clinics and good laboratories, it would be an encouraging example to scores of other places, and I am convinced that there is no one greater need in the medical profession in the United States than the establishment of these clinics on Teutonic lines. I will send you my Harveian Oration very soon. With love to Amaryllis, Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

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Some time during the fall, it may be assumed, Osler must have been prevailed upon by Albert Venn Dicey, Professor of English Law and Fellow of All Souls, to lend himself for an evening to give a lecture in Camden Town before the Working Men's College of which Professor Dicey was President. This Osler did, and on Saturday evening the 17th before these working people he drew a picturesque and understandable parallel between the human body and the steam engine, using terms in regard to personal hygiene which the people before him could grasp - about fuel and food, about small repairs and large repairs, regularity of work and of play, and finally about tobacco and alcohol. Man's chief foes are those of his own making. "Throw all the beer and spirits into the Irish Channel, the English Channel and the North Sea for a year," the Abington Herald quotes him as saying, "and people in England would be infinitely better. It would certainly solve all the problems with which the philanthropists, the physicians and the politicians have to deal. Do you suppose you need tobacco? On the day after you had dumped all the tobacco into the sea you would find that it was very good for you and hard on the fishes." Never mind if Benjamin Franklin had made a similar remark long before, it deserved repeating.

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To whatever soil he was transplanted, the same Osler grew and flourished, modifying his environment more than it modified him. It is interesting to see how consistently he began anew in Oxford with precisely the same projects as those which had engaged him in Montreal, Philadelphia and Baltimore. A consuming interest in libraries and librarians; the revivifying of an old medical society or the organization of new ones; the establishment of an editorship or a medical journal, the bringing together of discordant elements in the profession, and the raising of money when money was needed. Lavish in his own name, when it came to giving he must have been a hard man to refuse when in an offhand way he asked for help, as he had occasionally so asked Mr. Gates, and Strathcona, and others. Oxford was in great need of funds, for however rich some of the colleges might be, the University had scant funds to expend on general university projects. The Bodleian, for example, was bursting with books which lined every staircase and landing, and there was no suitable place to read them; moreover, they

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sadly needed a modern system of cataloguing. Nicholson had these needs well in mind but the poor man knew not where to turn. Someone to raise money was needed.

In his letter to Whitelaw Reid twelve months before this, Osler had broadly hinted that gifts from Americans would be acceptable: ~~and~~ how much <sup>he</sup> Osler had to do with starting the Oxford University Endowment Fund is not officially recorded. It is generally stated that "the Fund arose out of an appeal made on the suggestion of the late Lord Brassey, by the Chancellor of the University - Lord Curzon of Kedleston - in 1907" but if that is the case, Osler at least had certainly gotten to work before then, as the following letter indicates:

To Mr. Henry Phipps.

Friday [Nov. 23rd]

Dear Mr Phipps I am sure you will like the suggestiveness and pleasant style of Crozier's book. How delighted you must be to see the family growing. We sail on Wednesday, 28th, to be present at my mother's birthday.

It is a shame to bother you about outside matters, but the Hon. C. T. Brassey and a few of us have a scheme afoot for meeting the needs of this

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old University. I have been assigned the superintendence of the collections for the Medical School Laboratories. We need about £40,000. I am especially interested in a small laboratory and clinical department for the out-patient work at the Radcliffe Infirmary which would cost about £5000. Would you care to help me in this matter? I will have the general circular sent you. I will send you my Harveian Oration in a few days. With kind remembrances to Mrs Phipps, Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

The whole project so strongly savours of Osler's methods that one is impelled to believe he must have been, if not the prime mover, at least the activating influence, though were he living, nothing would probably induce him to admit it. The original Trustees included the Archbishop of York, Earl Brassey, Sir Henry Miers, Sir William Anson, Bart., and Dr. William Osler. The fund finally became vested in a body of <sup>twelve</sup> trustees of whom ~~whom eight were non-resident Oxford men and the remaining~~ <sup>and the others</sup> ~~four~~ <sup>were</sup> resident members of the University, <sup>and in this capacity, served as a trustee</sup> one of which Osler remained during the remainder of his life. The sum of about £150,000 was collected during 1907

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and subsequent years, and largely through Osler's influence the Trustees spent considerable sums in the interest of science, in particular by endowing the School of Engineering and in contributing largely to the new Chemical Laboratory. Then, too, both he and Sir William Anson were Curators of the Bodleian, and the construction of the underground storage chamber thus came to be undertaken; it is stated on Osler's recommendation,

But some of these things happen later on, and it must suffice here to pursue Mr. Phipps, who wrote from New York, December 13th: "I hope you will be able to raise a sum sufficient to carry out your plan for a Medical School Laboratory for Oxford. When you have got in your large subscriptions I shall be pleased to help you with a small one." And the following June Osler wrote:

Thank you so much for your kind letter and for your generous contribution. It is extremely good of you to help us in this way. Oxford may not seem to have any special claims on America, yet if you could have seen the gathering we had the other night of the 160 Rhodes Scholars, the great majority of whom are from the United States, you would have realized how much American life goes on here. It is remarkable, too, the

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number of people who come over here to study different subjects, particularly to work at the Bodleian. I will write to Lord Curzon and tell him of your kind subscription, which can go into the general fund, but ear-marked for my new clinical laboratory.

