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Chapter XXVIII

1908

Mention has been made of Osler's habit of jotting down in his engagement-book brief notes of ~~his~~ <sup>the</sup> successive colds and bronchial attacks to which he was so susceptible; ~~after the slightest exposure,~~ and the cold and draughty <sup>frigid</sup> rooms of the old university buildings where so many meetings were held were his anathema. So in this winter: "Jan. 28. Slight cold and housed. Feb. 7. In bed heavy cold no fever no cough. Feb. 9. Better. Feb. 10. Up. Feb. 16. Drove to Burford in motor fresh cold. Mar. 7. Slight cold chilled to bone. June 21-27. Exams. Cold and laryngitis. Could not go to the Mann dinner last night. Only lasted two days Encaenia." Draughty examination-halls in an Oxford winter were poor places for one so disposed, and though it may not have been the sole reason, this may at least have influenced them in the decision to spend their next winter in France. ¶ Among Weir Mitchell's many letters to him there is one written at about this time which says:

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*I think I have spoken  
of this before. Made  
note from copy of  
a letter.*

I am just contemplating with terror the Queen's Letters which it has pleased Lord Grey to send me as a present. My own opinion about letters is that selected letters tell you very little about the character of the person, but that if you had all the letters and all the notes and moreover all the checks a person ever wrote, you might then have an opinion.

*without 'see the letters and all the notes' his character*  
In Osler's case, however, even ~~from the few brief letters and notes re-~~

~~covered for these earlier years, one might easily gauge~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~his character,~~ and

so far as the cheques are concerned, the ~~letters give sufficient~~ <sup>there is</sup> ~~evidence enough~~

that unstinted hospitality was his <sup>major</sup> ~~single~~ extravagance. <sup>books a minor one.</sup> He kept careful

track of his professional income: none of his expenditures. <sup>his correspondence;</sup> ~~What is un-~~ <sup>of the letters and notes;</sup>

~~usual about his letters is that those in long-hand, often undated, almost~~

~~always unpunctuated, are far better than his dictated letters, for he never~~ <sup>continue to be more so; letters than anything he dictated</sup>

found in England a really good stenographer to whom he could dictate rap-

~~idly, and his typewritten letters are brief.~~ <sup>and this is a measure very accurate for the extreme brevity of his typewritten messages.</sup> Even so, they almost al-

ways contain <sup>a postscript added</sup> ~~some additional~~ note in his own hand when they were being signed -

a message to someone's children, whose names he always remembered, a friendly

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greeting to the LL (meaning 'light of your life') or a humorous quip

of some sort. *But the letter is very hard, given in dictation, <sup>scarcely</sup> ~~at all~~ <sup>unpunctuated</sup> ~~contains~~ to be  
more enlightening than anything he dictated.*

3rd [January]

You may like to have the enclosed letter from Lister. We went to Windsor & gave the Kaiser an honorary degree & he asked me particularly about Lister & sent him a message. This is his reply. We have had a very jolly time - A. G. [Mrs. Osler] doing all sorts of kind acts as usual. It is very hard to live up to these Boston women. Did I tell you we are issuing a 2 or 3 Vol edition of all Lister's writings from the Press. 'Tis very hard to get the old man to shell out the MSS. I have just been in town at the meeting of the Path. Soc. of Gt Britain very good men & good papers. I am trying to get on the track of Wren's Anatomical Drawings - Did you know that he was one of the first to do microscopical drawings! Wonderful man! Love to all those darlings -

5th [January]

We have had a very jolly Xmas - Issac Walton had a couple of boys with him & we got a number of the Rhodes scholars to join us at dinner. The house is most comfortable & it is a delight to have my books at hand. I have been picking up a few treasures here & there. The most interesting bibliographical item is the collection of all Burton's books at Christ Church, about 500 (which were scattered indiscriminately). I have had a copy made of the Burton picture at Brazenose and have had it inserted among the books

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next page*

with the 17th cent. editions <sup>above</sup> & the 19th cent. ~~above~~ below. The Bodleian continues to be a delight. We are hoping for a big grant from the Curzon [Oxford Endowment] Fund which will enable us to get a new stack.

28th

. . . I have not got anything very good lately. I have picked up a job lot among which some good anatomical & surgical - one or two will do for you. I missed a number of fine items at Müllers big sale. I got some Bartolini particularly his account of an epidemic sore throat in Sicily - & a good Naudæus. I am glad to hear that the Historical Society keeps up so well. I hope to have some good things for October next. I should like to get a peaceful (?) month at the hospital. I knew you would be pleased with the Fuller. I hope to have a lecture ready on him - '08 is the centenary of his birth. Do you know anything of Mareschal the founder of the Academy of Surgery Paris & the organizer of the French school of surgery. I have just finished reading his life by a descendant. He cut a great figure at the court of Louis XIV. I am having great fun at the Bodleian. The new reading room is ready but the T. is only 42° in these cold days so we have had a deuce of a time. The All Souls people wish to get rid of their Scientific & Medical books - about 3000 Some beauties, - not to sell! I am hoping to divert them to the Museum. We are beginning to print the Lister Vols at the Press. I have my Biographical Essays (An Alabama Student &c.) in the same hands.

pg 4  
(Foot-note to Burten Collection) chap. XXVII ?

\*This idea of Osler's in having the <sup>man's</sup> portrait framed ~~in~~ <sup>by</sup> his books was subsequently utilized by the Bodleian when it came into possession of Ingram Bywater's library. It was an expression of his feeling that the man himself and his books should not and could not be divorced. ~~Falconer Madan states that had Osler lived he had intended in the leisure of his later life to collate the successive editions of the 'Anatomy' and to issue a new one.~~

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And on February 7th, the day of the 'in bed heavy cold' entry, he writes Thayer about the new Archives of Internal Medicine, and still thinks he will be in America in the autumn:

I like the new journal so much - No 1 came last eve. It should be a great stimulus and to have it issued by the A.M.A. indicates the revolution which has quietly been progressing in the profession. Stewarts paper is A.1. but surely the peripheral view of the cause of collapsing pulse has been advanced before! It is a most interesting and suggestive article I hope you are planning to come over this summer. I shall not be out until September for the Congress. We have had a good winter so far. Tommy keeps well. Mrs O & I have been down with heavy colds & the whole country is in the grip of influenza. I am settling down to the life of a pre-senile Don - only I am quite unable to do justice to Port! - Councils & committees 'Tis often a bore but it is interesting from an educational standpoint I am afraid nothing short of a French Revolution will modernize Oxford & Cambridge. Have you seen the new Edition of Gui Patins letters? Vol I. just out. . ~~If you wish a good sketch of the Court Life of Louis XIV see "George Mareschal, le premier Chirurgien"~~

At about this time, the physicians of Vancouver, British Columbia, had organized a medical society, and someone, perhaps one of his old McGill

*J. and the story  
of the 1st vol.  
was found in 1908*

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pupils, had acquainted him of the fact, which called forth this reply of

February 11th:

I am so glad to hear that you have started a Library. There is no better index of the intellectual status of a profession in any town than the condition of its medical library. It will do you all so much good to work at it, particularly in connection with the Medical Society. I would urge you to join the Association of Medical Libraries. Write to Mr. Huntington at the Brooklyn Medical Library for information. Let me indicate briefly the lines along which I think you should develop:

(1) The current journals, the general and special, taking particularly those not likely to be subscribed for by the individual members; (2) as soon as possible fill up one or two sets of first-class journals, the Lancet, the British Medical, the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, the Annals of Surgery and Journals of that type; (3) of books get the good systems and special works in each department rather than the ordinary school text-books.

It would be a great matter if you could get a few thousand dollars from some of your fellow-citizens with which to make a good start. Every citizen ~~of the place~~ has a direct personal interest in the development of the profession. I hope that every physician in the place will feel that he should help as much as he possibly can, not only by his individual subscription, but, when he feels he can afford it, by an occasional donation. Tell some of the members from me, please, that money invested in a Library gives much better return than mining stock.



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In conclusion, as precept is not nearly so satisfactory as example, I enclose you a small subscription as practical evidence of my good-will and good wishes.

Also on the same day, possibly as an aftermath of his cold, he writes:

"We are having a peaceful winter. I have rather a protracted attack of mental inertia and poor McCrae and the System are having a hard time. I think he has done uncommonly well to get out three volumes in one year."

And toward the end of Febraary a letter from Mrs. Osler, written from the "Open Arms" states that:

Revere is up to his father's ear and only twelve, evidently he will be tall like my brothers. I am hoping to go abroad with him for the Easter Vac and let him have a month in a French family - Dr. Osler is going to Vienna for a meeting. ~~We have just been to the last of four very amusing lectures by Herkomer. This one was really the only one in which he spoke much on art - and talked a good deal of Turner, he is a most easy & charming lecturer.~~ We have been in the agonies of a series of formal dinner parties - and have polished off 84 people in 3 dinner parties. My strength has given out and no more till spring. We are having Marchy weather but the bulbs are courageous and many things in bloom already.

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Some worrying things were taking place at this time which promised to impair the welfare of the <sup>struggle</sup> medical school. <sup>It is a rather</sup> ~~This somewhat~~ long story <sup>which</sup> concerns the action of the English schoolmasters in bringing influence to bear on Oxford and Cambridge to restrict the season of scholarship examinations to periods suited to the schoolmasters, rather than for the universities to examine at times at which experience had shown the best men presented themselves. In bidding for science-candidates the Oxford school could not compete with Trinity College, Cambridge, and had always held her examinations a month earlier. The small group of Oxford scientists, Osler among them, opposed a change which would be as he expressed it a 'suicidal policy.' But they were overruled by the classicists and, as a consequence, there subsequently was a great falling off, for example, in the number of men reading for honours in physiology, with the result that there has since been a shortage of competent young teachers <sup>at Oxford</sup> in this as in other pre-clinical subjects.

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But Osler takes what comes with aequanimity, and meanwhile other  
pleasanter things are happening, even in the thin ranks of science.

At a meeting of the Junior Scientific Club, Sylvanus P. Thompson gave ~~an informal address~~  
~~to which notes~~

a lecture on "Petrus Peregrinus and the Mariner's Compass in the Thir-

teenth Century". <sup>'One of the best lectures I have ever heard', Osler subsequently wrote,</sup>  
~~a delightful lecture given without notes,~~ in which Thompson

~~he~~ spoke of the mythical properties formerly ascribed to the loadstone

and the early references in the literature to the use of a floating

magnet as a means of directing a ship's course; of Peregrinus who

with John Peckham afterwards <sup>all</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury <sup>the</sup> are described

by Roger Bacon as the only two perfect mathematicians; <sup>by Peregrinus</sup> ~~how~~ <sup>of the first mention of the pivoted magnet</sup> and much else. <sup>all of which is</sup>  
~~how in 1269~~

<sup>association</sup> ~~mentioned~~ <sup>to a book in the library of the collection for the</sup>  
~~when serving under Charles of Anjou, Peregrinus had written a letter~~

~~concerning the magnet, to one Sigerus of Foucaucourt a soldier, which~~

~~contained a clear and accurate account of the properties of the magnet~~

~~and the first mention of the pivoted compass. Professor Thompson had~~

~~brought with him two manuscripts of the letter, several copies of which~~

~~contained a clear and accurate account of the properties of the magnet~~

~~and the first mention of the pivoted compass. Professor Thompson had~~

~~brought with him two manuscripts of the letter, several copies of which~~

<sup>privately printed</sup>  
to the copies of Professor Thompson's historical essay to be found in Osler's library, that in  
Gibbert's <sup>historical</sup> ~~historical~~ contains a presentation note bearing the date of March 7<sup>th</sup>  
which says: "To the

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*These are copies of*  
~~were already known to exist in the Bodleian. Of Professor Thompson's~~  
 several historical essays, <sup>that</sup> ~~one~~ on Gilbert the Physician (Chiswick Press,  
 MCMIII) in Osler's library, <sup>a presentation</sup> contains this note <sup>of March 7<sup>th</sup> saying</sup>

Merland, Chislett Road, West Hampstead.  
 Mar. 7, 1908.

