

CVS417/4.30

Box 156

Letters from Sir W^m Osler
to Geoffrey Keynes 1914-1919
(Copies made 10 May 1920)

* To France

①

[Letter. typewritten]

Oxford

21 August 1914

Dear Keynes

I am sorry and glad to hear that
you are off*. Best wishes! Let me hear
how you get on.

Sincerely yours

Wm Osler

'Bibliography of William Blake, considered by the Oxford University Press in 1914. To be published by the Grolier Club, New York, in 1921.

² I was at no. 4 General Hospital, Versailles.

②

[Letter, typesritten]

Oxford

28 October, 1914

Dear Damien,

So glad to hear from you! I was delighted to hear that you were in France and hard at work. I am knocking about the hospitals and seeing a great deal. We have opened a very nice Canadian Hospital near Folkestone, which at present is full of wounded Belgians. We have had nearly 800 in the hospital here in the Schools; among them, by wounded Germans. I am looking up the untoward effects of the vaccine inoculations, as the "anti's" have been publishing all sorts of scare cases.

I am sorry the Press the other day refused your bibliography, but we have had to cut down everything to save expense.

I have had several offers to go out to France, but I have quite enough to do here, and we have a heavy problem in looking after these Belgian professors and their families.

Love to St Cosmas when you write

Sincerely yours

W. Osler

P.S. - I wish you had my old friend George Marechal (1658-1736) with you as your consulting surgeon?

1 Bibliography of Sir T. Browne

- 2 Sir T. B.'s Urn Burial, first edition, 1658, an annotated copy then in the possession of Mr P. J. Dobell. Sir W^t decided that the writing was not that of Sir T. B. & did not buy the book.

③
[Letter, autograph]

Oxford
26th [1915]

Dear Damien,

So glad to hear from the Saints.
I wish I could have seen you. I hope the
Bibliography prospers, tho it must be hard to
do anything in these martial days. I shall
send for the 1658 Hydriotaphia with the MS.
to compare the writing with the Bodley letters,
that is the will. Let me know at any time
of wants - head or heels.

Yours sincerely
W^m Osler

[1915] 26
Oxford
[1915] 26
Dear Darwin
I have just received from the
Oxford University Press a copy of
the 'Bibliography of Johnson' by W. P. Courtney. Oxford. 1915. This
copy reached me at Kruisstraat on the outskirts of
Ypres on Sept. 9, 1915. I was engaged in reading it on
that day, & looked up to see the last turret of the Cloth
Hall actually in the air as it toppled over, having
just been hit by a shell.

④
[Letter, autograph]

Oxford

6th [Sept. 1915]

Dear Keynes,

So glad to hear from you & to know that you keep fit. What a weary business it is! I wish we were all well out of it, or at any rate saw daylight.

I was at Bart's on Thursday with Garrod seeing the nephritis cases. I am going to France on Wednesday - my address will be 3 Canadian Gen. Hospital (McGill) Étampes. I shall be over from 10-14 days.

I am sending you a 'Johnson Bibliography' which has been issued here. as

't would do the old man good to read it.

Love to St Cosmas when you write. Should you get a holiday let us see you.

Yours sincerely

Wm Osler

'Hand-list of the Works of John Evelyn, author of Sylva,
which I had printed in 1916

2 Instructions Concerning Erecting of a Library. By Gabriel
Naudens, and now interpreted by Jo. Evelyn, Esquire.
London. 1661. 8^o

3 Sir W.P. Herringham & Sir A.A. Borlby, who were both
working at Heilly, where I was stationed at this time.

⑤
[Letter, autograph]

Oxford

24th [1916]

Dear Keynes

Shall be glad to see the Hand-list. E. was a great old character & worth doing. I wish you were both back & at work on T.B.

What a time you must have! ~~What~~ 'Tis bad enough here - tragedies every day.

With best wishes, yours ever

W^m Osler

→ for no. 6 see next page but one

⑦
[Postcard, autograph]

Oxford

10th [August, 1916]

Evelyn's Naudæus must be ~~the~~ very rare. I have only had one chance, wh. I missed. It is a book which I should like to reprint at the Press. N. was a remarkable character. So glad you have got a permanent billet.

My love to Herringham, & my Paréan greetings to Bosly. By the way I bagged P. Anatomie Universelle 1561 (of which only a few copies are known) for a couple of pounds. Love to St. C.

W.O.

1 Library of the Royal Society-

2 Lt Colonel P.S. Hitchens, O.C. 56 CCL, to which I was attached as surgeon

③
[Letter, autograph]

Oxford

Nov. 4th [1916]

Dear Capt. D.

No difficulty about the Royal'. I will take you myself. The suggestion that the R.S. should publish is I fear not a very hopeful one - but we could try. I am trying to trace the MS. of E. translation of Naudé, which he sent to Oxford & wh. was lost. Sieveking thought it might be among his papers in the Ashmole MSS. but I cannot find it.

My love to Hitchens' who is an old friend.

My love to St Cosmas, so glad he is safe. If you are ever anywhere near the 11th Divisional Ammunition Column ask for 2nd Lt E.R. Osler, who is struggling with mud & mules. He is sealed of the Walton tribe & very devoted to our period.

The Library is beginning to get into shape - catalogue finished. Did I mention that no. 3 of the 1644 Latin editions of the Religio turned up at last.

Come & see me on your next leave

Yours sincerely
W^h Osler

⑥
[Postcard, autograph]

Oxford
27th [July 1911 #6]

Handlist received. Many thanks. Good work, &
how interesting to see that he wrote so much.
I should like some time to edit his Naudens
Who is a great friend of mine, & a man after
your own heart. Best wishes. Hurry home!

Wm. O.

1 On the occasion of my engagement to Margaret Darwin,
Younger daughter of ^{the late} Sir George & Lady Darwin of Cambridge

2 Miscellany Tracts by Sir T. Browne London. C. Mearne
1683.

3 Collected works of Sir T. Browne in Dutch. Amsterdam. 1688

(9)
[Letter, autograph]

Oxford

9th [Jan 1917]

Dear St. D.

How risky! in one so young & inexperienced, but 'tis the way of the world - Congratulations - Do send me Miss Darwin's name. I suppose they are living in the same place. I had the pleasure of knowing Sir George & I have met dad & Darwin. Let me know when you come home to be married.

Evelyn's Naudé must be very scarce. I hope you have not deserted Sir Thomas for E. Some American friends sent as an Xmas present that 1683 imprint of the Miscellanies, the very copy on which I bid some years ago at S. but it went at the ridiculous price of £41! I got recently no. 3 of the 1644 Latin editions. The Dutch *Alle der Werken* has not yet come in. I am struggling with the early medical *Zucumabula* - but 'tis very hard to get time for continuous work.

Best wishes for 1917
Sincerely yours
Wm Osler

' A catalogue of the libraries of the learned Sir Thomas
Browne, and Dr Edward Browne, his Son, ... Which
will begin to be sold by Auction at the Black-
Boy Coffee-house in Ave-Mary-lane, near Ludgate, on
Monday the 8th day of January, 17¹⁰/₁₁, ...

I had asked for the loan of Sir W's copy.

⑩
[Postcard, autograph]

Oxford

12.1.19

Any one trustworthy - not a Don - coming
from Oxford could take the book of course. In
these unsettled days I fear even the Reg. post.
I wish you could come before long. Many things
to talk about & to show you

W. Osler

1 The Common-place Book of Elizabeth Lyttelton,
daughter of Sir T. Browne. I had acquired
this MS. and was writing a brochure about
it, which was afterwards printed. A copy is
in Sir Wms library.

2 Cosmo Gordon,^{M.C.} late Capt. Grenadier Guards, was severely
wounded in October, 1918.

[Letter ¹¹ autograph]

Oxford

1.9.19

Dear Keynes,

I do so - as the S.F.'ers say - but I have been so overwhelmed with correspondence &c that I have had to neglect ~~the~~ even the best of Brunonians. I am so glad you are writing up the C.P. books - do give us a paper at the His. Sec. R.S. Med. Why not come for a week end soon. I really hesitate to send that Catalogue as it is the only one I know outside the B.M. - nothing else I would not send you! Love to Cosmas. So sorry to hear he has been so ill. Where is he?

Greetings to your wife

How is the Bibliography going?

Yours sincerely

W. Osler

1 Religio Medici

2 The Collected Works of Sir T. Browne. Amsterdam. 1688

3 Prof. T. K. Monro.

4 My infant son, Richard Darwin Keynes. Dr. Robert Darwin was his great-great-grandfather.

5 I was working for the Primary F.R.C.S. examination, (an examination which Sir W. particularly disliked), & this prevented me from getting on with the Bibliography of Sir T. Browne.

(12)
[Letter, autograph]

Oxford
2. X. 19

Dear Keynes,

About the Bodley Brookes, my Secretary or Hill, from Bodley, who comes for 3 hours daily, could do any special verifications for you. The American reprints of the Eng. Ed. (recent) are troublesome. I have asked Congressional library for a list. Did you know that there are at least six reprints of the original 1862, Boston, edition. The 5th has sent me the other day & another 1878 was printed from the same plates.

I still lack that Dutch edition² - which I saw, with envy, last week in Monro's collection, Glasgow. Come to us whenever you can. Love to Robert Danson & his mother

Yours sincerely
Wm Osler

D - the F.R.C.S.⁵

