

COPY

Dr. William Osler,  
No. 1 W. Franklin Street

Baltimore Jan. 7th, 1905

Dear Dr. Hurd:-

I am very sorry I cannot be at the Board Meeting on Monday, as I wish to bring up a matter about the out-patient department which is, I think, of great importance, and which I have been talking over with Thayer and Fitcher. Your letter to Thayer, which he has just shown me, bears directly upon this very question. When in Boston at Christmas I went over the new out-patient department of the Massachusetts General, which is at present, I suppose, the most completely equipped department of its kind in this country. What impressed me particularly was their system of arranging the histories and of making the diagnosis, etc. I have asked Dr. Pratt to send us a full detailed statement. The histories should all be cleared out of the dispensary itself, and it might be possible to utilize, temporarily at any rate, one of the rooms in the tuberculosis building. I am sure a system could be devised at a very moderate cost by which the cards could be kept up to date week by week. It is certainly not the duty of the heads of the department to furnish the statistics. If they do the work and furnish the diagnosis, the Trustees should provide the clerical assistance necessary to make up the statistics.

When I get the information from Boston I should like to bring the matter before the Medical Board and before the Trustees.

Sincerely yours,

W. Osler.