

CUS417/110.81

~~January~~ <sup>December</sup> 1910.

Though in bed at this time and very uncomfortable, his days were cheered by the promise of a Dioscorides in Persian Manuscript as shown by the following letter:-

Bodleian Library.  
1.12.10.

*Dec. 10 1910*

*W. Hill says this is Dec*  
Dear Dr. Osler,

The MS is a very good specimen of Arabic writing - especially vol. 1, but the pictures make it specially valuable. The Arabs did not run to such things much. The portrait of Dioscorides himself has been partly erased by a pious owner (as being idolatrous) and then restored, with the halo turned into a turban - so typical of modern progress!

The volumes belong to a Persian. They have been brought to England by a man (New College) who was Brit. Consul in Shīrāz. He has offered them, on behalf of the Persian, to the British Museum who have named a price. He has not told me what it is. I think £20 would be cheap - and it is what I should offer if I could - but I should hardly expect to get it for that!

I am very sorry to hear that you are laid up - but I don't wonder. I hope the sight of your ancient predecessor will really do you good.

Will you let me have him back in the morning?

Yours sincerely,

A. COWLEY.

Enclosed with this letter was the following:-

British Residency,  
Bushire,  
Persia.

CUS417/110.82