

---

**The "Lancet-Clinic" (U.S.A.) and Sir  
William Osler's Challenge.** 65 1913

The "Lancet-Clinic," an American medical journal, published the following annotation in the issue of October, 1913: "Dr. William Osler's challenge to the anti-vaccinationists is charged with all the certainty of his knowledge and sparkling with all the vivacity of his brilliant wit. It leaves nothing more to be said, and may be repeated by every health officer in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States without much chance of the gauntlet being picked up.

Dr. Osler says: "I do not see how anyone who has gone through epidemics as I have, or who is familiar with the history of the subject, and who has any capacity left for clear judgment, can doubt its value. Some months ago I was twitted by the editor of the journal of the Anti-Vaccination League for a 'curious silence' on this subject. I would like to issue a Mount Carmel-like challenge to any ten unvaccinated priests of Baal. I will go into the next severe epidemic with ten selected vaccinated persons and ten selected unvaccinated persons—I should prefer to choose the latter—three members of parliament, three anti-vaccination doctors, if they could be found, and four anti-vaccination propagandists. And I make this promise—neither to jeer nor jibe when they catch the disease, but to look after them as brothers, and for the four or five who are certain to die I will try to arrange the funerals with all the pomp and ceremony of an anti-vaccination demonstration."

---