

(Mrs. Henry P. Bowditch)

Grand Hotel,
Naples, Italy.

March 25th, 1911.

Dear Mrs. Bowditch:

Among letters received this morning on my arrival I have news of the death of my dear friend - and with mingled feelings. It is sad to think that he is gone, that the link of nearly forty years is broken; but then the release was best for him. He must have felt of late that there was no chance of recovery - and only a progressive increase in the disease. It has been a mercy - for him & for all of you - that he mind was spared.

He had a fine life, so full & so useful. Think of what the Harvard Medical School was when he joined and what it was when he resigned. And his energy and the confidence he inspired were the motive powers in this great transformation. In those early days he brought the Knowledge of how things should be, & fortunately he had the organizing capacity necessary to mould the old school on new lines. Then as the father of the American School of Physiology he brought a new spirit into the science of medicine. It was always delightful to recognize the affection, which the younger men had for him, and he did much to set the standard high in scientific work.

You & the children have been fortunate to have had such a husband and father. I well know how much the family was in his life and it must be a deep satisfaction to you all to have been able to do so much for his happiness.

My love & deep sympathy to you all

Sincerely yours

Wm Osler.

(a) His ~~name~~ obit notice in the Lancet.