Dear Professor Osler, "To the privilege of making your acquaintance last  
 evening <sup>[at Balliol]</sup> was added the pleasure of discovering that you are a good Gilbert-  
 ian. <sup>So</sup> I presume to offer you ~~two privately printed contributions to~~  
~~your library.~~ Yours most truly,

Silv<sup>s</sup> P. Thompson.

And on the fly-leaf Osler has written:

Thompson lectured at Balliol March 6, '08 and I sat next him at dinner  
 in Hall. We chatted about Gilbert, whose work in the Magnet he had edited.  
 T. lectured on Petrus Peregrinus, one of the best lectures I have ever  
 heard, and today ~~(March 10<sup>th</sup>)~~ he has sent me this and the companion volume,  
 which he has had privately printed.

In describing the formation of the Royal Society of Medicine, mention <sup>has been</sup>  
~~was~~ made of the oldest and most famous of the London societies, that founded  
 by Lettsom and Fothergill in 1773, which had held aloof from the amalgama-

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tion and preferred to retain its own individuality. Of the principles under which this old Society was founded, one was the promotion of pleasant social relations among medical men, whereby among other customs there is held annually a festive <sup>ad</sup> dinner. On March 11th Osler was present as a guest on this occasion, and reports of the after-dinner speeches relate ~~the fact~~ that he who had favoured amalgamation and Mr. Edmund Owen who had been one of its strong opponents, 'were both particularly happy in their combination of wit and wisdom.' Osler evidently made an appeal to his hearers not only to join the Royal Society but spoke of their duty toward the British Medical Association as well — <sup>a</sup> ~~This~~ <sup>which</sup> body <sup>much</sup> ~~of course~~ stands in the same relation to the general profession in Great Britain as does the American Medical Association in the country he had left, ~~and~~ <sup>sharing</sup> the two ~~have~~ similar failings and virtues. But as <sup>his</sup> ~~with the A. M. A.~~ <sup>in American days</sup> Osler chose to work with, rather than against the machine, and he had accepted a position <sup>with the B.M.A.</sup> as member of the Central Council, <sup>of the B.M.A. which</sup> ~~of the~~

<sup>accounts for his saying:</sup>  
B. M. A. he said on this occasion: "It may do things which you do not like, or do them in ways of which you do not approve, but that is no reason for keeping

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out of it; you should join it and help to have them altered. Those of you here who are consultants and on the medical and surgical staffs of the London hospitals, but do not belong to this Association, do justice neither to yourselves nor to the profession to which you belong."

The Antivivisection hearings by this time had been completed and the reports of the commissioners, containing Lord Justice Moulton's remarkable <sup>summation of</sup> ~~evidence~~ ~~regarding~~ the rights and wrongs of experimentation, had been published; but meanwhile in America the Rockefeller Institute had become the target of the antivivisectionists, as this note of March 24th to Flexner indicates.

Deuce take these women! why do you have them at the Institute at all? You are too soft hearted. It would be well to have Mr. Justice Moulton's evidence before the Vivisection Committee (just issued) published in the United States as a separate campaign pamphlet. It is too bad you should be having so much trouble. Here the anti people seem to have got into ill odour - at last!

94 Meanwhile at Oxford 'people were coming and going' - It has become a familiar phrase in Oxford circles. More

Some

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Meanwhile, as usual,

~~People were coming and going~~ These coming to <sup>England</sup> Oxford were as certain  
to hear from <sup>him</sup> Osler as those <sup>leaving for America</sup> going through, though as in the case of

William James, they occasionally side-stepped his offer of hospitality.\*

<sup>was to</sup>  
\*Professor James delivered the eight Hibbert Lectures at  
Manchester College. At the time he far from well, and, ~~in addi-~~ <sup>was</sup>  
~~tion,~~ suffering from 'the infernal nervous condition' that, he <sup>just now</sup>  
confessed, always accompanies literary production, and ~~only six~~  
of his eight lectures were ready. His impressions of Oxford  
appear in The Letters of William James, Atlantic Monthly Press,  
1920, Vol. II, p. 307.

In Osler's copy of "Pragmatism" this letter has been inserted:

From William James to W. O.

95 Irving Street,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts.  
April 3, '08.

My dear Osler, I thank you for your letter of March 24th, but listen to  
how it is with me! I find myself in a state of as bad nervous fatigue as I  
have ever been in my life, and that says a good deal. (Today, e.g., awake  
since 2.30, and had to stop work on my 5th lecture (out of 8) after two  
hours because of flushed head). Three-hour-long dinner-parties tire me  
badly; and if I succeed in getting thro my lectures themselves, I shall be  
lucky. This is not to com- but only to ex-plain why the notion of being  
"lionized" in any way whatever at Oxford strikes terror into my rabbit-like  
heart. So don't invite your London M.D.'s to meet me! All that I am good  
for under present conditions is a few more intimate talks with old (and new)  
Oxford friends. ~~Your offer to help in lodging us is ultra kind, but I have~~

<sup>two intellectual</sup>  
The Lecture is quoted for the opportunity of giving of Central Science to men who stand in a certain  
Kind of Society of Spirit. <sup>Osler could submit with undisturbedly to the unaccountable 'lecturing' which</sup>  
unavoidably forms a part of <sup>practicing his own kind of it and laying unceremonious hands</sup> foreign lecturers: whereas, the very theme <sup>such things as</sup> 15  
~~strict~~ <sup>but the more for Osler's offer in respect in a panic.</sup>

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~~already written to Principal Carpenter to look out for lodgings, so I won't  
tax you. Don't consider me churlish, for I aint! but believe me, with  
thanks and regrets, yours very sincerely,~~

~~Wm James.~~

His old friend of University College days, Sir Edward Schäfer, was  
planning a trip to America at this time, the Herter Lectures at the Johns  
Hopkins being a part of his programme; and on March 28th Osler writes:

What a grand tour! Do see poor Bowditch - I am afraid he has failed  
very rapidly, paralysis agitans. Dock at Ann Arbor is a special friend.  
I will write and tell him to look out for you. Stir them a bit in Montreal -  
I fear the bad times have prevented them rebuilding. You will see great  
changes in the country. Where do you stay in Toronto? Either of my bro-  
thers would be only too glad to put you up. I shall miss your lecture at  
the College as I am going to Vienna on the 4th. I had a letter from Jack  
the other day. Poor fellow! is is hard lines to be sent off so soon. Is  
Ruth with you? With love to all at home . . .

The trip to Vienna which he mentions was taken in company with his <sup>former</sup>  
~~friend~~ and pupil of Johns Hopkins days, Joseph H. Pratt, with the purpose of  
attending the annual German Kongress für Innere Medizin of which his friend



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von Müller of Munich was President for the year. He presented no paper, nor went in any official capacity but merely as an everyday onlooker, though he could hardly escape being dragged out of the audience from time to time to take a seat on the platform. They went to Vienna without stop, and Dr. Pratt's recollection is that he was <sup>in</sup>mersed most of the way in the very dull poems of Thomas Lovell Beddoes [1803-1849] in whom he had become interested and whose trail they expected <sup>Subsequently</sup> to follow to Basle in search of his grave, ~~after the meeting.~~ What had awakened his interest on the professional aspects of T. L. Beddoes's life rather than that of his father (a much more interesting person) is not apparent, but during the preceding month he had evidently been in correspondence regarding him <sup>mainly</sup> with Edmund Gosse who had recently republished Beddoes's poems and ~~his~~ letters, <sup>but</sup> and also with the Basle authorities, ~~evidently having the intention of writing something concerning him.~~

In an earlier chapter a quotation has already been taken from the

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long letter for publication which he subsequently wrote of this <sup>Vienna</sup> visit\*,

\*"Vienna after Thirty-four Years." Journal of the American Medical Association, May 9, 1908, 1, 1523.

resuming thereby his early habit of so doing when <sup>doing a visit to</sup> visiting foreign clinics.

In this letter he describes the sessions of the Congress, the social func-

tions, the old hospital which he revisited; and Dr. Pratt recalls that

on entering the old wards, at that time constituting von Neusser's <sup>clinic,</sup> he ex-

claimed, "Shades of Hippocrates! the same old place. Even the nurses

haven't changed." But there were plenty of contrasts to the old days, and

he describes what he calls a Queen-of-Sheba sensation on visiting the

first group of the new buildings of the Allgemeines Krankenhaus erected

at government expense, the most perfect of their kind in the world, well

worthy of the founder of the Vienna school; <sup>and of which he subsequently wrote that they made him despair of private institutions.</sup> and It is interesting to find <sup>observe that</sup>

<sup>he chaffed</sup> him <sup>forgetting</sup> foregathering with the younger men: Pick, Brauer, and Wenckebach; and <sup>that</sup>

Professor Max Neuburger the historian took him through the Vienna libraries.

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The Hofbibliothek [he writes] is unusually rich in manuscripts and early printed books. I was anxious to see the copy of "Christianismi Restitutio" of Michael Servetus, 1553, in which for the first time the lesser circulation is described. This is one of the only two known copies in existence. The entire edition was confiscated, and the author, at the time a practitioner in the little town of Vienne, near Lyons, fled for his life to Geneva. Here his heterodoxy was quite as obnoxious to Calvin, into whose hands he fell, and he was burnt at the stake in the same year. The "Restitutio" is one of the rare books of the world. Only two of the 1,000 copies known to have been printed have survived. The one in the Bibliothèque Nationale originally belonged to Dr. Mead, and the history is fully given in an appendix in Willis's work, "Servetus and Calvin." The Vienna copy is in excellent preservation, beautifully bound, and states on the title page that it came from the library of a Transylvanian gentleman living in London. It fell into the hands of Count de Izek, who presented it to the Emperor of Austria. It is a thick, small octavo of about 700 pages. The first one to give credit to Servetus for the discovery of the lesser circulation was Wotton, whose "Reflections Upon Learning, Ancient and Modern," 1694, is a most interesting book, for an introduction to which I have long been grateful to my friend, Dr. Norman Moore. The other work that I was most anxious to see was the famous manuscript of Dioscorides, prepared at the end of the fifth century for Julia, daughter of the Emperor Flavius. It is one of the great treasures of the library. Now to us in the West only a name, Dioscorides, an army surgeon of the time of Nero, fills a great place in the history of medicine, and is

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still an oracle in the Orient. He was not only a great botanist, but he was one of the first scientific students of pharmacology. Scores of fine editions of his work, with commentaries, were issued in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Two years ago this Vienna manuscript was reproduced in fac simile at Leyden. Though very expensive, the two volumes costing \$150, it is a work which all the larger libraries should get, and it is just the sort of present librarians should make our wealthy consultants feel it a privilege to give.\*

\*Of the important pages in the "Christianismi Restitutio" he had photographs made and they were subsequently used in his essay on Servetus, and also printed with pictures on a folio sheet printed at the Clarendon Press and distributed as "Christmas presents" to many friends.

A plan to have Mrs. Osler <sup>wrote him joined</sup> join him on the Continent <sup>was</sup> frustrated by

Revere's having an attack of measles, and he apparently gives up his search

for T. L. Beddoes's remains and is back by April 10th, when he writes McCrae:

Dear Mac. I have had a bully visit to Vienna - great town! (1) I have returned figures with legends. (2) Shirres has written giving up section. Ask Russell who could do it easily - but he will have to hustle. I have written - will you also write giving details? (3) I return heart proofs\*

\*Cf. paper with A. G. Gibson.

with corrections - not many. What splendid proof they send! What a fine programme of the Interurban. I hope we may have a good meeting at Edinboro. It is hard to stir the men up to much enthusiasm. Ike is well again. Love to the boys. Yours, W.O. You have never sent word as to the date. I am trying to settle sailing.

