

MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP.

Jan 14 1919

ENTENTE BETWEEN ALLIED DOCTORS.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER'S WORK.

(FROM OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Last July it was announced in *The Times* that an organization was in process of being formed to unite the American, British, and other allied schools of medicine in closer bonds of sympathy. The project was heartily endorsed by this journal. It has now materialized under the name of the Inter-Allied Fellowship of Medicine.

At a meeting held last week Sir William Osler was elected president; the treasurer is Sir Arbutnot Lane; the honorary secretaries are Sir St. Clair Thomson, Mr. Douglas Harmer, and Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine and brother of Sir Donald MacAlister, the chairman of the General Medical Council. It is understood that the new body intends to take active steps to assist American medical officers to attend post-graduate courses in London, and with this end in view a meeting was held yesterday with the deans of the medical schools.

The choice of Sir William Osler as president is one which the whole profession in America as well as the whole profession in Britain will welcome. An international figure, he has been so closely identified with all that is best in American and Canadian medicine that our friends on the other side of the Atlantic claim him with as much pride as we do. His influence on medical thought during the last two decades has, indeed, been almost boundless, while his "Principles and Practice of Medicine" has enjoyed a vogue rarely attained by any professional work. Sir William Osler, too, has done more than any man of his time to secure a true perspective in health affairs; his outlook has ever been of the broadest nature; his instinct for first causes as opposed to end-results has been singularly sure. Those who have enjoyed the honour and privilege of association with him in any capacity have invariably found their view-point enlarged and their imagination stirred. For Sir William is not only a great doctor, he is a great student and a great man. This has been illustrated especially in his dealings with the younger generation of doctors. Many a young man owes his success and the success of his ideas to a discernment which saw the gold among the dross at a time when other eyes missed it, and to a friendliness and warmth of heart which have never been stinted. No man is so capable as Sir William Osler of drawing together British and American medicine. No man has laboured with so single a purpose to this end through so many years.

The fellowship is very fortunate in its other officials. It will be recalled that Sir Arbutnot Lane represented British medicine in America during the early part of last year, when he was accompanied by Sir James Mackenzie. Sir Arbutnot's pioneer researches on the surgery of the bones and on intestinal stasis are known throughout the whole world, and have nowhere found a more ready welcome than in America, where he is regarded not only as a brilliant surgeon, but as one of the world's greatest surgical thinkers.

Sir St. Clair Thomson is widely known as a distinguished throat specialist; while it is to the labours of Mr. MacAlister that the profession directly owes the founding of the Royal Society of Medicine and the transmuting of a host of isolated societies into a great and powerful organization. It is understood that the ample resources of the Royal Society of Medicine, which have been at the disposal of our Allied medical friends throughout the war, will continue to be afforded them, and that the society's building in Wimpole-street will become a kind of headquarters of the fellowship. As this building contains one of the finest medical libraries in the world, this is an important step.

The early work of founding the fellowship was carried out, thanks to the interest of Lord Eustace Percy, in very favourable circumstances. In this work Captain V. E. Sorapure, of New York, played a most prominent part, devoting to it a great deal of time and energy. The professions of the two nations thus owe Captain Sorapure a large measure of gratitude.

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A Medical Entente.

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Last July we suggested a medical *entente* with the United States. Before the war, as we pointed out, large numbers of American medical men went to Germany and Austria to complete their education, and these countries reaped great benefit from this infusion of new thought. The

presence in England of so many distinguished American medical officers seemed to afford an opportunity of developing our proposal forthwith. We learn, therefore, with the utmost satisfaction that the pioneer work undertaken last summer by LORD EUSTACE PERCY and CAPTAIN SORAPURE has borne fruit, and that an Inter-Allied Fellowship of Medicine has been founded, with SIR WILLIAM OSLER as its first president and SIR ARBUTHNOT LANE as its treasurer. Both these doctors have earned great reputations in America and in France, where their names are universally honoured. SIR WILLIAM OSLER, in particular, is regarded by our friends on the other side of the Atlantic as one of themselves, and they share with us the distinction which his name bears. We can imagine no more fortunate selection for a post of such obvious importance. Steps, we are assured, have already been taken to inaugurate post-graduate courses in London of a kind similar to those already established in Paris; and we trust that there will be no lack of students. The heads of the Dominion and American Army Medical Corps are granting leave for two, three, or four months, according to length of service, to enable medical officers to study in this country. The opportunity which now presents itself should not fail to attract and inspire them. *Turner 14.1.19*