

CUS417/41.21

G.R.O.

(Handwriting)

(To Hon Featherston Osler from Lady Osler)

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford,
Jan 1st, 1920.

My dear Fen

The New Year has come to me as a day of deep sorrow and rejoicing - Willie has had such a terrible illness and has borne it without one murmur of complaint. I rejoice that he is free now & gone where he must be happy. I am so weary & stunned that I can hardly realize what has come to me - and that I am alone in the world - my two dear ones gone. This has been a wonderful day - never was there such a demonstration of love and respect as exhibited by the world - of Medicine and all Scientific and Literary people, as well as others. Through his illness Willie has followed with deep interest his own case and left a note to me saying he wanted an autopsy. This was done and I am now very glad. The immediate cause of death was a rupture of the pleura - that had been so strained from the weeks of coughing & inflammation. Had this not happened he probably would have struggled on with increased discomfort. The autopsy showed very serious condition in the lung from the Influenza bacilli. To-day we have had the funeral. It was at our Cathedral - Christ Church where he was really an adored "Student." The Cathedral was packed to the doors - Representatives of all learned Societies coming to do him honour. As we entered I could simply see a mass of men's faces, and the bit of colour from the scarlet hoods of the Canons & University men. I felt a sensation of immense pride - and made up my mind to be thankful he had gone in the full mental strength of his career, loved and respected by the world. The coffin was covered by a purple pall - standing on an old oak stand. The University Marshall & Bedell standing at the head & foot in their quaint gowns - The Vice Chancellor in his Stall & Bedell with his mace - Bodley's Librarian near him - it all seemed so fitting.

Willie is to be cremated and as we could not go to London until tomorrow morning he is now lying in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral - in the most ancient part - under the arched roof Revere always sketched, & Burton's monument at his head - It is too wonderful. Willie Francis & I have been there this evening and I felt the dear Mother would feel that her Benjamin was lying where she would like him to be.

I want you to know all this at once. Thank you for your cable - I know how you are all grieving -

Affly

Grace.