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And soon to J. H. Pratt, his compaignon de voyage, showing that <sup>of his will</sup> he has not completely abandoned T. ~~L.~~ Beddoes; ~~and~~ also, by the postscript, that ~~he~~ <sup>the Dictionary of Medicine Biggs has</sup> again has access to his set of the D. N. B. his friends long before had given him, <sup>in more or less</sup>

What a good visit we had. I found Tommy all right on my return. Let me hear how you are getting along. I shall expect you before the B. M. A. I quite expected to hear that you had gone to Charlottenberg! I wish you would look in the library <sup>for</sup> if there are Transactions of any Medical or Scientific Society of Gottingen for the years 1825-50. If so, will you look through the Index if there were any communications by Thomas Lovell Beddoes? Sincerely yours, W<sup>m</sup> OSLER. In 1832 he took his degree at Wurzburg - could you find if there is a list of U. theses of that date? 1836 Schonlein of Zurich proposed him as Prof. of Comp. Anatomy.

Though he continually used his young friends in this way, he lost no opportunity to do them good turns, ~~a typical example of this may be cited:~~ O. H. Perry Pepper one of the sons of his former Philadelphia colleague had published in an obscure local journal an article which came to his attention and he promptly wrote:

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Dear Perry Delighted to see your name - and associated with such a good bit of work. Send me a reprint. It is so nice to see the name kept up so worthily in the 3rd generation. My sincere regards to your mother & to Will. Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

This missive, though one to delight a young man's heart, is less noteworthy than the fact that in the next issue of the London Lancet\* there is

\*"A Case of Hodgkin's Disease with General Eosinophilia."  
Lancet, April 25, 1908, i, 1226 (unsigned).

a long 'Annotation' called <sup>it</sup> especial attention to <sup>Dr. Phipps</sup> the article, which was ~~res-~~  
~~eued from oblivion.~~ Little unexpected acts of kindness of this sort, the  
possibility of which <sup>so many people</sup> others recognize but rarely pursue, represented his  
normal reaction - done quickly and on impulse. Countless illustrations  
could be cited. Mention has been made of his visit to the Swansea Hospital  
in August of 1907 and of his having made some new acquaintances while there:  
& Miss Price the house physician, and Dr. Frank G. Thomas her chief. Among the  
many brief notes <sup>these</sup> they two subsequently received from him and still treasure -

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encouraging and helpful letters on subjects in which they were separately interested - there came one of kindly banter on learning of their engagement.

24th [April]

Dear Miss Price Cruel girl! deliberately to divert an innocent young man from the Minervan path! And think of your wasted life! and of the loss to the profession! and the bad example you set to female medical students! and the worse example to young female graduates! and the distrust you have engendered in Hospital Committees! and the suspicion and apprehension such lapses arouse in the minds of the staff! Altogether your conduct seems most reprehensible. and yet! how natural! Wishing you every happiness,  
Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler.

He writes, April 27th, that, "We are in the depths of winter - a furious storm and yesterday about a foot of snow." The man 'uninfluenced by weather' meanwhile must have been putting the finishing touches on his Linacre Lecture\* delivered May 6th at St. John's College, Cambridge. *It will be*

\*The Linacre Lectureship was instituted by Thomas Linacre, Physician to King Henry VIII, founder and first President of the Royal College of Physicians. By a deed, dated 19th August, 1524, to which Thomas Linacre, Cuthbert of Tunstall, Bishop of London, Sir Thomas More, Under-Treasurer of England, Dr. John Stokesley, D.P., and William Shelley, Serjeant at Law and the College were parties, the College

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covenanted to found a 'lecture of physicks' in the College. Linacre stated that by his will he had bequeathed to the College a house called the Belle and Lanthorne in Adling Street besides Baynard Castle in London; he also gave the sum of £221:13:4 for the purchase of land. Originally the lectureship extended over a four-year period, but Osler's appointment was a new departure in that for the first time it was devoted 'to invite annually a man of mark to give a single lecture on the same general plan as the Rede Lectureship,' likewise on an old foundation going back to Linacre's time.

It will be remembered that there looked down on him from the panel over his mantel the triumvirate of Linacre, Sydenham and Harvey, in each of whom he held an unflinching interest, and much correspondence had just passed with Lionel Cust, ~~and~~ Sidney Colvin and others, in his effort to trace the authentic portraits of Linacre. It was inevitable that he should have chosen Linacre himself as his subject - a man who appealed to him not only as a physician but as a humanist.

After <sup>a review of</sup> ~~reviewing~~ Linacre's life, Osler dealt with him first as a Medical Humanist, a ~~term previously used by S. F. Payne,~~ <sup>and</sup> then of him as a Grammarian, recalling Fuller's comment: "It is questionable whether he was a better Grammarian or Physician;" and in this connection <sup>he</sup> ~~Osler~~ mentioned why, since boyhood, he had been <sup>anathematizing</sup> ~~cursing~~ Protagoras:



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Fed to inanition on the dry husks of grammar and with bitter school-boy memories of Farrar on the Greek verb, I can never pick up a text-book on the subject without a regret that the quickening spirit of Greece and Rome should have been for generations killed by the letter with which alone these works are concerned. It has been a great comfort to know that neither 'Pindar nor Aeschylus had the faintest conception of these matters and that neither knew what was meant by an adverb or preposition or the rules of the moods and tenses,' (Gompezz). And to find out who invented parts of speech and to be able to curse Protagoras by his Gods has been a source of inexpressible relief. But even with these feelings of hostility I find it impossible to pick up this larger work of Linacre without the thrill that stirs one at the recognition of successful effort - of years of persistent application. No teacher had had such distinguished pupils - Prince Arthur, the Princess Mary, Sir Thomas More, and Erasmus, the greatest scholar of the age.

He went on to quote what Erasmus had said of Linacre, and suggested that he was the hero in Browning's poem, "The Grammarian's Funeral" - a suggestion with which Dr. Payne subsequently agreed. From this he proceeded to speak of the Linacre Foundation:

"The Lady Margaret," whose glorious monument is your college, had already established her Divine professorships, but with these exceptions Linacre's bequests are memorable as the first attempts to endow University teaching. Centuries had to pass before the fulfilment of the wish which

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his practical mind had in this way indicated. Meanwhile through the centuries the collegiate tail continued to wag the University dog, and to this day in Oxford at least the higher faculties remain to a great extent unorganized and under the control of the Masters of Arts. The system has worked well for the squire but badly for learning, admirably for the schoolmaster and the parson, but badly for the nation since it permitted the old Universities to sleep on for years after science had cried her message from the house-tops - awake! awake! for the light has come!

The foundations were made in Linacre's lifetime, but the Diploma Regium, dated the 12th of October, 1524, was issued only eight days before his death. Provision was made for two lectureships at Oxford and one at Cambridge, 'dutifully his respect to his mother, double above his aunt,' as Fuller says. There is nothing upon which to base the statement that Linacre had affiliations of any kind with Cambridge. Caius makes it, but there is no other reference. No doubt it was simply the act of a wise old man to encourage the study and teaching of medicine.

He went on to tell of the fate of these two lecture endowments at Cambridge and at Oxford, where indeed the foundation had been 'the least happy of the five distinct attempts made to further medical studies in Oxford.'

~~And Dr. J. F. Payne's comments upon this in a subsequent letter, discussing Osler's~~

~~lecture, may serve to give a plain-spoken idea of the matter from the pen~~

~~of another.~~

*And this was not at all in accord with what William Jones had  
- not at all the spirit with which William Jones had  
written was writ to Charles that note: "He who follows of learning  
is in for all the improvements! The world can afford to keep his one  
of first unreformed. If there an Occasion in spite of my radicalism  
seriously, I might vote against all change there"*

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The history of the Linacre foundations is certainly a melancholy one. At Cambridge thirty years ago the income of the Trust was very small indeed, though it seems to have been increased by a sale of the property. At Oxford they had the money but used it for other purposes. The same tale is true, with variations of the other medical foundations, and you are quite right in attributing it largely to the tyranny of the Colleges and the Obscurantism of the Dons in the eighteenth century. But the Reformers and supposed promoters of the Medical School were also much to blame. They feared nothing so much as a possible attempt to teach Medicine in Oxford and hence tried to apply medical endowments to Natural Science, as being they thought more useful. Acland prided himself greatly on having turned the Lee's Readership from Human Anatomy to what he always called Anatomy: i.e. Comparative Anatomy and Biology. It was his influence which led the Dons and Royal Commissioners to think Medicine and Human Anatomy useless or impracticable as Studies in Oxford; and that their endowments ought to be applied to Natural Science. They very nearly abolished the Regius Professorship in order to found a Professorship of Physiology; but there Acland would not agree; and fortunately the chair was preserved - though only to be threatened again quite lately.

Oxford in May. "The invasion is in full swing," he writes. "We shall have a roaring term from this on. We are getting settled by degrees. The garden is lovely and the bare walls of the new part of the house are

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gradually being covered. Grace has managed so well - she's really wasted  
in a house and should run a summer hotel. Revere is well & happy - inter-  
ested in cricket, not much of a student. Kiss the darlings for me."

*his correspondence*  
During all this time, ~~in the~~ <sup>his correspondence</sup> ~~Humphrey Milford~~ <sup>deeper</sup> ~~travels~~, ~~Revere was engaged~~  
He was actively engaged meanwhile with the furtherance of the Oxford

medical publications which had been inaugurated by the issuance of the

<sup>a</sup> Quarterly Journal. Mr. Humphrey Milford states that:

*was much*  
Very soon after our modest beginning, with a series of Manuals and a  
*and soon* few monographs, we had the opportunity of purchasing Mr. Young J. Pentland's  
*was seized* business, comprising among other important books, Cunningham's Text-book  
of Anatomy, his Manual of Anatomy, Muir and Robertson's Manual of Bacter-  
*and* iology, Thomson and Miles's Surgery, etc.; and Osler helped us very much  
*This business took a better business to war*  
*a frequent visitor to Allen Corner. This business took him. This business brought him into*  
by warmly supporting our view of the importance of the books and the de-  
*close relations with the representatives of the Press at Allen Corner, when he was a frequent visitor*  
sirability of seizing the opportunity.

*This may have been  
Allen. Trade was  
rather better. But  
1915 - maybe later.*

He was always glad to see at Oxford either myself or Mr. E. (now Sir Ernest) Hodder Williams and Dr. J. K. Murphy our then medical editor who died during the war as the result of exposure while on active service as a naval surgeon; and we never came away without having received valuable advice and fruitful suggestions! . . .

*London*  
*to in London -*  
*the representatives of the Press at Allen Corner -*  
Close relations with Mr. Humphrey Milford, Mr. E. (now Sir Ernest) Hodder Williams and  
*Subsequently*  
Dr. J. K. Murphy who died in active service as a naval surgeon in the war; and it  
*was unusual* was unusual for him to be in town without bringing them a <sup>copy</sup> or for them in turn  
*his dropping in at Allen Corner*  
to miss seeing him in Oxford and as Mr. Milford writes "we p"

*At the time of his visit*  
 When ~~he~~<sup>Oster</sup> had been in Cardiff ~~two~~<sup>three</sup> years before, he had made his usual  
 provocative appeal to the well-to-do members of the community to come to  
 the support of the local hospital - an appeal which seems to have borne  
 fruit. In any event, money had subsequently been raised to build a model  
 out-patient department for the Infirmary, and naturally enough <sup>he</sup> Oster was  
 invited to give the dedicatory address, at which time he was presented  
 with a suitably inscribed key to commemorate the occasion. He spoke\*

\*An account of his remarks appears in a special number of  
 the British Medical Journal, June 20, 1908, devoted to a variety  
 of hospital questions.

on "The Functions of an Out-patient Department," saying that he had  
 haunted out-patient departments for years and had a special interest in  
 them from the standpoint of a teacher. And he dwelt particularly on  
 what should be the relation of this department of a hospital to the busy  
 general practitioner who might regard it as a rival, <sup>but</sup> and for whom it  
 should really play the part of consultant when dealing with his poorer

patients, <sup>when they were</sup> ~~and~~ in need of a second opinion. And in his concluding paragraph he emphasizes that the hospital should become an integral part of the university system. "After all," he said, "it is a great laboratory in which should collect for rectification the experiments which Nature makes upon us. A study of diseases is just as much a part of university work as is mathematics, and the close affiliation of the two institutions is the best guarantee of that combination of science with practice which it is the right of people at the present day to demand." This sentiment was picked up by Principal Griffiths when it came his turn to thank the speaker, and the statement was made that the Infirmary had been under a cloud for some years and out of a community of half a million there were only four hundred on its subscription list. Whereupon Osler replied:

"If all this has been done <sup>with</sup> ~~whilst~~ the Infirmary was under a cloud what are you going to do when you come out into the sunshine? Four hundred out of half a million! Well, Abraham would have thought that a pretty high percentage!"

