

From John G. Curtis. *May 18*  
June 10 1902.

CUS417/98.35

In W.O.'s copy of "Greek Thinkers" by Gomperz, Scribner 1901.

(script)

327 West 58th Street,  
NEW YORK.  
June 10th 1902.

My dear Osler,

Thanks for your kind note and the reference to Gomperz's passage about the "Hippocratic Oath", which passage, however, I had already seen. I say this, presuming that you referred to the statement on p. 281 of Vol. I to the effect that the cutting operation abjured was not lithotomy, but castration. It speaks ill for Gomperz's scholarship that he should have raked up again this venerable "mare's nest", which was discovered in 1646 by René Moreau, in his day Dean of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, and is now completely discredited.

There is absolutely nothing in the words of the Greek text to support the idea of Moreau, which indeed the text directly contradicts. The contradiction he sought to remove by a violent "wresting" of the plain meaning of the Greek words.

Philosophers and philologists sometimes make queer work of the history of Medicine, as I suppose we should of their specialities did we tackle them.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN G. CURTIS.

*Remember W.O., delight was the 1st time when he was laid up in Baltimore & cold.*