

MEMORIAL OF
SIR WILLIAM OSLER
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
PHILADELPHIA ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL AND
INFIRMARY FOR NERVOUS DISEASES.

Sir William Osler was born in Tecumseh, Ontario, in 1849. He graduated from Trinity College, Toronto, in 1868, began the study of medicine in Toronto University, and after two years there continued his study at McGill University, Montreal, where he received the degree of M. D. in 1872. He studied in London, Berlin and Vienna for several years, and then returned to Montreal. There he took up the practice of his profession and taught it. Having gained a wide reputation as a writer on medical subjects and as well as a teacher and clinician, he was chosen in 1884 to fill the chair of professor of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. It was this circumstance that led to other affiliations while in Philadelphia, notably his election to the medical staff of this institution. He was chosen attending physician in 1887 and continued in that position until he left Philadelphia in 1889 to become professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore.

While his association with the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases was brief in time, it was singularly productive in literary work. Most important research was made in our clinics and laboratory. One of his most valuable contributions to medical literature was the result of his work in this institution, and was published during his stay in Philadelphia

in 1889. It is called "The Cerebral Palsies of Children: A Clinical Study from the Infirmary for Nervous Diseases, Philadelphia."

At this hospital he was associated with Keen, Morton, Goodman, Hunt, Agnew, Moorehouse, Wharton Sinkler and Weir Mitchell. The intimacy with these confreres was more than a professional friendship. Ties of affection were formed which were broken only by death.

His high attainments in the science and art of medicine, his skill in clinical and pathological investigations, his keen power of observation, put the stamp of thoroughness on all his work and give full evidence of his broad and comprehensive knowledge of medical problems and medical literature. He applied human sympathy to medical psychology. He had the faculty of gaining the complete confidence of his patients and the loyalty of his assistants. He avoided meddling therapeutics and was not given to unnecessary medication. He was ever ready with helpful advice to the younger members of the profession and a stimulus to them in their efforts to succeed; he was an inspiration to all with whom he was associated. Never a house to house doctor, while in Philadelphia the important part of his work consisted of his activity in clinics and wards and of his advice as a consultant.

The association of Sir William Osler with this hospital conferred honour upon it.

(Anna Memorial Note adopted by the Board of Managers 1920)