

The Osler Volunteers

1914+
 IT is quite safe to say that no Toronto family is regarded with greater respect to-day than the Osler family. Though by no means as long associated with the life of the city itself as numerous other families which might be mentioned, its various members have so distinguished themselves in the professions that Toronto is proud to reckon them as citizens. They too have heard the call to service and, while it happens that none of the Osler volunteers are actual residents of the city at the present time, they are none the less to be regarded as representatives of the Toronto family.

There is a good family precedent for fighting, despite the fact that for a hundred years they have pursued the arts of peace. The father of Judge Osler, Sir Edmund Osler, and Sir William Osler, Bart., was in early life in the Royal Navy, being a midshipman aboard the *Cynthia*, and later, the famous *Victory*. He would have continued his naval career had not he feared that a change of Government would interfere for the time-being with his chances of promotion. He accordingly resigned his commission and entered Cambridge University with the intention of becoming a clergyman. It was as a minister of the Church of England that he came to Canada in 1837 and settled at Bond Head.

The descendants of the Rev. Featherstone Osler are now quite numerous and extend to the third generation. The following have volunteered for active service: Edmund F. Osler, second son of Sir Edmund Osler, who is a graduate of the Royal Military College and is now stationed at Hartlepool as captain in the Durham Light Infantry; Hugh F. Osler, third son of Sir Edmund, who holds a commission as major in one of the Winnipeg regiments of the third contingent; Ralph Osler, son of Frank Osler a younger brother of Sir Edmund, who is also a graduate of the R. M. C. and now holds a commission in an English regiment; and Revere Osler, only son of Sir William Osler and heir to the baronetcy, who though only a boy, is serving as an orderly in Shorncliffe.

On the female side, the Osler family is also represented. The three Gwyn boys, grandsons of the founder of the family, are all actively engaged. Campbell Gwyn, who went with the Hamilton volunteers in the first contingent, has been in action in France and has been wounded; Dr. Norman Gwyn is on the staff of a military hospital in France and Aylmer Gwyn is an officer in the regulars serving just now in Mesopotamia. A great grandson, Allan Meredith, whose mother was a

daughter of the late Edward Osler, is with the third contingent in Winnipeg.