

(In Dr. Osler's hand-writing)

S.S. "Seti"

Am. Mem. 15
CUS 47/111.26

March 5th., 1911

Dear Harry T.-

I am having the most delightful trip here, loafing on the Nile with my brother, E.B.O., and a party of five friends. We just missed your sister and Miss Garrett at Luxor and I hope perhaps to catch up with them at Cairo. We shall be a month on the river and a week in Cairo on our way back. Everything here is so new and so old and so strange. By Jove, I should like to have seen Thebes in the palmy days 1500 B.C. The ruins are simply staggering. Had they developed in other sciences as in mechanics and architecture, not much would have been left for the Greeks or for us. We are here at the first Cataract, across which is the great Dam, a bit of work of which even the old Rameses II would have been proud. If the ordinary Egyptian could be made sanitary the country would be a paradise but it is dirty beyond description and the amount of ophthalmia and hook-worm disease is appalling. And the bilharzia is very bad. I am to see the pellagra cases at the asylum as I return. I saw a great many spinal cords in the museum--a diffuse postero-lateral sclerosis. I wish we could have been taught to pray in the Oriental style. The somatic attitudes are splendid. Before we tie up for the night our Reis or captain spreads his mat at the bow and goes through his devotions in a most graceful way. Allah pervades the East and the Moslem has a great religion. If Mahomet had not been so foolish on the woman question, Islam would have thriven and the crescent would not have waned as it has. Our dragoman is a fine old Arab full of humor. "Me," he says, "I have my Koran, my cold water, my cigarette and my home." He knows everything and manages the boat like a first-class hotel. The weather has been glorious--sun every day and sometimes very hot, today 86 degrees, but the nights are always cool. I hope the family thrives... My love to that angel of yours and to Margaret. What is Hal to do? Is there

970

(In Dr. Osler's hand-writing)

00247/111.36

any chance for Rhodes scholarship? Tell that young reprobate, Trudeau,

to be kind to his parents. I am so sorry Mrs. Osler could not come. She

did not like to be so far away from the boy, and I am afraid she would have

melted in this heat. Revere is so well and has grown to just my height.

He is never going to be a student---books are not in his line, but he is

good as gold and one must not worry. I shall not be out this year. This

holiday must last for a good while.

Affectionately yours,

Wm. Osler.

By
love, I should like to have seen Thebes in the rainy days 1500 B.C. The
ruins are simply staggering. Had they developed in other sciences as in
mechanics and architecture, not much would have been left for the Greeks or
for us. We are here at the first Cataract, across which is the Great Dam,
a bit of work of which even the old Romans would have been proud. If
the ordinary Egyptian could be made sanitary the country would be a paradise
but it is fifty beyond description and the amount of ophthalmia and hook-
worm disease is appalling. And the climate is very bad. I am to see the
pellagra cases at the asylum as I return. I saw a great many spinal cords
in the museum---a diffuse posterior-lateral sclerosis. I wish we could have
been taught to pray in the Oriental style. The semitic attitudes are ap-
palling. Before we tie up for the night our Reis or captain spreads his mat at
the bow and goes through his devotions in a most graceful way. Allah per-
vades the East and the Moslem has a great religion. If Mahomet had not been
so foolish on the woman question, Islam would have thriven and the crescent
would not have waned as it has. Our druggan is a fine old Arab full of
humor. "Me," he says, "I have my Koran, my cold water, my cigarette and my
home." He knows everything and manages the boat like a first-class hotel.
The weather has been glorious---sun every day and sometimes very hot, today
86 degrees, but the nights are always cool. I hope the family thrives. . . .
My love to that angel of yours and to Margaret. What is Hal to do? Is there