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To J. Y. W. MacAlister from W. O.

May 21, 1908.

Dear MacAlister: I am just back from Cardiff and find your telegram and letter. I was depending upon a mutual friend who said he would let me know at once when Mr. Morgan returned. Instead of the ordinary typewritten letter I thought it would be much better to send him a statement in print and I enclose you a proof in which you will see there are a number of lacunae. Please look over it and return at your earliest convenience. I will write at once and ask for an appointment for [Sir William] Church and myself. I have had a long letter from Kinnicut, a warm personal friend of J.P.M., who had already written to him. I am afraid it will be hard to push matters. From what his friend says, he is not a man to be hurried in these matters. He brooded some months over the Harvard bequest. . . .

*Spared no pains to gain the support for*  
*entirely* *entire* *of people*  
Thus he ~~endeavoured to interest in~~ worthy causes ~~his American friends~~

who were well-to-do. One of them, Henry Phipps, who was at this time becoming interested in the establishment of a Psychiatric Clinic at the Johns Hopkins, apparently prods him with an article on a tabooed subject. "Thanks so much for the article," he replies, "but it gives only one side. An equally striking one could be written on what the world would have gained if certain distinguished men had stopped writing at 40. It would perhaps have been very much better for the reputation of some of us - for example for myself!"

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*Meanwhile he was* *forgot for*  
 During ~~all this time he has~~ by no means ~~forgotten~~ his old American  
 friends. Earlier in the year he had put Weir Mitchell in train to secure  
 the 'Edward Jenner' inkstand, into which for the next sixteen years he  
 dipped his inspired pen; and now he writes him, "Saturday 23rd" of some-  
 thing else:

I cabled you on Friday that you had been elected a Foreign Fellow  
 of the Royal Society. I am delighted. Brunton suggested it two years  
 ago but your name was not brought forward. Ferrier is on the Council  
 this year and with his support and Rose-Bradford's you went thro. swim-  
 mingly. It was between you & Ehrlich, I believe. There are only four  
 or five Americans on the list, - Agassiz, Geo Hill, Michelson, Newcomb  
 & Pickering. It will be most gratifying to all your friends, and is a  
 most welcome recognition in this country of your great services to science.  
 You will get of course official notification, but as the formal election  
 has to be made by the Fellows at a meeting I added in my cable not to  
 make any announcement before you hear. I was greatly pleased as at the  
 last meeting a few weeks ago the general impression was that Ehrlich would  
 have the nomination. Drop a line to [David] Ferrier who has been most  
 kind in the matter. Much love to Mrs Mitchell & Jack.

Nor has he forgotten the Maryland 'Faculty', <sup>*just now*</sup> ~~who are~~ struggling to raise



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which was to have a hall bearing his name and where his  
 money for a new building, a portion of which was to be devoted to dedi-  
 cate a hall to bear his name, in which a portrait was to be hung. On

June 2nd he writes to the Librarian:

Dear Miss Noyes: What an aggravation to have the appropriation cut one half! Isn't it distressing! Still, the greater the discouragement the greater should be the effort, and after all when one thinks what the library was when your feminine feebleness took hold of it and what it is now, we have a great deal to be thankful for. I am so sorry to hear that your sister is worse again. It must be a terrible trial to you. I wondered why I should be feeling and looking so much better lately, but it is no doubt the telepathic influence of the improvement which Corner has made in the portrait. I hope to spend a couple of weeks in Baltimore in October. Give your sister my kindest regards. Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

On June 19th came the second meeting of the new Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, which was held in Edinburgh, where he presented a paper;\* but this was only incidental to something ~~still~~ more *excellent than*

\*"Chronic Infectious Endocarditis." Quarterly Journal of Medicine, Jan. 1909, 219-30.

~~important~~ <sup>thing</sup> which happened in Edinburgh, as is evidenced by the following

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letter which was accompanied by another from the Rectorial Representation  
Committee consisting of about forty students of the various faculties of  
the University, who had appointed a committee to <sup>Call</sup>~~see~~ upon him.

From Dr. Norman <sup>Walker</sup> Meere to W. O.

7, Manor Place, Edinburgh,  
June 11th.

Dear Osler, I understand that you are to be waited upon tomorrow by  
a deputation of students who will ask you to permit your name to be put  
forward as a candidate for the Lord Rectorship of the University [to suc-  
ceed Lord Haldane]. They tell me they are confident that they have enough  
backing to ensure your election. Though I would rather have had you in  
the University in another capacity I shall be glad to see you in any, and I  
am sure you would be very warmly welcomed by the medical profession here.  
Aberdeen and St. Andrews have elected their Rectors on non-political lines  
and though it grieves me to reflect that your views on the Tariff differ  
from mine it is not on political grounds that you are approached. . . .

~~Yours very truly,~~

~~Norman Walker.~~

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*dating back to 1859*

In the long history of these triennial contests such a thing had only hap-  
pened two or three times before, that a non-party candidate should stand for  
the Lord Rectorship - John Ruskin in 1862 had done so and come within 183  
votes of election, while in 1871 Thomas Carlyle won by a large majority over  
Lord Beaconsfield. *These* politicians had come to regard *them* the Edinburgh and Glasgow-

*though these*

Rectorial elections *which* lie in the hands of the undergraduates, as a poli-  
tical weathervane, *and the contests are supported by funds from the party organizations.*  
*with an independent* and only once before had there been such a thing as a tri-  
angular contest. Osler's entry into the field was a gamble but the medical

vote was strong and it all depended upon how high the party feeling should  
run between the two other candidates already in the field, neither of whom  
was over-popular - the Rt. Hon. George Wyndham supported by the *Unionists* University,  
and the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill by the Liberals. Political feeling did  
run high, and Osler was defeated, but it was by no means a one-sided  
election, as will be seen. He made a good run for his money - or for

his brother's money, for, as it was an expensive business, Sir Edmund foot-

*of the room*

ed the campaign bills; and *he* may at least have been *the* satisfaction of knowing

to him to know that "Osler forever", painted over the portal of one.

*painted*  
*there on the walls of the house in Lindsay Place where were the Conservative (Wyndham's)*  
*at this election,*  
*headquarters* there is still plainly to be seen, despite some scumming, "Vote for Osler" and  
*Draw with Wyndham* which show that the Oslerites had successfully stormed the  
premises of their chief opponents, but this is anticipated during the "Fog"

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~~of the University buildings was legible for many months in spite of~~

~~much scrubbing.~~

It was some time before his candidacy <sup>was made public</sup> is mentioned

in his letters and <sup>in many letters</sup> it is evident from others to him that he looked

into the matter fully with the help of G. A. Gibson and others in Edin-

burgh before his <sup>candidacy</sup> decision was made public. ¶ Meanwhile there were ex-

aminations to hold in Oxford which, as usual, laid him <sup>low with a cold</sup> up in bed and

gave him the <sup>opportunity</sup> chance he always grasped to catch up on his reading and

to write many letters, while propped on pillows, his pad on his knee.

Thus to H. B. Jacobs:

13, Norham Gardens,  
23rd [June]

Dear Jacobs Many thanks for the Walt Whitman which came today and looks most interesting. Did you read Bliss Perry? He seems to have put the old man's case before the world as the old man himself would have liked - in the nothing-extenuate style. We are having a glorious summer - such days! and the country is at its best. Our garden begins to look so well & we are dining on the terrace, living there in fact. These are busy days - such an invasion for the Encænia & commemoration week! We must have had 75 people on Sunday afternoon - all sorts & conditions. The Torrey-Linzee-Weld combination arrived last week - partly here & in part at the King's Arms. Raymond came this afternoon. He gets an honorary

and see Chapman

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degree tomorrow. I could not go to his entente cordiale lecture yesterday as the examiners were here. Dick Cabot spent four days with us & I took him to Edinburgh to the Ass. of Phy. of Gt. Britain. He is seeing London under the best of auspices & is enjoying it so much. The prospects for visitors from this side to Washington [for the Tuberculosis Congress] is brightening. Woodhead is going and he mentioned a half-dozen good men. Ireland & Scotland are to send separate representatives. Is it not splendid about Mr. Phipps' gift of a Psychopathic clinic? Welch cabled - I see in the paper £200,000 is mentioned, but I can hardly hope it is so large a sum. He arrived in London yesterday. He dines with me on the 1st at the Darwin-Wallace Commemoration - 50th anniversary of the reading of the abstract of the Origin of Species! Love to Mrs Jacobs. Ever yours,

Wm Osler.

In all probability the conferring of the D.Sc. at this Encænia upon Professor J. Raymond of the Salpêtrière was at his instigation. There was good reason to foster the entente cordiale\*, and it may be noted that at

\*Just at this time there had been a deputation of two hundred French physicians sent over to London. The sixth edition of Osler's Text-book, moreover, had just appeared in a French translation with a preface by Pierre Marie. It was his first real introduction to the French profession. As was then said, "his exceptional knowledge of pure English and ability to say exactly what he meant in plain and well-balanced phrases made possible its almost exact transposition into French." In Oxford as in Baltimore and Montreal, Osler was continually drubbing into the students the necessity of acquiring a working knowledge of French and German, which became so noised about that a long editorial in the British Medical Journal, Sept. 26, 1908, deals with his position on the subject.

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Aet. 59.

this time the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George, received a D.C.L. and was considerably heckled by the light-hearted students in the Sheldonian galleries. "Hello, David, what about Pudsey?" "When am I to expect my pension?" etc.

July was as crowded as May and June had been, with meetings. As promised in the last letter to Jacobs, he took Mr. Phipps to the Darwin-Wallace Commemoration at the Linnean Society and has left the following note of this occasion in the copy of the Journal of the Proceedings of the Society (Vol. III, No. 9, 1858) containing the joint communication of Darwin and Wallace - a volume long sought, which was finally added to his library February 28, 1915.

I owe this number to the kindness of my colleague Prof. Poulton. For years I have been on the lookout for it, but could never find a separate copy and I did not care to buy a whole series. I had again written to Southeran on Feb. 26th asking him to search once more, but I met P. that day, and remembering his close association with the Linnean Society I asked him to see if there were extra copies in the library. The next day he sent me the numbers for 1858 and the memorial volume. I have had this number bound separately as containing the two most fruitful contributions

to science made in the 19th century, contributions which have revolutionized modern thought.

The memorial meeting [at the Linnean Society] in 1908 was intensely interesting, particularly to see and to hear such veterans as Hooker and Wallace. It was a memorable occasion. I remember how Sir John Lubbock (Lord Avebury) recalled 'the astonishment and indignation with which the principles promulgated in the Joint Memoir and in the "Origin of Species" by which it was succeeded, were received.'

I only saw Darwin once. During the winter of 1872-3 his son Francis worked at the table next to me in Burdon-Sanderson's laboratory at University College. Several times in the spring he talked of taking me to Down for the week-end, but his father was ailing. It was, I think, the next spring, I mean in '74, that I saw him at the Royal Society reception (?). He spoke much of Principal Dawson of McGill, for whose work on fossil botany he had a great regard. I remember how pleased I was that he should have asked after Dr. Dawson. He was a most kindly old man, of large frame, with great bushy beard and eyebrows. W. O.

