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OBITUARY:

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Sir William Osler writes:

For nearly thirty years I have enjoyed the friendship of Weir Mitchell, so that it is difficult to write in measured terms about his character and work. I met him first in 1884. He had been commissioned by the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania to look me over as a possible successor of William Pepper in the Chair of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvanai. At Leipzig at the time, I had a cable to meet him at Limmer's Hotel, Conduit Street, at dinner, giving the date. He told me subsequently that the next morning he had cabled "All right! Elect Osler." In a measure he regarded himself as responsible for me, and during five years' residence in Philadelphia, had I been his son, he could not have done more, in every possible way, to promote my welfare. We have been constant correspondents, and his Christmas letter, dated December 20th. 1913, was full of cheery greetings. The 15th of next February would have been his 85th birthday. When I saw him last May he had begun to show his age, but mentally he was as keen and alert as ever. Of no man I have known are Walter Savage Landor's words more true "I have warmed both hands at the fire of life." We have to go to another centuries to find a parellel to his career, not, it is true, in professional work — for others have done more — but in the combination of a life devoted to the best interests of science with literary and social distinction. He reminds one of Mead, who filled so large a place in public and professional life in the early part of the eighteenth century. And of Mitchell, Dr. Johnson's remark of Mead is equally true "No man ever lived more in the sunshine of life". But a much closer parellel is with the great seventeenth century Tuscan, Francesco Redi, in the triple combination already referred to, of devotion to scientific study and to belles lettres and in the position which he enjoyed in public esteem....

Mitchell's early scientific work was largely experimental. The first of importance was a monograph on the venom of the rattlesnake, to which subject he retured in a more elaborate study in 1883. The Civil War brought opportunities which were utilized in the study of gunshot wounds and injuries of the nerves, and in 1864, in conjunction with his friends, Drs. Keen and Morehouse, appeared the now classical monograph on that subject. In 1872 he issued a separate work, in which the after histories of many of the more important cases were given. These experiences turned his attention to the diseases of the nervous system, in which his most notable studies have been on Hysteria, chorea, and affections of the peripheral nervous system. Amonng these, two of

the most striking contributions were post-heniplegic choreiform movement, and on a painful affection of the feet, crythromelalgia. What brought his greatest reputation in the profession was the introduction of the so-called rest treatments. The story of this method has been told several times, but it may be of interest to give it just as I wrote it down:

(Followed by part already copied)