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(Dr. W. S. Thayer)

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, Oxford.

June 20, 1916

Dear W. S.,

You will have heard from Christian about the proposal to send over 120 young American graduates to serve in London Hospitals (Military) for six months. I hope you will be able to help him in this. It would be a very good experience for them.

All goes well here and things begin to look more hopeful. I hear you had a great gathering at Washington, and Alcibiades Collins said your address was AI.

Love to Sister Susan. Hope she is better.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Osler
per J.H.

Prof. Osler at Cardiff.

MEDICAL SOCIETY LECTURE.

University's True Distinctions.

ENTHUSIASM AND RESEARCH.

Professor Osler, of Oxford, delivered an address to the Cardiff Medical Society on Tuesday afternoon. Dr. W. D. J. Morris presided over a large attendance. Professor Osler's subject was the "Story of the Johns Hopkins Medical School." The founder, Mr Johns Hopkins was, he said, a Quaker, probably, from the name of Welsh extraction. (Applause.) He became a prosperous merchant, and organised two separate boards, one a board of trustees to which he assigned the organisation of a University, and the other a separate and distinct board to which he assigned the organisation of a hospital. The university was organised in 1876, the trustees having at their disposal £700,000. The principle upon which the trustees went was "men not mortar; brains not bricks." (Applause.) One man was selected from Germany, and two from England. From the very start these men attracted the better class of students. From the outset publication was fostered, and nothing had had a greater influence in spreading the name of the University and in bringing students from all parts of the world than the publications issued almost from the start of the University. The hospital was organised some time after the University. The trustees decided to spend only the income of their capital so that it took ten years to complete the group of buildings. Professor Osler then described the constitution and work of the hospital and medical school in detail, and proceeding finally to hint at the lessons Cardiff might learn from the Baltimore University and Hospital, he said first, "Pick your men." Men were the important thing. The day was long past when big buildings meant a big University or big college. They must pick their men carefully and cautiously, and pick them for two things—for enthusiasm and for their work as researchers. If they wanted a University that would gain a world-wide reputation they must pick their men for these two things. Unfortunately, a man who could carry out a good piece of research was not always the man who could teach, but they must bear in mind it was well to pay the man who could do their thinking. It was always in a University a great matter to have a certain number of men who had little or no teaching at all to do. They were killing many of their best minds by this incessant drudgery of teaching. (Applause.) The way to obviate that was to have not only teachers well paid themselves, but a good list of snbs or juniors also well paid. The third most important thing was to begin their publications early. In their laboratories should be the familiar text, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works." (Applause.) Above all they had to cultivate the most difficult of all things—a University spirit. It was a hard thing to define what was a University spirit. It was first of all an earnest, ardent desire not only to teach their subjects, but to work up their subjects as original investigators, so that a man might leave his subject a little better than he found it. It meant also not only knowledge of the subject as it was in his own country, but knowledge of the best the world had to offer. A teacher had to be a man of culture in his department, and have a desire to promote the welfare of the young fellows committed to his care; he must be interested in them not simply as medical students but as his fellow creatures who had their course to run just as he had. The most precious thing a University or a community could have was some portion of the University spirit. (Applause.)

On the motion of Professor Hepburn, seconded by Dr. Edwards, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Professor Osler, who, in reply, spoke of the pleasure it gave him to meet his fellow practitioners and medical students everywhere. He had always felt the future of the profession was with the young men, and that the type of men to grow up in the community depended so much upon their individual attitude towards these young fellows. If they did not hold out a helping hand and helpful example to these young fellows by their mode of life and conduct they were not acting loyally to their profession.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

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Professor Osler was the principal guest at a dinner given by the Cardiff Medical Society at the Royal Hotel in the evening. Mr J. Lynn Thomas, C.B., president of the society, was in the chair, supported by Drs. Charles Downing and J. J. Buist, the vice-presidents, and the attendance was representative of the profession in South Wales. Professor Osler was enthusiastically toasted. "The Society" was proposed by Mr John Sankey, B.L., and Dr. W. Mitchell Stevens and Dr. Fred W. S. Davies, the secretaries, responded. To other toasts the speakers included Dr. Mulligan, Dr. T. Wallace (Cardiff), Dr. Steel (Abergavenny), Dr. Powell (Newcastle Emlyn), and Dr. T. D. Griffiths (Swansea). A capital musical programme was given under the direction of Mr Arthur Angle, the vocalists being Miss Dora Davies and Mr W. E. Carston.