On July 2nd came the meeting of the National Tuberculosis Association, <sup>where</sup> ~~to which~~ he likewise planned to take Mr. Phipps, to whom he writes: "I will call for you at 3:10 sharp unless I have a line from you at the Athenaeum Club that you are engaged. You will be interested in Lady Aberdeen's account of the struggle in Ireland." Mr. Phipps apparently was engaged, for on the 4th Osler writes again to the effect that "she said in her remarks that among the

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things which had stimulated them to take up the work was the Reports from the Phipps Institute. I have sent the cheque to her. I am sure she will appreciate highly your practical support." Meanwhile he was <sup>busily</sup> getting Mr. Phipps in touch with <sup>a</sup> Kröepelön in Munich and other continental psychiatrists, so that he might get first-hand information in regard to his new clinic.

*of the British Medical Association*

Later in the month came the B.M.A. meeting in Sheffield where he was scheduled to participate in two important sessions; one a discussion of medical education, the other a symposium on splenomegaly, a subject already identified with his name. Mrs. Osler meanwhile writes from Oxford: "If I survive July I shall be glad." She must have felt as did the darkie who said he had always noticed that if he got through March he'd live the rest of the year. On July 4th she writes: "I have just started the girls and Sallie, Miss N. & Revere off to Ewelme and am motoring over for them tomorrow. Monday they go to Warwick and Stratford. . . . Our garden is really lovely - most wonderful Canterbury bells and stocks. People coming in to see them. The tennis court draws young men every afternoon which makes it nice for Marian & Elizabeth. The weather has been simply wonderful - no rain in London for three weeks - an almost unheard of thing. Revere is making wonderful progress at cricket - much to his Dad's



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delight - it will be a help at Winchester. We were there for the pageant last Sat - the School is enchanting," etc. And on July 10th in a letter to Mrs. Robert Brewster Osler himself admits that:

We have been very busy - all sorts & conditions of people have been here, but it has been very good fun and fortunately Mrs Osler likes the racket. It sometimes is a little too much for me. I am now torn in twain - America in September or a break for the winter, a real holiday in Italy? I have not had a year off - ever, and I feel it is about time, but it cannot be settled for a few weeks. If I decide to take a long holiday I shall not come out until the spring. It will be a great disappointment as I have been looking forward to a peaceful visit, and an introduction to Sylvia. Please do not mention my possible change of plans as I am slated for Washington & the Tuberculosis Congress at the end of September. I wish you could see our garden - such a joy & the weather has been superb. Day after day we have dined on the terrace. Revere is so well & very happy - butterflies & moths, fish & cricket, not too much study, fill out his days. You will be amused at the enclosed. I was in Edinburgh a few weeks ago and was surprised to have a deputation from all the faculties asking me to stand for the Lord Rectorship. The students elect. 'Tis a purely honorary office, only a few rectorial addresses. Send the slip on to Uncle Ned. . .

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July saw no let-up in the invasion at the 'Open Arms.' Toward the end of the month they indulged for the first time in a motor, though it was not a form of progression in which Mrs. Osler took pleasure. On a postcard stamped August 2nd, he writes:

I send you my Linacre lecture today. We are having the most wonderful summer - such sunshine. The garden is splendid. The hotel is in full swing. We have had such a nice set of old friends. Roddick and his wife left yesterday. We are off to Scotland in the motor on the 5th. I have just got back from the British Med. Assoc. at Sheffield. Isaac is off fishing for a couple of days with some boys.

The following letter to Mrs. Brewster accounts for the ensuing two weeks of August:

Logan's Low Wood Hotel,  
Windemere. 21st [August]

Dear Mabel A week in this glorious country - & no rain - has made me feel that I should like to stay here for ever. We have had such a happy time - our first long motor trip. We went up the great north road to Scotland. Revere had been promised trout fishing in the Fleet in Kirkcubright which took us into the Guy Mannerling & Crockett country It was most interesting. I did not know that the Highlands came so low in Scotland - i.e.: (to explain an Irishism) so far south. We had glorious weather

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not a drop of rain for two weeks. The river was so low & clear that the trout winked at Revere & passed the time of day with his flies. We made excursions all about the country - & saw all that is left of Ellangowan & peeped into Dirk's cave - I have got him (R.) interested in Scott & it was most instructive to visit the places mentioned in the novels. We have been for a week at the English Lakes. I send you a p.c. of Wordsworth's cottage at Grassmere and a sprig of heather from the mound in the garden of his house at Rydal Mount. His granddaughter most kindly showed us all the treasures of the house and allowed us to roam about the garden & enjoy the wonderful views. I am not surprised that he & nature were akin. Such surroundings! We have seen them under most favourable circumstances - beautiful clear skies and everything so fresh and green. Yesterday we saw the great Northern Olympia at Grassmere where the Westmorland & Cumberland men have their famous wrestling matches. It is held in a natural amphitheatre amid the hills & one famous feature is the guides' race up one of the mountains - the 25 men could be seen scrambling up the rocks. We return via North Wales. . .

I have decided not to come out, this year - we have about settled upon a winter abroad & I shall hope to finish my long holiday in America in the spring. It is a great disappointment to me I had looked forward with such pleasure to a visit at Lenox. I hope Sylvia is all right again - give her a kiss for me. By the way I do not approve of the summer house on Long Island - it would be very much better for you all to be on the Dorset coast within easy motoring distance of Oxford. We lunched today at a charming

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house high up on the hills near Ambleside which a sensible American woman has had for 3 summers in succession She moves in June 15 - leaves Sept 15. Servants all there & no ordering, no worries. Her husband tramps the moors all day with the children, while she stores up energy enough to carry her thro nine months of active life at home. Love to all your people - & to R. B. Affectionately yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

~~It must have been on this trip that the plans for their ensuing winter abroad~~ <sup>These</sup> <sup>to spend the</sup>  
~~were laid~~ <sup>during this entire</sup> <sup>were apparently decided upon during the trip and soon</sup>  
Soon after his return he must have interviewed the Vice-Chancellor

Sir Herbert Warren, and asked his colleague Arthur Thomson to act as his deputy.

13, Norham Gardens,  
August 27th

Dear Thomson Will you play D.R.P.M. again this year? After 34 years with the harness on I am going to steal a winter, and the V.C. consents. Everything is going smoothly - and you 'know the ropes' better than I do. Of course you would take the Stipend - minus the Ewelme. It would be nice if you could arrange to present the men - could you not have an ad eundem. It looks very awkward to have the presentations made by a man who is not a member of the faculty, I hope to spend the winter in France and Italy - playing diabolio and studying medicine. Love to the three girls. Yours sincerely,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

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Dead as Oxford might be during the summer, one hotel at least kept full while its proprietor laboured over the seventh revision of his Text-book, as is apparent from another letter to H. B. Jacobs.

16th [September]

Dear Jacobs I am really desolated not to be at the Congress. I know I shall miss a great deal and there will be so much of interest. Keep an eye on Dr. Charles Williams who is a good old soul; also Stafford of Dublin; Newsholme, too, is a very good fellow. I am so sorry Bulstrode could not come as he is one of the best. I have been very busy trying to get the revision of my text-book ready by Oct. 1st, and finishing an article for Allbutt's system.\* We have had an interesting relay of visitors. Coll

\*He had two chapters in Allbutt and Rolleston's System of Medicine, vol. VI, 1909: the chapter on Aneurysm, and with Arthur Keith on Stokes-Adams Disease. He was also preparing his three chapters for Vol. VI of his own System (Modern Medicine) published with McCrae. These were attacked while in Paris, later on.

Warren and his boy, John, were here for five days; Anders & his wife; J. William White; Keen comes tomorrow. You will have my Alabama Student very soon. The University Press has published it. I am sending it from the New York House. Mac is settled today - he is getting a good wife. I wish we could have been with them. . . I am off Oct. 1st. Brown, Shipley, Paris, will be my address. Mrs Osler will join me in about a fortnight after she gets Revere settled at the School. He has had a very good

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summer & adds every week to his collection of butterflies and moths.

. . . I am glad the Faculty Building is in sight. The reading room should certainly be called after Charles Frick and a nice tablet should state how much W. Frick did for the Library. Love to you both.

Yours sincerely,

Wm Osler.

That he was 'desolated' at missing the International Congress on Tuberculosis which opened in Washington, September 21st, is no exaggeration. The part he had played in 1904, making it possible, has already been told.\*

\*The Congress under Lawrence F. Flick's direction as Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, was held under most favourable auspices and with strong governmental backing. Mr. Roosevelt consented to be honorary President with Trudeau the President, and many of Osler's friends: William H. Welch, A. Jacobi, V. Y. Bowditch, the Surgeon General and others as Chairmen of the several sections.

At this time, Dr. Adolphus Knopf of New York, one of the active participants in the crusade against tuberculosis, had been victimized by a yellow journal which, garbling an address he had made, accused him of recommending that consumptives be killed off with morphine and that he himself followed this practice. Knopf asked for a retraction of the statement, which was ignored and a suit followed. Osler's reaction to this is indicated in the two

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following letters - the first to Dr. Joseph Walsh of the Phipps Institute.

13, Norham Gardens,  
Sept. 22nd.

Dear Walsh: I have been much interested in your papers in the last Phipps Institute Report. What good work you are doing there! I know it is a great satisfaction to Mr. Phipps. I have recently had all the papers sent to me about the Knopf suit against the North American newspaper. I had no idea that he had been so outrageously slandered. I do hope that, if the suit comes on, the profession of Philadelphia will support him loyally, and particularly all of you at the Phipps Institute, who are more directly interested in the disease. Your brother keeps us busy reading his interesting books. What a genius he has for this sort of work! His "Thirteenth Century" is delightful reading. . . .

And a few days later one of a succession of letters <sup>Sent</sup> to encourage the victim

of the slander, in some of which he uses profanity, <sup>an</sup> ~~which was~~ <sup>thing</sup> unusual for him,

reads as follows:

Dear Knopf That is an admirable letter - I do hope they will accept your terms but I doubt it. Really the irresponsibility of the Press is disgraceful & the only way to rouse a sense of decency is to touch their pockets. It must have been a most prejudicial thing for you and all the worry & annoyance must have been most distressing. Do not let him bull-doze you.

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This is a matter for the profession - we are all personally interested. I should be glad to start a subscription with \$100 to help pay your expenses to fight it. I am sure we could get a substantial sum. I am not coming out in Sept. I am starting a sabbatical year for study &c. on the continent and I must make all my arrangements before I leave. With best wishes - Do let me hear how you get on.

And again, he says: "No compromise! Fight it out and we will try and arouse the profession to pay your expenses. I will write a strong letter to the Journal of the Association urging the active coöperation of all interested in fair play. You have been outrageously treated and any decent judge would give you large damages. After all you have done to stimulate public interest in the tuberculosis campaign it's a damned shame that such a worry should come to interfere with your work."

*H.B. Jacobs:*

Later in the month he writes, "Oct. 1st I am off to Paris where I hope to spend 3 mos - then on to Lyons Montpe llier & the North Italian towns - & so south & possibly sail from Naples in May to get over in time for the Ass. of Am. Phys. Tommy will remain here at school and Mrs. Osler will join me in Paris



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about the middle of October - I have just finished revising my Text-book, &c."

It was characteristic of him unceremoniously to walk out of the house on October 1st with nothing but a bag in his hand, as though prepared for a week-end sojourn rather than the long absence necessary to secure a 'thorough brain-dusting.' Reaching Paris, he rummaged about for an apartment, staying meanwhile at a hotel where he was nearly devoured by mosquitoes during a very hot spell. Then came <sup>a windfall -</sup> ~~out of a clear sky~~ a furnished apartment at 44 Avenue d'Jena belonging to the niece of one of their friends, who chanced to be in America for the winter. <sup>Knowledge of this he concealed from Mrs. Osler who</sup> Mrs. Osler had joined him on October 13th; ~~but he did not~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~let her know of the windfall~~ told her, in fact, that it was impossible to get anything at all so that he had taken rooms at a hotel. Not suspecting any mischief, in spite of his cheerfulness, they gave up their keys at the place he had been staying and drove off 'lickety cut' to their new abode; and when she remarked that it did not resemble a hotel, he said that it was only a private entrance, took her up in the lift, and ushered her into the place with its beautiful library, servants, and all else provided, before she knew that she had been fooled.

