

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.  
PHILADELPHIA.

(Letter Typewritten.)

21 February, 1919.

Sir William Osler  
13, Norham Gardens,  
Oxford, England.

My dear Dr. Osler,

Thank you very much for your kind note. I am much interested in the medical tablet of Assur because the one which I secured for the College of Physicians in this city and which I published (I believe I sent you a copy) came from the same place. If you could send me a good photograph of both sides I should be greatly obliged and perhaps be able to throw some light on the texts. If Dr. Langdon intends to publish the tablet I hope that he will be careful to give us an accurate copy. He is, I am sorry to say, most unreliable. One can never be sure that he copies accurately and his translations leave much to be desired. I am sure that you will agree with me that unless a text is properly published it had better remain hidden from view. One of my students has in press a remarkable paper on a very important medical tablet in the University collection and as soon as it appears I shall see to it that you get a copy. Medical tablets from the Babylonia and Assyria are, as you know, quite rare, although if reports are true, the Berlin Museum now has a collection of some four hundred — practically all from Assur. Now that the war is over we are all looking forward to Mr. R. C. Thompson's publication of medical incantation tablets in the British Museum. We need badly the publication of some material on this particular phase of Babylonian and Assyrian culture.

I hope to send you in a few weeks a new book of mine which I am calling "The Gentle Cynic". It is a new translation of Ecclesiastes giving what I consider the book in its original form, together with a long discussion of the origin, growth and interpretation of this remarkable production which I think, will interest you. Meanwhile, sincere regards to you and Lady Osler.

Very truly yours,

Morris Jastrow.