

Dear Dr. Cushing:-

2nd June, 1920.

CUS417/98.96

In response to your call for letters which Sir William Osler had written to different members of the profession I am sending you herewith two which he wrote me, as you will see by the date some time ago.

We were on our way to Hot Springs Virginia, a private car party. The patient was a little girl, 12 years old, who had been operated for empyema. She was not doing well so we advised the slight altitude of Hot Springs and on our way down we suggested stopping over night at Baltimore and to have Dr. Osler see her in the morning. At the appointed time 9 a.m. Dr. Osler made his appearance at the car door entrance. No one in the party had ever seen, though all had heard of, him before, he had not spoken a word and yet before he reached the part of the car where the party was everybody had already fallen in love with him before he had uttered a word. He looked so well having just returned from his summer holiday in Canada. He was unusually dark and looked much more like a Spaniard or an Italian than an Anglo-Saxon. In his charming and thorough way he examined the little girl and gave advice which we were happy to follow. We went on to Hot Springs and the enclosed letters followed in due course. There is really nothing unusual about these letters excepting the last sentence and last line of the one of October 8th, which I have marked. To me this line where he closes "Give the little lassie my love", shows the true wonderful and fascinating greatness of this most unusual man.

The day we saw Dr. Osler at the station after the consultation he gave me a letter to the Hospital and I shall never forget the clinic which you were giving at the time. You were doing a decompression operation on a little boy for Jacksonian epilepsy and the whole procedure and thoroughness were so complete that it made an everlasting impression on me.

I know that all who knew Dr. Osler loved him and we all most anxiously await the completion of your biography of our ideal.

Yours very truly,

2 Enclosures.

Dr. Harvey Cushing,  
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital,  
BOSTON, MASS.