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A well earned winter of actual freedom - the first he had had in which to pursue his own inclinations since his appointment to the Institutes of Medicine at McGill in 1874; but however free, he was by no means idle, as his letters indicate. ~~They show, too, that though there is a constant accession of new friends and acquaintances in his life, they do not efface his old ones, even those of his school-boy days.~~ On October 15th <sup>he writes</sup> to his former pupil Dr.

Laurason Brown at Saranac:

44 Ave. d'Jena, Paris.  
15th.

Dear Brown Congratulations on the Tb. <sup>No.</sup> ~~No.~~ of the Out Door Life - excellent, & Trudeau's introduction is fine. Give him my love. I am sorry not to have been with you all, but as I dare say you have heard, I am off for a long holiday, first here for three months & then on to Italy. When are you coming over - do not delay You need a good rest & you deserve it. I hope to be out in May Nothing here has begun, so I am devoting myself to the Libraries. How is your collection getting on? It is nice to see that the Journal has been so successful You must often be hard put for contributors. I feel a pig to have failed, you but I have been over head & ears in work - chapters for Allbutt's System, my text-book & my own System. I hear very nice things said of your articles over here. Love to all my old friends.

Ever yours,

Wm Osler.

<sup>3rd Series</sup>  
# Vol 1 was issued by the publisher Dec. 5 1908  
and contained nothing by W.O. Osler's name.

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And on the same day he writes to H. B. Jacobs:

I have been thinking a great deal of 'you all' & the Congress. I knew it would be a great success and you have had a splendid foreign representation. The meetings were fairly well reported & the Koch episode very fully. It is strange that he still clings to his views in spite of all the overwhelming evidence against him. In the Figaro there was a growl from one of the Frenchman about the bad arrangements for the meetings, but there must always be malcontents. . . . I have an élève of the Ecole des chartes who comes to me for three hours each afternoon to talk French and to go about. We have been doing the Library [Sorbonne?] very thoroughly & I have been looking into some things at the Bibliothèque Nationale. Boulanger says you have cleaned him out of all the good old books. I shall make a systematic inspection of the shops. We have been fortunate enough to get Marguerite Chapin's apartment for 3 months - delightfully situated and so cozy & with two splendid servants. Wonderful weather - not a cloud for weeks. I hope you have had the Alabama Student; <sup>(\*)</sup> . . . The Times

\*Compared with "Aequanimitas", the "Alabama Student" had a very poor sale. Osler distributed copies widely among his friends, and in acknowledging his copy Weir Mitchell wrote: "You kept me up late last night with your confounding biographies. As if anybody could be biographed. Why not write undisguised fiction. However I ended with Pepper and went to bed, as a Jap said to me, 'much thankful.'"

and Spectator have given very good reviews. The latter is greatly taken with Bassett who must have been a remarkable man. The Edinburgh election is very doubtful: the political organizations are very powerful and they

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can get plenty of money from the liberal and conservative clubs, but the medical men write encouragingly. They had a regular riot the other evening. . . . Very good word from Isaac Walton who is with Mr. Merry & having a very good time. And old chap 80, once Surgeon to the Infirmary has left us £80,000 so that we shall get a good lecture room and amphitheatre.

He was ~~very much~~ <sup>greatly</sup> moved by Mr. Gilman's death which occurred at this time, ~~but~~ <sup>instead of lamenting he exclaimed:</sup>  
and exclaims: "What a splendid work! What a satisfactory life!"

To Mrs. Daniel C. Gilman.

44 Ave. D'Jena,  
16th [Oct., 1908]

Dear Mrs Gilman I have just seen in the Times the announcement of the death of my dear friend - or rather, Mrs. Osler read it out and I exclaimed from my heart - My father! My father! The chariot of Israel & the horsemen thereof! My next feeling was of gratitude that he should have been able to do so much, for higher education in America and for medical education. A splendid life and a splendid work. We of the medical profession owe him an everlasting debt of gratitude. Not of us he was always with us, heart and soul, and <sup>it</sup> was always a great satisfaction to me to feel that he knew we appreciated his efforts on behalf of the medical school. The start on our own lines which he gave the Hospital was one of the best things he ever did. What memories of those happy days come up! Little did we think that so much would be accomplished and in so short a time. We had hoped to see you this summer. I do hope you got home safely. I was a

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little worried (after what I heard last winter) that you had gone abroad. Do not trouble to answer this. I know how busy you will be. Mrs. Osler joins me in love and deepest sympathy. Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

On the 18th he writes to H. M. Thomas in Baltimore:

You and your friend François Pourfour Petit gave me a very pleasant half hour at the library this afternoon. Who he was I have not been able to find out. The "Lettres" is a small quarto without the author's name, but his initials are at the end of a brief preface or note. The first letter is really a remarkable production. He first deals with the question, much discussed, as to the paralysis on the side opposite to the cerebral lesion, and refers to many old cases from Aretaeus down . . . I will look him up; he is not in Bayle but I daresay I can find him. I do not suppose anyone had given before a clearer description or he would have mentioned it, as he seems to have an accurate knowledge of contemporary literature.

Wonderful weather here - just like Baltimore. I have been here since the first - only two days of rain. I am finishing the revision of my textbook - only a partial this time as the plates are not broken up. I have been reading Marie's articles. I have slipped in a long note on his views. M. is Prof. of Pathology, now a lecturer on general pathology three times a week. He is a delightful fellow. Love to your girls. Yours ever,

W. O.

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To F. C. Shattuck from W. O.

44 Ave D'Jena,  
18th.

Dear Shattuck I am off for a brain-dusting. I have not had a winter free for 34 years & have long wished to see more of Paris & French medicine so I am here for 3 mos and then on to Italy & perhaps America in time for the spring meetings. We have left the boy at school. My work at Oxford is arranged for very easily & we have left the house in order. . . . Nothing has begun yet - not till Nov 1st. Meanwhile I am browsing in the Bib. Nationale and on the quais. You must come and see us at Oxford while term is on - dinner at Ch Ch with the old dons on Sunday, as Cheyne will tell you, is great fun. The snuff has been taken (& is taken) in the Oxford common rooms from the middle of the 17th century. I always insist that it shall be passed - 'tis too good a custom to be allowed to lapse. My good young friend Harvey - a don of 80 summers - carries three snuff boxes. I am glad to hear that the boys are doing well. I am sure you will have a great comfort with G. C. tertius or is it quartus. My love to Henry Bowditch when you see him.)

I am glad you like the volume - I was a bit doubtful about putting those essays ["An Alamaba Student &c"] together but these are lives pour encourager les autres Love to G. B. Yours W<sup>m</sup> OSLER.

His pocket note-book gives abundant indications of his 'browsing in the Bib. Nationale' and elsewhere, for from the very first he spent many hours delving in the libraries. He scours the "Bib. Fac. Med. de Paris" and there are pages of notes, now largely illegible, on Servetus, ~~Symphorianus~~, Riolan, Vesal, Guinterius

*Symphorianus,*

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and others. He makes notes from 'the Gui Patin MS No 237'\*, and from the

\*I have been spelling out Gui Patin's letters," he says in a contemporary letter. This must have led to his article "Gui Patin's 'Jugement' on the 'Religio Medici'," published in the Athenaeum for March 20, 1909, for he says: "The other day in looking through a collection of Patin letters in the Bibliothèque Nationale, I found at the end of Vol. I and unconnected with any letter a much fuller criticism which is worth reproducing."

letters left by Laennec there also are many detailed transcriptions; likewise the "Bib. de l'Ecole de Med." for the Bichat MS., from which he copies out in full one or two of Bichat's case reports of pneumonia. The following may serve as an example of the entries made during the days devoted to this delightful pastime.

MSS 162-3. Manuscrit de Jérôme Delanone. Chirurgien (Mort en 1628)  
2 vols. Full of interest in the story of the Ch. against the Phy. in Paris. Inside the cover of vol. 1 is an illustrated broadsheet with pictures of St. Cosmos and St. Damian. La Confrairie des bienheureux Martyrs Saint Cosme et Saint Damian fondée par les Très Chrétiens Roys (~~rois?~~) de France chez l'an mil deux cent vingt-six et Eglises dédiées à Dieu, sont les noms des dits Martyres, à Paris, rue de la Harpe; et en l'Eglise Saint Cosme de Lug(z)arches n'étant qu'une même Confrairie, de laquelle sont Recteurs, le Collège et Prévost des MM. Chirurgiens <sup>juges?</sup> en l'Université, fondé et erigé aussi en même temps en dit lieu par le Roy (roi) Saint Louis et confirmé de Roy-en-Roy, et par le Roy Louis XIII, à présent regnant.

Then under the pictures of St. Cosmos and St. Damian follow the oath and statement of the Rectors etc. that they will carry out the duties etc.

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and on the first Monday of each month go to Mass at 6 a.m. in the Church of St. C. and St. D. Thereafter follows a prayer - oraison des dit Martyrs solennise le 27th Sept (much about 1628). Both volumes are of extreme interest for the history of Surgery.

With all this he does not fail in his usual kind reactions. The Baltimore profession was urging him to come to the opening of the new 'Faculty' hall, and as old Dr. Cordell promptly comes to mind he sends off a card on October 24th, saying:

Did Jacobs ever speak to you about Cordell's portrait for the Faculty. We should have it - & the good old man deserves the recognition. Put me down for \$25. It would be nice to present it when the new building is opened. I am having such a good time here - sight seeing - reading in the libraries &c. Love to the family. Election today - not much chance!

W. O.

And on the following day to his former pupil, Dr. Albert Chatard of Baltimore:

I have written the Committee asking if possible to postpone the meeting until the middle of May. I had arranged to spend the month of April at the Italian Lakes with Mrs. Osler and Revere, whose holidays do not begin until the 1st of April. It would be such a pleasure to be with you all and I feel that I should be. Perhaps a fortnight's postponement under the



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exceptional circumstances of the new building would be a convenience rather than otherwise. I have asked Rührh to cable. It will be a memorable occasion for the old Faculty. I wish your good father could have lived to see it. The Lord Rectorship contest took place today. The politicians were too strong. Wyndham was elected. An Independent has not been elected since Carlyle defeated Dizzy. I am not a Carlyle. I did not expect it. We are very happy and are enjoying Paris immensely. My kindest regards to your mother and to the Avicennians. . . .

These notes were evidently written the morning and evening of Saturday, the day of the election. Though neither of them shared his popularity nor magnetic personality, the politicians had been too strong and the poll stood for Wyndham 826, for Churchill 727, and for Osler 614 votes. However, there were consolations. <sup>Pope</sup> G. A. Gibson wrote on the 25th:

I was away yesterday and therefore could not get a letter written to you upon the result of the Rectorial Election. Your supporters made a splendid fight against the political odds, and came within 200 of victory. A very little transference from Wyndham to yours would have made all the difference. I would like to congratulate you on the magic influence of your name, as I do not believe any other human being standing as an independent candidate could have shown anything like the same result. I have been wondering whether you would allow yourself to be put up next time as independent conservative. If you did you would romp in. . . .

