

C O P Y

CUS417/125.139

27 June '18

My dear Sir William Osler:

I have recently returned from a meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago. We were fortunate in having some representatives from England, Canada, France and Belgium present and the meeting was a patriotic as well as a scientific success.

Watching some of the reports that came in from the various cantonments in this country, as well as from the battle-front, made me feel that some master mind in medicine should get together a number of the great general facts in medicine that have been brought to the surface by the war and particularly by the assembling together of great bodies of men. For instance, the distribution of contagious diseases in our cantonments in this country has indicated clearly that the city resident comes into the army with immunity to most of the crowd diseases, while the boy from Arkansas is liable to them all and consequently is less satisfactory material for a soldier. There has been a remarkable opportunity to study penumonia, certain forms of pleurisy, tetanus, wound infection, meningitis, and so on. What we need is a broad, sweeping, inclusive summary that will bring together the many scattered facts. It has occurred to some of us here that you are the man for this particular job. I wonder whether you would consider preparing this material in the form of a set of lectures to be given as the Lane Medical Lectures here in connection with Stanford University in the fall of 1919. You are probably familiar with the details of the lectures and of the honorarium of two thousand dollars. It would please the whold medical profession in America to have you come over here again and would be of particular value here on the west coast. If you feel that you cannot handle this matter, would you be willing to offer me some suggestions as to who would be the best man to get together the type of thing that I have suggested. Naturally, if you have something else in mind and are willing to come, we would be glad to have you choose your own subject.

I trust and hope that you are feeling well and that you are encouraged by the progress this country is making in the war. We were very slow to start and are still hesitating in many directions, but I can see a very marked change in the last couple of months. I have had a very interesting time working with Mr. Hoover in the food conservation end of the Food Administration and feel that we have really been able to accomplish something.

With kind personal regards,

Faithfully yours,

Sir William Osler,
Oxford, England

Signed: Ray Lyman Wilbur.