

PRESENTATION TO SIR ALFRED KEOGH.

Army Medical College, July 18th 1910.

Remarks by William Osler M.D., F.R.S.

Sir Alfred Keogh, Your many friends in the profession have felt that the occasion of your retirement from the position of Director General of the Army Medical Department could not be passed over without an expression of ^{their} gratitude ~~on their part to you~~ for the ^{good} work you have been able to accomplish ^{you were happy in your birth -} ~~for your country.~~ You had the good fortune to be born in an island, the sons of which are blest with an imagination that ^{ever} retains the freshness and plasticity of childhood; ^{in your up-bringing since} ~~and~~ in a reaction against ~~the~~ sombre externals ~~of nature~~ there has developed that genial sense of camaraderie that everywhere makes ^{of} ~~the~~ Irishman a chosen companion. ^{Happy for us that} ~~then~~ by some accident of nature you were endowed with ~~a~~ capacity ^{for} organization, I say by 'accident' since this is a capacity never reached in the degree you possess unless ~~it~~ is a congenital endowment. ^{Happiest of all - than} ~~And secondly~~ you ^{have} had luck, an Irishman's luck, - you got into a profession in every way adapted to your ability and qualities. In the South African war you had your great opportunity and you grasped it. You had the unusual good fortune to become Director General of the Army Medical ^{department} ~~Service~~ at the early age of 47. ^{Then} The man and ^{his} opportunity ^{met}, and you have ~~fortunately~~ been able to carry to completion ~~three~~ important schemes which ~~have been~~ of the greatest benefit to the country. Before your day there was a sharp cleavage between the army ^{and the civil} doctor and the civil profession; ~~it was~~ not a dyke of our digging, but the usual fossa of officialdom: this you have filled up, and the army surgeon now ^{no longer} feels

that

that ~~he is no longer~~ cut off from his ^{brethren} profession but that he must take an active share in ~~the~~ work, and contribute to ^{medical} ~~its~~ literature. You have also brought ~~the~~ civilians into close touch with the army, which now has the benefit of the Council, and the experience of the leading members of the profession.

But your period of administration will be chiefly remembered in connection with the reorganization of the Royal Army Medical College, and the ^{founding of the} Queen Alexandra Military Hospital. Whether you, the army, or the profession at large should take greater pride in ~~its~~ ^{these} ~~splendid institutions~~ organization I cannot say, but this I know, that we are all deeply grateful to you and to the late Minister of War for giving to the army a modern college for ^{the} training its medical officers, and ~~that you have~~ ^{for} ~~the establishment of~~ ^{given} well equipped laboratories in charge of men ^{(chosen from} ~~of~~ your own corps) of world-wide reputation. ←

And thirdly you have done ^a great work in organizing the medical and nursing departments of the Territorial Army. / Here I had personal experience of your admirable tact, your unflinching optimism and your sane judgment. To you we owe it that the medical side of Mr. Haldane's ~~great~~ scheme is now working so smoothly and efficiently. Your term of ~~service~~ ^{office} as Director General came too swiftly to a close, and one cannot but regret that the services of a man of your youth and energy should be lost to the ~~surface~~ ^{country}, but you have the satisfaction of feeling that you have inaugurated a ~~great~~ work, ^{which} ~~and that there are others~~ who can carry ^{to completion} ~~it on~~ satisfactorily. We are ~~all~~ glad that the responsibilities of the new post which you have accepted are beset with ^{the} ~~just~~ such difficulties ^{likely to} ~~as will~~ bring out your special capacities, and ^{that} ~~there~~ will be work enough to keep you idly active.

Please accept this cup from your friends as a heart-felt token of their appreciation of ^{splendid service} ~~the good work~~ you have been able to ^{render to} ~~do in the~~ service of our country