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Curiously enough there had also been a triangular contest at Glasgow where the Unionist candidate was also returned, and in a long editorial the Glasgow Herald of the following Monday says:

. . . No doubt the result of the two polls is satisfactory, in so far as a Rectorial contest can be held to distil any political significance. But the Universities are inherently Conservative. That is one reason for the contempt in which they are held by many Socialist orators; and one can hardly be surprised if Mr. Keir Hardie's opinion of the academic intelligence now stands lower than ever. Our chief seats of learning have merely followed precedent in preferring Lord Curzon to Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Wyndham to Mr. Churchill, and both of the latter to an Independent academic candidate. But aspects of peculiar interest in these contests are the extreme narrowness of Lord Curzon's majority, the existence of triangular contests in both Universities at the same term, and the fact that a purely academic candidate should at last have challenged two politicians so stoutly as Professor Osler did at Edinburgh. Twenty years ago the supporters of so distinguished a savant as the late Max-Müller, after entering him for the Rectorial Stakes, and publishing a good deal of "literature" too deep for the ordinary undergraduate, prudently withdrew him from an unequal contest with Lord Rosebery and Lord Lytton. Professor Osler has achieved a measure of success never approached by any non-political candidate. . .

Max-Müller?

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On the day after the election there had been started a long letter to Osler from the still enthusiastic student who was leader of the independent forces, which <sup>the recipient</sup> ~~he~~ forwards to McCrae with this comment appended: "How is this for mediaeval student's life. Read it to Welch & McJacobs and McFutcher and then return. All well - writing hard at article Love to Amy. W.O."

And the letter says in part:

. . . We all got a surprise yesterday when the poll was closed. Practically everyone of us reckoned that it lay between you and Mr. Churchill, and that Mr. Wyndham was out of the running as we had captured so many conservative votes. . . I am resuming the writing of this on Wednesday the 28th, as I felt that I had undertaken an awkward task. Your wire and letter have made this much easier for me and has cheered us all up. I feel convinced now that you have not underestimated the difficulties we have had to contend with. The stone wall of political prejudice we had to face was practically invulnerable. . . We could not get motor cabs in Edinburgh to bring men up to the polling, so we had to fall back on the horse cab a wretched substitute. On the other hand a host of Conservatives and Liberals in the city put their private motors at the service of the political candidates.

This is the dark side of the picture but there is a bright side too. One of the traditions of a Rectorial here is that each party must struggle

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to raid and wreck if possible the Committee Rooms of their opponents. That our party would destroy this tradition, by not taking rooms and fighting like the political parties, was one of the first and most strongly pushed objections against us. We did not hesitate to make capital out of this allegation. Within about a week from the start of the Campaign we had entirely wrecked the Liberal Rooms and left them uninhabitable. We unscrewed all their doors and took them down to the Osler fort and made barricades of them so that when the Liberals came to attack us they had to batter down their own doors. We had no furniture when we started the campaign, but we had too much by the end of the war. We had a lot of difficulty with the Conservative Rooms as the police would not allow any fighting about them owing to the value of the neighbouring property. . . . At two o'clock, 20 of us stripped for fighting, left the Osler Garrison and crept through the streets with ladders, axes and crowbars, etc., towards the Conservative rooms. We found that one of the shutters of their windows appeared to be unfastened. Our ladders were too short to reach it, but we crept on to an adjoining house roof and from there clambered along a narrow ornamental ledge which ran beneath their windows. Ten of the men remained in the street below with overcoats stretched out to catch any of our men if they fell. We managed to put 9 men into their rooms before the night guard awoke. Terror and the fierceness of our onslaught overcame them and they capitulated. Just as our men were entering the window an Inspector arrived with about 30 or 40 policemen. He wanted to stop us, but I promised that if we made any disturbance or did anything which he disap-

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proved of I would call off our men at once. As I had kept my word to him in a former fight about a similar matter, he consented to allow us to go on.

During the next half hour, our men wrought their will. Every room was completely wrecked, chairs, tables, piano, etc., etc., were reduced to matchwood. The whole of the place, inside and out was painted over with the legend "Vote for Osler." We then came away bearing some of the spoils of war which we deposited in the Osler Fort. Day and night since the campaign started we have had a guard in our rooms. We did not have beds in case our men were overpowered by sleep as our opponents were. Our roof was our weak point and many a night have we sat out on the roofs all night watching by turns. We have had several small attempts to catch us napping and three great organized attacks. In each of these our opponents were beaten off with many casualties. Luckily the Infirmary was close at hand and during each engagement a host of minor wounds had to be dressed. The motto of the Oslerites before a battle was "Get hurt." Fortunately none of us were detained long in bed, the severest case being ten days. We gained great prestige by the fact that not a single man had entered the Oslerite Rooms without the consent of the Oslerites, and that we had utterly wiped out both the opposing forces and swept their rooms. Now I rather suspect that you will think all this physical fighting in your behalf rather puerile, and that you will also fail to see how it could beneficially affect your candidature. . . . Personally I can never hope to be associated with a more virile and self-sacrificing body of men and women than those who have borne the brunt of an unsuccessful battle in your behalf. They believed that you were their ideal Lord Rector and I was touched by the many ways they showed

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it. Classes, clothes, time, convenience were sacrificed, and even health, life and limb were endangered for "the cause." . . . This letter I am afraid is getting long and tedious, therefore I shall try and bring it to a close. We are trying<sup>now</sup> to get the business side of things attended to. The balance is certainly going to be on the wrong side of the ledger, but we are going to try everything we can to cut down the tradesmen's accounts. I expect that we will have an exact statement of how we stand in about a week. Making up the reckoning is very dry work, but we are proud to have wrought things more economically than our opponents. . . .

To those in other lands where the ebullition of undergraduates has been subject to repression, the last paragraph of <sup>a newspaper</sup> an editorial on the outcome of the election and the methods of conducting it may be given.

Apparently no new methods of making a noise have been invented. The old ways are still sufficient. But we have said enough to show that the Rectorial spirit is far from being decadent. O-quid-est-esse-juvenum! as a student once, to the agony of the Professor, declaimed in the Latin Prose section of the class of Junior Humanity. It is a good thing to be young - even to be very young - once at least in a collegiate lifetime.

From this episode it is well to return to the victim of it, whose evenings are passed in delight over the well filled shelves at Miss Chapin's

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apartment, as shown in the postscript to the next letter to H. B. Jacobs.

44 Ave. d'Jena, <sup>Worms</sup>  
3rd [November]

Dear Jacobs We are having a delightful time - such weather since Oct. 1st & there have been only two and a half days of rain. We are doing Paris thoroughly - I work in the morning and about two p.m. we start out for an excursion. Today we have seen the old houses on the Ile St. Louis & the old church. Such a quaint bit of old Paris. The street where Budans, Erasmus & Linacre's friend lived still bears his name. The monument to Barye on the Quai is very good. Then we took the boat all the way to the Pont d'Jena, just at the foot of this avenue. Magnificent views of the city. It is a wonderful place. . . . We have enjoyed seeing the devotion of the Parisiens to their dead on All Souls Day & the day after the Fête aux Morts. I laid a wreath on Louis' tomb on Saturday afternoon for the sake of James Jackson Jr., Bowditch & Holmes. On <sup>Tuesday</sup> ~~Tuesday~~ we heard a splendid service at St. Eustache and then went to Père Lachaise to see the decorations & the Tombs. It was a most interesting sight. Yesterday we went again with Mrs. Key as the big crowd is on the day after All Saints which is a public holiday. I never saw such a collection of people - they estimated it at 150,000 - one could scarcely move on the avenue. I looked out Bichat's grave & laid a bunch of <sup>flowers</sup> ~~flowers~~ violets on it. I was glad to see that someone takes care of it as there were fresh chrysanthemums planted & several wreaths. The town is full of Americans - it is astonishing how many

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are living here permanently. . . P.S. I sent you the other day some dastardly extracts from that old rascal ~~Montagne~~<sup>Montagne</sup>. I wish you could see the books in the Apt. I am deep in Voltaire.

And not only was he deep in <sup>Montagne and</sup> Voltaire but, to judge from his note-book he seems to have found a set of Swinburne which he reads through and discovers

for the first time <sup>in Vol. V.</sup> the Children's Poems: "Beautiful - among the most beautiful in the language;" and from them takes many excerpts, as: "Men perish, but man shall endure; lives die, but the life is not dead."

On the 8th he writes: "Lectures have just begun - they are very late in starting and as yet very irregular. I begin with Raymond tomorrow morning & I wish you were here." And on the 20th he says, on a card to H. B. Jacobs:

*and Bailey*

In full swing - such busy days - hospital every morning - Raymond, Marie, Dieulafoy, Vaquez, have been most kind. <sup>OK</sup> Moutier, Marie's second interne, has given me a splendid demonstration of the aphasia work. I go to the Académie with Chauffard every week, and to the Société des Hôpitaux with Rist who is a most delightful fellow. Magnin & Sch<sup>u</sup>elman are well. We are beginning to have very interrupted evenings, dinners - which Mrs Osler dislikes. Our apartment is most sumptuous - we are in clover. Love to Mrs. Jacobs & the boys. W.O.



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So his days pass and, occupied though he is, they are interspersed with many kindly acts. A young physician in far-off Indiana tells how he had purchased a copy of "Aequanimitas" and was distressed because of the many literary allusions he could not identify: 'Shrill-toned Fulvia'; 'Epicharmus'; 'Numa'; 'Astral wine', etc. - and so wrote apologetically for help, scarce daring to hope for a reply. Not only, to his extreme delight, did he get a full reply to his questions, but Osler adds:

I am glad you have taken to Montaigne - dear old man! so full of good sense. He is rather hard on the Doctors, but I dare say he had good reason in those days. I am sending you a book just out with the extracts from Montaigne relating to medicine. If you do not read French easily, you can get the references, and the book will give you the pictures of the castle, etc. Greet the brethren for me in Indiana. I have many old friends and pupils among them..

By December he writes: "I am up to my eyes in work - too much to see.

Such nice men:but Dieulafoy embarrasses me by making me sit at his right hand in his clinic and Raymond insists that I have an armchair on his platform." On the 18th he writes again to H. B. Jacobs:

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We are very busy.- something fresh every day. I have just come in from the Tropical Disease Society at the Pasteur with Laveran. A young fellow read a most interesting account of the treatment of sleeping sickness by the French Commission - some 500 cases & good results so far as arrest goes, but recurrences seem the rule. 'Twas rather sad as in the room was one of the young fellows who went out, who has the disease, tho. he looks remarkably well. Magnin had a good laugh with me the other night about your letter in which you thought he, M., had had overtures from the Johns Hopkins. It was, as no doubt he has written, about V. Pirquet, Escherich's 1st assistant. I do not know whether or not you met him in Washington. I saw him here four or five times, and heard him read a paper at the Société des Hôpitaux and at the Pediaetric. He talks French like a native & his English is wonderful. If they have any thought of importing, he is the man. Sunday eve. Landouzy [Dean of the Faculty] gave a great dinner - really a beautiful affair, 30 at table & he made a really remarkable speech - he must have been posted by someone. He had read several of my books & he referred to my Tub. article in the text-book in gallic terms. I was warned by Marie - dear soul! - that there was to be a little speech so I got off a phrase or two in French & then laid on the butter in English. Mrs. Osler has sent the menu to Mrs. Revere and has asked her to send it to you. The arms of the Faculty are most interesting. After dinner there was a big reception - about 300. All the young agregés, their wives, &c, music & at 11.30 a supper! Landouzy married the widow of the Revue des Deux Mondes and a superb old Empire hotel -

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beautiful rooms. Chauffard gave us a lovely dinner on Tuesday & on Friday Raymond, so we are very full. Mrs. O. goes on Saturday to Oxford & brings Isaac. I have been getting a few good things, a first ed. of Avenbrugger wh. I have been after for some years, and a Gilbert's Magnet; the first great scientific book published in England. I got it at the Amherst sale last week. Did you get a catalogue? Morgan bought the Caxtons, 17 of them, 12 perfect! Weather has broken - four days of London fog!

They evidently had gotten in very deep. He had been given a special work-room in the Library, was elected a member of the Société des Hôpitaux, read a paper at one of the meetings, and in one of his letters says: "It is really delightful meeting these men and staying here long enough to get to know them."

During all this time, too, he was getting even better acquainted with a sixteenth-century physician, Michael Servetus sive Villanovanus.

