

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

CUS 417/119.63 1/2

4, March, 1915.

Dear W. J. Mayo:

Your clinic will never be truly prosperous until under the patronage of St. Cosmos and St. Damian, the saints of surgery, of whom I am sending you a coloured lithograph! Several years ago at Rome, in the Mother Church for the West I was delighted to find wrapped in a parcel among the precious relics the very instruments with which in the 3rd century A.D. these famous surgeons had performed the transplantation of the thigh operation - and successfully, too - antedating Carrel about 1700 years! It is a cheap print, as you see, but the merit of it is that it comes direct from the shrine of the saints.

I was glad to see Crumley over here at the American Hospital. He seems a very nice fellow.

With best wishes to you all, and special greetings to your brother.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. Osler.

Mar 4 1915
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"Cosmas and Damian suffered martyrdom at Aegae in Citicia in the third century A. D. According to the tradition, they were doctors of Arabian race who travelled over the world curing the sick and preaching Christianity. In the consulship of Diocletian and Maximianus in 287 A.D., they were put to death and buried at Aegae" (Hamilton)

The chief church of these saints was at Constantinople. In the West the chief church is at Rome on the Forum, where a few years ago among other precious relics I saw a parcel said to contain the very instruments with which these famous surgeons performed the successful operation of transplantation of the thigh.

William Osler.

March 4, 1915.

cl. Billings A.M.C. 2/10 ¹⁹⁰⁹ to J.W. White p. 23