On Sunday the 25th he writes H. B. Jacobs in regard to the death of an old Baltimore friend: ~~and~~ as usual ~~he~~ fends off any too great show of sentiment - a feeling which he once said, in the words of another, 'brought all his mother into his eyes' - and turns quickly to other things:

Sunday

Dear Jacobs So sad to hear of poor Atkinson's death - it was so good of you to cable. I have cabled Mrs A. today. He was one of my best friends and I shall miss his sadly in my visits. He told me that pneumonia was the one disease he dreaded as he had an old heart lesion. I do hope he has left his family comfortable. . . . I am glad you liked the Harveian. We sail by the Celtic on Wednesday 28th & shall come down from New York. I hope to be in time for the presentation of the Marburg collection. I am bringing a very special treasure for it. The book market is very active just now & I have been getting a few beauties at auction. The other eve at the Academy Club dinner young Seveking said incidentally that he had the sale catalogue of Sir Thomas Browne's books! I whistled as there is but one copy known and that in the B. M. The next day like an angel he sent it to me! We have had splendid weather until a few days ago. All well. Love to Mrs. Jacobs. Yours,

W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

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It was to be another home-coming trip like the one of a year before, even more exhausting if anything. They landed in New York December 6th, went immediately to Baltimore, and submitted to dinners and receptions for a week. Then to Canada, ~~and they stopped~~<sup>ing</sup> in Hamilton for a day to see his old friends, among them the Mallocks and Mullins. The following day was his mother's one-hundredth birthday ~~over which event there was great ado~~, which excited other people more than the hale and hearty recipient of their attentions in the Wellesley Street house, for she had had considerable experience with birthdays. But it was not solely a family affair for there were countless messages, letters and telegrams of congratulation: from the Archbishop of Canterbury, <sup>from</sup> Earl Grey, <sup>from</sup> the Governor General of Canada, the House of Commons, the Johns Hopkins staff, and so on. She was rather inclined to see the humour of it, as she did of most things in life. But the day unloosed her recollections, and she told of having walked all the way from Hampstead to Bushy Park to carry the news of the Battle of Waterloo; and how she had been 'delicate, frail

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and indulged ' as a child, but this all changed, and before they 'came out' she took lessons in how to patch leather boots. The marvellous birthday cake with 100 candles was brought up to her room <sup>which</sup> ~~so~~ she was not permitted to ~~go down~~ <sup>take</sup> - a cake representing the five rulers she had lived under: two Georges, William, Victoria and Edward - and it took two men to carry it. She had had some spoons made, with a Cornish cross for a handle - three sizes of them, for the three generations of descendants, 6 living children, 26 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; and there were souvenir plates given to the cousins and others who were equally numerous. As a final touch, the Cornish Society in Toronto gave her a serenade and sang some old Cornish songs she loved. Needless to say, the occasion aroused the newspapers and an effort was made to revive a discussion of the chloroform theory. But a World reporter who got access to the one of her distinguished sons "whose views on the age limit readily admit of such perversion that no amount of explaining could now correct false impressions of them" got little satisfaction beyond the reply: "That's an old chestnut."

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They stayed in <sup>on for</sup> ~~Toronto~~ several days at the home of his brother Sir Edmund, and he spends a Sunday morning raining notes upon his old friends, like the following to <sup>Ned</sup> ~~Edward~~ Milburn, his Barrie schoolmate <sup>and others he has been</sup> unable to see - one of them for example

Craigleigh, Rosedale.  
Sunday [Dec. 16th]

Dear Ned Mother thanks you so much for your kind thought. She remembers you as one of my old friends. She keeps wonderfully well - & so bright mentally. I wish I could see you, but it is impossible to stop over in Belleville this time. We have to be in Boston for Xmas. I wish you could arrange some time to come over for a few weeks. You would enjoy Oxford so much. I am sending you my Harveian Oration. Did I send you Counsels & Ideals - which one of my students picked out of my writings? Send me a line to c/o Mrs. Revere, Canton, Mass. Love to all yours. . . .

<sup>grandson</sup> ~~And another~~ to the wife of his <sup>first</sup> ~~just~~ pupil who had <sup>just</sup> been put in charge of the tuberculosis work in Baltimore, and had there ~~succumbed~~ <sup>contracted</sup> himself <sup>in Gavenhurst (C)</sup> the disease against which he was making a gallant fight.

