

July, 1901

CU5417/97.50

(Dock reminiscences)

Trip to Holland & Belgium

W. O. and Dr. Dock planned a trip in Holland and Belgium limiting themselves to visiting medical schools and hospitals, "The Anatomy Lesson", and the Rembrandts in Amsterdam. At first Lady O. was not going, but later invited herself, on the understanding that she was not to interfere with the programme.

After making out itinerary W. O. had written ahead to different medical men to say he was coming. Had heard from some of them - Hehl, Rosenstein; (Boerhaave's successor as Prof. of Internal Medicine in Leyden) - and the others they took a chance of finding when they arrived.

W. O. interested in Leyden because of Boerhaave, whose "Life" he carried with him during the whole trip and read continually. They stayed at a hotel in the Hague and went out to Leyden - only a short distance - from there.

Rosenstein very amusing - getting rather senile. Had never been out to Boerhaave's house, nor to his tomb - insisted there was no tomb. W. O. went and found the house, also the tomb, taking Rosenstein with him, who was a drag all the time. It was a red-hot day, and Rosenstein amused them by insisting on walking on the sunny side of the street - rushing along - while W. O. and Dr. Dock walked leisurely, well in against the wall, on the shady side.

On returning, had a meal of warm lemonade, fried ham, fried eggs and all sorts of red-hot things.

Then to Nordwyck. Incident of the cigar case. Rosenstein and W.O. had each a case very much alike, though not really confusing at all, as R's was imitation leather and a pale yellow, while W.O.'s was real, a dark aligator skin. When Rosenstein thought he had lost his, W.O. was perfectly calm and very much amused through it all.

Almond-cakes. Rosenstein had some little cakes in the shape of almonds - like nabiscos, which he gave to them to eat - sat still while they ate them, R. very much amused because they thought they were real almonds.

Don't think I
got the point
of this wavy
notes -

Utrecht. Had not heard from Talma(?) the clinician at Utrecht, but when they reached the hotel there, Dr. Dock noticed in the rack where all visitors' letters were stuck, one addressed to "Professor Hopkins" care of the hotel. Was sure it was meant for W.O. though W.O. didn't believe it. Opened it, however, and found that it was from Talma, and began: "Dear Prof. Hopkins, I am sorry to say that I am going on the travels but most of my assistants will be in my clinic, etc." Went around to the clinic, sent in their cards, were asked by the porter to sit on a bench in the vestibule. Waited there an hour, and finally asked the porter if they could not see the place without waiting for the assistants. Porter looked unwilling, and finally remarked that he didn't think he cared to show any Englishmen around, anyway. (Time of the Boer War). When they assured him they were not Englishmen, but Americans, he at once got an assistant to show them about. W.O. took it all so calmly and impeturbably, just like the Rosenstein incident.

Saw the "Anatomy Lesson", then Paul Potter's "Bull", which was all that W.O. had planned to see in the museum, so he stuck to his programme and let Dr. Dock and Lady O. finish the museum by themselves. He kept reading Boerhaave's Life constantly.

Went to Ostend. (Will tell about that later).

Awfully hot summer, and for that reason did not carry out the whole trip.