

(Copied from the Baltimore Scrapbook.)

THE WRITING OF A TEXT BOOK.

This is written longhand in front of W.O.S. 12/22/23

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"On several occasions, in Philadelphia, I was asked by Lea Bros. to prepare a work on Diagnosis and had half promised one; indeed I had prepared a couple of chapters, but continually procrastinated on the plea that up to the 40th. year a man was fit for better things than text books. Time went on and as I crossed this date I began to feel that the energy and persistence necessary for the task were lacking. In September, 1890 I returned from a four months' trip in Europe, shook myself, and towards the end of the month began a work on Practice. I had nearly finished the chapter on Typhoid Fever when Dr. Granger, Messrs Appleton's agent, came from New York to ask me to prepare a Text Book on Medicine. We haggled for a few weeks about terms and finally, selling my brains to the devil, I signed the contract. My intention had been to publish the work myself and have Lippincott or Blakiston (both of whom offered) handle this book, but the bait of a guarantee circulation of 10,000 copies in two years and fifteen hundred dollars on the date of publication was too glittering, and I was hooked. October, November, and December were not very satisfactory months, and January 1st. 1891 saw the infectious diseases scarcely completed. I then got well into harness. Three mornings of each week I stayed at home and dictated from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. On the alternate days I dictated after the morning Hospital visit, beginning about 11.30 A.M. The spare hours of the afternoons were devoted to correction and reference work. Early in May I gave up the house, 209 Monument St. and went to my rooms at the Hospital. The routine there was: - 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. dictation; 2 P.M. visit to the private patients and special cases in the wards, after which revision, etc. After 5 P.M. I saw my outside cases; dinner at the club about 6.30, loafed until 9.30, bed at 10 P.M.; up at 7 A.M. I had arranged to send M.S. by 1st of July

and on that date I forwarded five sections, but the publishers did not begin to print until the middle of August. The first two weeks of August I spent in Toronto, and, then with the same routine, I practically finished the M.S. by about October the 15th. During the summer the entire M.S. was carefully revised for the press by Mr. Powell of the English Department of the University. The last three months of 1891 were devoted to proof reading. In January I made out the index, and in the entire work nothing so wearied me as the verifying of every reference. Without the help of Lafleur and Thayer, who took the wards off my hands, I never could have finished in so short a time. My other assistants also rendered much aid in looking up references and special points. During the writing of the work I lost only one afternoon through transient indisposition, and never a night's rest. Between September, 1890 and January, 1892, I gained nearly eight pounds in weight."

Copied for me by Miss "Nichols" from the 'Scribble' in
Dr. Osler's private, II Vol., copy of his first edition.
Dec. 30, 1904 H.C.

3 West Franklin Street

Miss a 17 months - jeh