Craigleigh, Rosedale.  
[no date]

Dear Mrs Parfitt I cannot tell you how distressed I am to leave Toronto without seeing Charles. It was quite my intention to visit

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him but so many matters of the greatest importance came up about the new Hospital and the University that I could not escape, either yesterday or Monday. I got here on Friday to find my mother wonderfully well. She enjoyed the day so much. I had a long talk with C about Charles, whom he had just seen. I am glad to hear that he thinks him better and should gradually pick up. I do hope he may gain strength as the acute process subsides. Let me have a line to the J.H.H. next week. We go to Montreal tonight ~~Dec. 19th~~ and then on to Boston, N.Y., Phila. and Baltimore - sailing Jan. 8th. I am sending Charles my Harveian Oration. With best love to you both, Ever yours W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

While at Craighigh he was waited upon by representatives of the University, who formally offered him the presidency of the institution. To an outsider it would <sup>seem</sup> appear to have been a vain proposal though there appears to have been no thought of this in the minds of the Toronto people. However, this may be, he gave no definite reply until two weeks later. Among other things of which there is record, was his unveiling, <sup>before</sup> at the Ontario Library Association, <sup>from Toronto</sup> of the portrait of his old friend James E. Graham who had sent <sup>him</sup> so many pupils to serve under Osler in his Baltimore days: and it was characteristic of him to take the trouble to write the leading article to help boost a new medical journal just being started at Winnipeg for the benefit of the profession of the Canadian North West. #

From Toronto they went to Montreal for a few days, and thence to Boston

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for Christmas at Mrs. Revere's, where Mrs. Osler and Revere remained while he returned to Baltimore to stay for a few days with the Jacobs'. From there he writes: *to the Chairman of the committee in Toronto.*

to John Hoskins, Esq.,  
Toronto, Can.

11 Mt. Vernon Place, W.,  
Dec. 31, 1906.

Dear Sir: I have given the most careful consideration to the proposal made by the Governors of the University, and regret exceedingly to say that I cannot see my way to accept the position. While realizing fully the importance and the extraordinary possibilities of the situation I am confident that neither by training nor disposition am I adapted to it.

Please express to the Board my heartfelt appreciation of the great compliment they have paid me, and my deep regret that I cannot fall in with their wishes in the matter. Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

1st 2 chapters here 25 1/4 pp omitted in 110 = 25.25%

Ch. 11 (eleven) cont'd. Ed.	Ms.	54, 4 <sup>a</sup> , 4 <sup>b</sup>	brought f'd	11.27
p. 255 <del>258</del> omitted	51-54, <del>55</del>	3.5 pp;		= 3.5
256	54b	: .3 p. 55: .2		0.5
260	62	: 0.5; 63: .08		0.58
261	64	: 0.5; 65: .7; 66: .7; 67: .2 =		2.1
262	69	: 0.3.		0.3

25.7% cut out

omit of 69 + 2 = 71 ms pp., the ed. units

18.25

ch. 26 (vol. 2, p. 38)	omitted	27a	
40	2	: .06; 3: .05	= .11
41	7	: .3	= .03
42	8	: .85; 9: .2	1.05
45	10	: .7; 12-13: .25	0.95
46	16	: .4; 17: .2	0.60
47	19	: .3,	0.3
48	20	: .25; 21: <del>.4</del> ; 22: .6	1.25
49	25	: .25;	0.25
50	26	: .2	0.20
	27	: .17; 27a: .5; 28: .3	1.00

1936.

Collection of Cuckies # 7746 with Ms. # 8303.

vol. 1	Ed.	Ms.
p. 1.	1st per. retained.	Dr
6.	sentence "In these two acts"	omitted.
8	omitted	p. 9 one sentence
9	"	10 3/4 p.
11	"	12 2 sent's
12	"	15-16 2 pp.
13	"	18 1 short
"	"	20 2 sent's-
16	"	21-2 1 p.
19	"	26 1 p. <u>Root bit !!</u>
22	"	33-4 1 1/2 pp.
18% omitted.	ch. 1 7/39 omitted.	= 18% omitted in ed.

ch. 11 (clearer).

233	omitted	p. 1 - 1 p. p. 3 1/2 a half p. = 1 1/2
237	"	p. 10. 1/4 p.
238		11 : 1/3 p.; 13-16: 2 1/2 pp.
242		21 : 1/8 p.; 22: 1/3 p = .44 p.
244		25: .12 p.; 26: .5 p.; 27: .1 p. = .72 p.
245		28: .66 p.; 30: .3 p.; = .96 p.
246	"	30: 1 p.; 32: .5 p.; 33: 1 p = 2.5 pp.
247		34: .4 p.
249		38: .15 p.
250		41: .24 p.; 42: .05 = .29
251		43: .02 p.
253		46: .02 p.; 47: .7; 48: .2 = 1.16
		correct ed 11.27 pp.