

Dec. 10th (1915)

13 Norham Gardens, Oxford.

Dear Jacobs;-

I hope all goes well with you and Mrs. Jacobs. 'Tis nice to hear that she is keeping well, & that you have on the whole had a good year. I am glad you did not come to this cauldron. What a mess! and we are not half through. It is sure to be a long war. Finance may stop it & leave the issue undecided, which would be <sup>my</sup> fortunate. Either we or the U.S. has to smash Germany. If we go under she will be at your throats within a year. Ships, ships, ships! what would we do without the navy & it may be the navy that will decide the war. The difficulty is to turn a democracy into a fighting people. It is very slow work. Id. Derby has apparently done the job without conscription. The recruiting has been wonderful. There will be an army of 4 million within 6 mos. Lack of proper organization is sadly felt. You cannot grow a big general staff in a few months any more than you can build a Krupps in a year. On the whole the country has done wonderfully & if we could only shut up the politicians & editors & put the war into the hands of a few good men, she would do better still. We were nearly burnt out the other night; 3:30 smoke awakened Grace. The dining room was ablaze. Revere was at home & he & I got out the MSS & incunabula from the upstairs room, which was black with smoke. The only valuable thing lost was the lovely Vernon plaque which you & Mrs. Jacobs had done of me. 'Twas melted to a ball. Revere is well, but there is not enough to do at the McGill unit, so he is going to join a field ambulance and will be near Poperings<sup>he</sup>. Poor laddie, he longs to be back at Ch. Ch. with his books. Oxford is empty - we have 20 men at Ch. Ch. instead of 280. The losses have been fearful and so many friends have lost

boys, Rolleston, Garrod, Moore, <sup>from</sup> Herrington, Schäfer among them.

Extraordinary people, such self restraint - no murmur or discontent.

Grace is working at high pressure - 120 women in a big laboratory. . .

I am seeing all sorts & conditions of sick & wounded. We had a bunch of

Harvard men - 30 here - the other day. I enclose programme.

Cheever, the chief, seems a pivot. I am picking up a few treasures -

nice XI Cent. MS of Platerius - one of the Practica of Bernard Gordinio.

The catalogue grows, but Secretary, William! & the chauffeur have gone.

I have a man in the pm. from Bodley.

Love to Mrs. Jacobs,

Ever yours,

Wm. Osler.

## HARVARD UNIVERSITY UNIT

## 2nd Contingent

## Visit to Oxford

December 3rd, 1915.

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11.30	Base Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	Col. Ranking
11.45	Visit to Wards	-	-	-	-	-	Lt.Col. Parker
1 P.M.	Luncheon, Hall Christ Church						
2.30	Anatomical Laboratory	-	-	-	-	-	Prof. Thomson.
	Physiological "	-	-	-	-	-	Prof. Sherrington
	Pathological "	-	-	-	-	-	Dr. Gardner for Prof.Dreyer
3:30	Radcliffe Infirmary	-	-	-	-	-	The Treasurer.
	"	"	Visit to Wards				Prof. Osler
4:30	Tea, 13 Norham Gardens						Lady Osler
5.0	Exhibition of 20 of the works that have chiefly influences Science and Medicine.						