He studied <sup>in the Bibliothèque Nationale</sup> one of the two known copies of that rarest of books the "Christianismi Restitutio" <sup>- the copy that Richard Mead had traded for some coins <sup>which</sup> <sub>is now</sub> <sup>reposed</sup></sup> in what had once been Cardinal Mazarin's library; he searched high and low for the 1790 reprint of von Murr\*;

\*Dr. R. F. Payne subsequently bequeathed his copy of this rare reprint to W. O.'s library.

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corresponded extensively with an American Servetian then studying in Jena; was deeply involved with the 'Comité <sup>du</sup> ~~de~~ Monument Michel Servet'; and was evidently reading in and around <sup>the</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>of Servetus,</sup> times to get a background for the historical sketch he published the next year, after it had done 'double duty' as an address.

Always one of those who do their Christmasing for others early and easily, he had distributed to some of his medical friends for a Christmas remembrance the facsimile copies of Harvey's diploma which had been published by the Royal College of Physicians; on others a photograph of the statue made for the proposed monument to be unveiled at Annemasse in Savoy, showing Servetus in his prison rags.\* On December 23rd he writes

\*This needs some explanation, even though Osler is so often engaged in getting up funds for a portrait or a testimonial of some kind for his contemporaries. He will be found later on attempting to rouse the Persian Government to repair the tomb of Avicenna. But just now it is Servetus. The monument at Annemasse (Osler spells the word incorrectly in his address) was ~~erected~~ <sup>placed</sup> there because the Geneva authorities had already erected an expiatory monument at Champel in 1903. He had evidently offered to help the Comité to raise funds for the purpose, ~~Vienne monument~~ on learning that no one else in England had answered their appeal. Osler was made a 'Membre du Comité de Patronage', wrote letters of appeal to the Lancet and British Medical Journal (July 11, 1908, p. 104), and apparently had agreed to participate on the occasion of the unveiling to take place in August of 1909. It dragged on, and W. O. was expected to shoulder the whole movement. The Secretary writes him from Vienne on June 4, 1909: ". . . Veuillez excuser notre insistance. Mais votre lettre de Septembre 1908 nous laissait espérer que vous trouveriez beaucoup d'argent en Angleterre et en Amérique. Et, comptant sur votre concours, nous avons permis au sculpteur d'augmenter les proportions de son oeuvre, ce qui a augmenté proportionnellement les frais d'exécution. Sans cela, si nous n'avions pas mis notre es-

Another monument was to be erected at Vienne, and

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poir en vous, nous aurions réduit la dépense au strict nécessaire; et maintenant, si les concours attendus nous font défaut, nous serons fort embarrassés. . ." And by August nothing had happened, to judge from the following:

"Il n'y a pas - il n'y a pas encore - de statue de Servet à Vienne. L'année dernière, au mois d'Août, on a inauguré solennellement le socle qui doit porter la statue future. Pour le moment, c'est tout. La statue est commandée, l'artiste y travaille - mais l'argent manque. . ."

to Leonard L. Mackall in Jena:

Kind Man! Yes I got the Post - excellent review! Ask your Bkseller to send Linde. I have the translation - very good. I have been going over the Servet procès (in the Faculty records) this afternoon Most interesting. His lectures on Judicial Astrology scandalized all the Faculties & they had to make it a Parlement [de Paris] matter. His pamphlet is in the Bib Nationale. Tollin reprinted it. I had a letter from Billy F. today; he is seeing Ed VII of my text-book thro. the press. The German Edition is just out - A French one appeared last year, & a Spanish & Chinese(!)\* are in preparation I wish you were coming thro. England later. I am sending you my Counsels & Ideals for New Year - a bit medicated but you can stand it. Yours ever,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.

\*Translated by Dr. P. B. Cousland, President of the China Medical Missionary Association, Shanghai.

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Revere had been brought over by his mother for Christmas, and had his first glimpse of the land where he was destined to lie.\* His father

\*Peace-loving as he was, Osler was no pacifist nor fool. The ferment of the European crisis was already at work. The perennial 'Balkan crisis' was even more annoying than usual. Austria-Hungary had annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Serbians were clamouring for war. The King of Portugal had been murdered early in the year. Army and Navy estimates were rising by leaps and bounds, "though all danger of an Anglo-German rupture was artificial." Roosevelt had sent an American battle-fleet around the world and through the Panama Canal. Asquith had become Prime Minister and the Woman's Enfranchisement Bill was up. Orville Wright in America and his brother in Paris during these very months had demonstrated the practical possibility of sustained flight. It was enough to cause the earthquake at Messina with which the year ended.

got a microscope and they were to go and look for algae together in the Trocadéro ponds, but he was not a Father Johnson to Revere in this pursuit. Fathers are not apt to be to their sons. Meanwhile, exciting things were going on at the École de Médecine which led him the day after Christmas to send a letter of explanation to The Times. Though no lover of student rows he could see the students' point of view - even in a Rectorial <sup>"Rag"</sup> election - and, what is more, felt toward the French concours much as he did towards the formal British system of examinations - extreme disapproval. His letter published in <sup>the issue</sup> The Times of Dec. 29th reads in part:

(Letter to London Times, Dec. 29, 1908, p.4,e.)

## THE DISTURBANCES AT THE PARIS MEDICAL SCHOOL.

Paris, Dec. 26,

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir: - As the only "stranger within the gates" on Monday, the 21st, it may interest your readers to have the account of an eye witness. There have been three "rows" in the Latin quarter this semester. At the Sorbonne on successive Wednesdays the students have made a demonstration at the lecture of Professor Thalamas on account of certain strictures which he made last year upon "The Maid of France;" so that the virus of disorder has been on both sides of the Boulevard St. Michel. At the Medical School there has been a steady protest by the 1st and 2nd year students against Professor Nicholas and his assistant, who were brought here last year from Nancy. Partly on professional grounds and partly owing to dissatisfaction with new regulations and changes in the dissecting room, this has been a very serious disturbance, which culminated today in the closing of the school (for the 1st and 2nd years) until March 1.

The affair of Monday the 21st, was of a very different character. The participants were not students but a group of men comparable in years and repute with the assistant physicians of the London hospitals, or with the young Oxford tutors - men of from thirty to thirty-five years of age, many of them with European reputations. The examination was the concours for agrégation - i.e., for the agrégé professorships for twenty places in all the branches in all the medical schools of France. There were 128 candidates. A new regulation had come into force by which this was to be a preliminary concours of admissibility, an examination in elementary subjects - anatomy and physiology. This has been most unpopular and the candidates protest that these are subjects with which they have finished, and that it is absurd to ask men actively engaged in practical work in the hospitals, and even distinguished investigators, to take up these elementary branches again. As there were rumors of a terrible chahut I was early at the Medical School, and with a letter from a member of the jury of the concours I was admitted. By 11.30 the police were in full force in the Rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, and the gates of the court were guarded by agents, who only allowed the candidates to pass. The crowd increased rapidly, and about 12 o'clock the main gate was forced and a crowd of about 250 got into the court. The senior men collected in groups and protested energetically against the invasion of the school precincts by the police, some of whom were not in uniform. A good deal of jostling and a few serious scuffles occurred, but, as a rule it was a good-natured crowd, though boisterous and excited. About 1 o'clock an attempt was made to force the doors leading to the small amphitheatre, where the concours was to take place, and the glass panels were broken. M. Lepine then called out the soldiers (Republican Guard) <sup>#</sup> who took possession of the court and began to clear out all but the candidates. Meanwhile two members of the jury came out, and after a conference with several of the leading candidates induced a majority of them to come into the amphitheatre. I brought up the rear of a pretty orderly set of men as they filed upstairs, but once inside there was a great row, everyone talking or shouting, and in the midst of it the jury walked in headed by Professor Bouchard. A storm of protests greeted them as they took their seats, and one candidate, who

<sup>#</sup> There was an aftermath of this act which the letter does not mention. It was Bouchard <sup>the Dean</sup> who had the ~~French~~ <sup>French</sup> Guard (police) called out. He was an arbitrary person who had made himself most unpopular, and the premier M. Clemenceau, <sup>Subsequently</sup> his wife a medical graduate, ordered the prefect of police in the future not to obey any such requisitions as likely to be "provocative rather than a preventive measure."

(Letter to London Times, Dec. 29 - 2)

acted as spokesman, declared that the conours was a farce, in which they would take no part. The hubbub continued, and Professor Bouchard sent for the soldiers, who lined up along one side of the room. As this only increased the row the jury left the room. Most of the men followed them, and after a brief conference it was decided to adjourn the conours.

It seems a pity that the police and the soldiers were called in, as most of the candidates and the members of the jury seemed to be on the most friendly terms, and if left alone could have settled the matter between themselves. But I suppose there was an outside element to be considered, and the student body has been in an excited state.

On Thursday at 7.30, the conours was held in the Medical School, but only twenty-eight candidates took part; the others refused to write on the papers. By 9 a.m. the school was in a state of siege, every avenue to it crowded by soldiers and police, and throughout the day there were numerous attacks by the students. A good many arrests were made and there were a few serious injuries. The streets were cleared by the mounted guards. Yesterday and today have been quiet, and notices are posted of the closure of the Medical School until March 1 and the adjournment sine die of the conours.

While such disturbances are most regrettable, the good record of the past fifty years does not bear out your statement that the larval medical man is more prone to rowdyism than his fellow-students of other faculties. In London you have no cause for complaint, and the only disturbance of late years was a very just protest against a disgraceful insult to a great teaching body and to the whole profession. As I have seen him during the past three months at work in the hospitals, the Paris medical student is a very hard-working fellow, keenly alive to the importance of scientific and practical medicine, and with a charming touch of human sympathy with the patients entrusted to his care.

. Yours, &c.,

William Osler.

\*This reference undoubtedly is to the memorial fountain to "The Brown Dog done to Death in the Laboratories of University College," erected in 1906 in the Latchmere recreation grounds, Battersea, as a protest against vivisection. This fountain was finally removed March 10, 1910, by action of the Battersea Borough Council. The memorial had been continuously protected by the police since its establishment, and frequent attempts to destroy it had been made by medical students.



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On New Year's Eve this to Mrs. Brewster, which introduces a new playmate, a child of six.

Dear Mabel Happy New Year to you & Sylvia & R. B! I hope my Xmas greetings reached you in time - I was a little late I am afraid. Time has slipped away so quickly I have been here three months & it does not seem a month. We have been so happy & comfortable. I have seen a great deal of my colleagues & we have had several ordeals of enormous dinners (enormous in every sense of the word!) but it has been great fun. I have had a regular routine: - 8<sup>30</sup> off to the Hospital where they make the visit at 9 sharp. Lunch at 12<sup>30</sup> & then at 2<sup>30</sup> we go somewhere or I slip away to one of the Libraries. They have given me a special room at the École de Médecine Library & I am browsing in some interesting 16th century books. We have avoided the American Colony as much as possible - everybody in fact, as I wished to be in seclusion as much as possible & Mrs Osler has had such a busy year that she needed rest. A few days before Xmas she went to Oxford for Revere, who is spending his holidays with us - very happy & big & good. But he is no student - books will skip his generation. We have been interested in your miniature a perfect angel of a child, Susan Revere Baker from Boston who is your living image, so we call her Mabel. She is aged 6 & called after Mrs. Revere. What a charm and delight a child is! Do let me know of your plans for the summer. I hope to be out in May. I am due in Baltimore on the 14th for the opening address of the New Building, the Hall of which is to be called after my name -

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& to which R. B. so generously subscribed. We leave here Jan. 12.

This apartment has been delightful. I wish you could drop in & see us this eve. - all three deep in books (all two!) and such a lovely library.

Mrs. Osler tells me there is a book at Oxford from Uncle Ned. Send me his address when you write next. . . . A friend of mine has insisted on having a portrait of me - so a Seymour Thomas an American artist, is doing it - very good so far. Not quite so mediaeval as Sargents.

Affectionately yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler.