

May 25, 1911

**DR. OSLER AT SWANSEA**  
**PRACTICAL ADVICE ON**  
**HOSPITAL WORK.**  
**INSURANCE SCHEME.**  
**AND CONTRACT MEDICAL**  
**PRACTICE.**  
**CLINICAL LABORATORY NEEDED**  
**AT SWANSEA.**

Glorious weather prevailed on Thursday afternoon for the stone-laying ceremony in connection with the big extension scheme at Swansea Hospital. The proceedings included the unveiling of a brass tablet of Dr. Osler, regius professor of medicine at Oxford, to the memory of his uncle, who had been surgeon at the old Swansea Infirmary 1818-1825.

There were, amongst a large and fashionable gathering, the Mayor and Mrs. David Matthews, Lady Mond, the Chairman of the Board of Management and Mrs. Aeron Thomas, Colonel L. Morgan, Colonel Bruce Vaughan (chairman of the House Committee of the Cardiff Infirmary), Dr. Garrod Thomas (chairman Newport Hospital, and brother of Mr. Aeron Thomas), Mr. Roger Beck, Dr. Cameron (with whom Dr. Osler is staying), Mr. and Mrs. David Meager, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas, Dr. T. D. Griffiths, Principal and Mrs. Dd. Salmon, Dr. and Mrs. Clarke Begg, Dr. Jabez Thomas, Dr. J. H. S. Roberts, Rev. H. J. Stewart, Dr. J. J. Porter, Drs. Prince, senr. and junr. (Carmarthen), Dr. Black Jones (Builth), Dr. Jones (Gowerton), Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Hughes, Mr. Glendinning Moxham, Mr. Renard Simpson and Miss Simpson, Dr. J. A. Rawlings, Rev. H. C. Mander, Dr. and Mrs. Reid, Dr. and Mrs. Arnall Jones, Dr. Nelson Jones, Rev. H. Higman, Dr. D. Arthur Davies, J. R. Le Cronier Lancaster, Dr. Dan Evans, Mrs. Wm. Walters, Mr. D. W. Hughes (secretary), Miss Scobell (matron), Mrs. C. H. Perkins, Mrs. Bertie Perkins, Mr. S. Palmer, and many others.

**Dr. Osler's Brief Tribute.**

The ceremony of unveiling the tablet by Dr. Osler was first performed, the distinguished nephew simply saying, as he pulled the silken cord, "It gives me the greatest pleasure to unveil this tablet to the memory of a good man."

The large company then adjourned to the Penllergaer Ward, which had, by the introduction of flowers and evergreens, undergone quite a transformation, and here Dr. Osler was introduced by Dr. Cameron, who described the professor as a man of great eminence, and one who had come from the John Hopkins' University of America to become professor of medicine at Oxford. Long before they knew him in the flesh in this country Dr. Osler's book on "The Principles and Practice of Medicine" had been an old and valued friend. They did not begrudge America a few Rembrandts and Rubens, said Dr. Cameron, closing a graceful compliment, if she would only send us an occasional Osler in return. (Applause.)

**Prof. Osler's Swansea Ties.**

Prof. Osler then gave an instructive little address, which was sparkling with little bits of humour. He began by saying that he had a double association with Swansea, for his grandmother was a Swansea girl—Polly Paddy. (Hear, hear.) The one-sixth Welsh and Quaker which she brought into the family he sometimes thought accounted for the subsequent peregrinations of his family. The marriage ties with the late Mr. Henry Bath, senr., was mainly how his uncle's associations with Swansea began, and the professor traced his ancestor's career. His salary was £70 a year, "with an allowance of coals and candles." (Laughter.) He, however, came into conflict with one Dr. Edwards, who reported him for neglecting to make the mercurial pills himself. (Laughter.) However, Dr. Osler got over the difficulty. Whilst in Swansea his uncle came under the influence of that well-known naturalist and politician, Mr. Dillwyn, and in this way he became interested in marine animals. Leaving Swansea, Dr. Osler went to the West Indies, and, returning to this country, was editor from 1840 till his death of the "Royal Cornwall Gazette," and interested very much in his

Lady Mond and Mr. Roger Beck for the services they had rendered that day, and said, in regard to the need for more hospital accommodation, that there were over a hundred cases waiting for admission.

Col. Morgan seconded, and said that Lady Mond had endeared herself to everybody since she had come there, whilst he could not say too much in admiration of Mr. Roger Beck.

**For the Benefit of the Workers.**

Mr. T. W. Hughes supported, and emphasised the fact that the institution was for the benefit of the workers, who owed more to the medical profession than they could possibly repay. (Hear, hear.)

The Mayor, in putting the resolution, referred with regret to the absence of Sir John and Lady Llewelyn, whose good work for the town it was impossible to exaggerate. He also read a telegram from Sir Alfred Mond, expressing the hope that the extension scheme would be successful, and that the Hospital would be free of debt at an early date.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Lady Mond, who was cordially received thanked those present most heartily for their very kind reception, and the hearty vote of thanks they had passed for the very tiny service she had performed. She did not know any reason she should have been chosen except that she thought there were very few among them who had had greater cause to be thankful to hospitals than she, for she had been five times under the surgeon's knife, and had been attended by 23 nurses, and so she asked those present to take it from her as an act of gratitude to God for sparing her to come into their midst that day to take part in the interesting ceremony. She said her heart was always open to the splendid work carried on there, and which she was glad to say she was familiar with, and whenever they required help and sympathy they knew well her husband and she would only be too honoured and too proud to help them in every possible way. (Cheers.)

Mr. Roger Beck, who was loudly cheered, also responded, and referred to his distinguished surgeon-brother, Mr. Marcus Beck, and the intimate and close relations which existed between his family and Lord Lister.

**"No Hospital and No Doctors."**

Dr. Osler then delivered an interesting and practical address. He said, amid laughter, that some people looked forward to the day when there would be no hospitals, and thought it would be much nicer when the time came that there would be no doctors. (Laughter.) They would not have nurses either. (Renewed laughter.) But though hospital people might feel uneasy about Mr. Lloyd-George's Bill, he would tell them that he did not think that would interfere very much with hospital work. The probability was that it would increase it. He would, he proceeded, like to pay tribute to the fine spirit in which that Bill had been conceived. Its spirit was splendid, but as to how far people would understand the details and how the Bill was to be worked, he did not know. (Laughter.) They as a medical profession were very much stirred up about it. There were two precious things in the community, and one of those was an independent medical profession. They could not have a medical profession the individual members of which were not independent. They must be independent, and they could not have an independent medical profession with contract practice. They had, therefore, got to have some means devised by which the evils—and they were gross and glaring evils—of contract medical practice were not perpetuated under any new regulations. (Hear, hear.) And the other thing was the right of the individual to choose his doctor, and in this new scheme that must be carried out. (Cheers.) Referring to the extension of the Swansea Hospital, he said they had done a great deal, and he wished to mention three possibilities out of many others. In a hospital of that size, well organised, and in a community of that size, there should be its own clinical laboratory, in which bacteriological and pathological work could be done. It was not right for members of that community that they should have to send, for instance, a bacteriological specimen to the Research Laboratory in London. It should be done on the spot so that in a few minutes it could be decided, say, in a case of cancer, whether a further operation was necessary. (Hear, hear.) Secondly, they could extend enormously the influence and work of the hospital by associating with it social service. What was required in connection with hospital work was social

sea, Dr. Osler went to the West Indies, and returning to this country, was editor from 1840 till his death of the "Royal Cornwall Gazette," and interested very much in his literary and antiquary work. He was one of the joint editors of the Mitre Church Hymn Book, whilst amongst his best known hymns was "Oh, God, unseen, yet ever near." In his nephew's opinion Dr. Osler was more successful as a hymn writer than a secular poet. In conclusion, Professor Osler said his uncle did not care for money, still less for position; was devoted to his family, his friends and his books, and he thanked the company for the great privilege of placing a tablet to his memory. (Applause.)

Dr. T. D. Griffiths proposed a vote of thanks to Prof. Osler, and commented on the fact that in the late Dr. Edward Osler's days Swansea was not the Swansea of today, but a lovely retreat and a fashionable bathing resort.

Dr. J. A. Rawlings seconded, and said that he had acted as locum tenens at the old Infirmary, and had walked the same wards as Dr. Osler, but he did not know till now that they had such a versatile character in their midst—one who branched out in so many directions—and he (Dr. Rawlings) felt it an honour at having any associations, even so remote. (Hear, hear).

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Aeron Thomas presided over the gathering.

#### The Foundation Stone Laying.

The ceremony of laying the foundations was then gone through, Mr. Aeron Thomas conducting the large assembly of ladies and gentlemen to the new additions in course of erection. Here the Rev. H. C. Mander read a portion of scripture, and the Vicar of Swansea (Rev. and Hon. W. Talbot Rice) said prayers.

Mr. Aeron Thomas said he was gratified at seeing such a large gathering present. He particularly noticed his old friend, Mr. John Dyer, who had been such a benefactor to the Institution, and also Dr. Jabez Thomas, who had been associated with the Hospital for about 50 years, and was still connected with it. It was largely due to Dr. Thomas that the Eye Hospital was established, and his son, Dr. Frank Thomas, was their oculist. "Now, Mr. Moxham," said Mr. Aeron Thomas, turning to the architect, "will you tell Lady Mond what to do?" (Laughter).

Lady Mond, who was attired in black, was then presented by the architect with a suitably inscribed silver trowel and her ladyship at once proceeded to lay the first stone. At the end she declared amid applause that the stone was "well and truly laid."

Mr. Roger Beck followed by laying the second stone, which he did with quite the master hand. This he also declared to be well and truly laid, and asked for divine blessing upon it. (Applause.)

Mr. Aeron Thomas mentioned that Lady Llewelyn was to have laid a stone—the first stone—but family bereavement prevented her attendance, but there would be other ceremonies later on, and he had her ladyship's authority for saying that she was at the disposal of the Board of Management. (Applause.)

#### Practical Address by Dr. Osler.

The company once more adjourned to the Penllergaer Ward, where the Mayor presided over a crowded meeting, supported by Pro. Osler, Col. Ll. Morgan, Messrs. Aeron Thomas, Roger Beck, Col. Bruce Vaughan and others.

The Mayor, in opening, pointed to the magnificent work of the Hospital in the ameliorating of the sufferings of mankind, and said he thought Swansea was proud of its Hospital. It had done a great work in the past, and the Board, with Mr. Aeron Thomas at its head, was anxious that it should do a still greater one. He was confident that the appeal for funds would meet with a ready response, for it was impossible, in such a prosperous industrial district, that an appeal could be made in vain on behalf of such a noble and worthy work. He was particularly pleased to see Lady Mond there on such an interesting occasion, whilst of Mr. Roger Beck, their esteemed and respected townsman, he might say that he knew of a great many good works that he did which did not come before the general public. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Lancaster moved a vote of thanks to

extend enormously the influence and work of the hospital by associating with it social service. What was required in connection with hospital work was social diagnosis and social readjustments, without which ill-health and suffering could not be cured. When a patient went to the hospital with tuberculosis what was it to him if the doctor gave him a prescription and told him "Yes, that will do your bones good." What was that to a man with tuberculosis? It was nothing; he asked for bread, and they did not even give him a stone; they gave him sand. When there was social service associated with a hospital a doctor could say, "Go to the social department," and then a visitor would go to the house of the patient and at once put into operation the various charitable organisations in existence. Thirdly, a hospital of that size should be a centre of instruction for the medical men of the district. That was to say, in every hospital of 150 beds there should be organised, as was done so wonderfully in Germany, a post graduate course. They were all apt to run in the same little rut, and ultimately they might get so deep in it that they could not climb out of it, and they could only avoid that by getting into contact with their fellow-practitioners in medical societies and post-graduate work. He did not know whether any tuberculosis work was being done in the town. They should, he said, treat the disease in connection with their hospital. They should have a tuberculosis dispensary and do their work there in connection with an organised establishment, and so it would be worked much better in the interest of the community, for tuberculosis was one of the diseases that if they could only get the people to act as intelligently as they looked they could wipe it out, not in two generations, but in three or four, and they could so make tuberculosis, now one of the great scourges of humanity, as rare as typhus, and in two generations as rare as typhoid is to-day. (Cheers.)

Colonel Bruce Vaughan, Cardiff, said the Swansea Hospital had several advantages which Cardiff envied. It had an ophthalmic hospital, a maternity section, a splendid convalescent home to send its patients to, but as to the mortuary, he was sure that if Dr. Osler had seen that, he would have said something very crushing.

Dr. Osler: I said that four years ago. (Laughter.)

Colonel Vaughan, continuing, advised the Swansea authorities to build a fine pathological institute in connection with the hospital, and said they could include in it a mortuary chapel where friends could see their dead without seeing other dead with them. That they should do for decency's sake. (Hear, hear.) Referring to Mr. Lloyd George's Bill, he commented on the possibility of the proposed Welsh National Memorial not now being required, and so it was possible the £200,000 raised might be voted to another purpose. He thought, therefore, he would respectfully suggest to Mr. David Davies, the promoter of the scheme, to think twice as to whether he would continue it, seeing that Mr. Lloyd George promised to give Wales £50,000 a year for the purposes proposed to be treated by the national memorial.

#### Stamp Out Disease by Science.

If they wished to stamp out disease it must be done by science, and considering what the requirements of Swansea were and what was necessary for the Cardiff Hospital and for the Welsh Medical College about to be founded, he suggested that the £200,000 now raised might well be divided amongst those institutions. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Aeron Thomas moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, and announced, amidst applause, that the Graig-alo Merthyr Fuel Company had subscribed £500, and Mr. W. T. Farr, the manager, \$100, towards the extension scheme.

Mr. John Dyer, who was received with much applause, seconded, and he said he had taken a great interest in the hospital for many years past.

The resolution was carried by acclamation, and the Mayor briefly replied.

Tea was afterwards taken on the lawn, Mr. J. E. Fitt catering.

Lady Mond is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. Aeron Thomas at Dolg during her stay at Swansea.