

for Carroll Reynolds
with kind regards

Tom Keys

Sir William Osler and the Medical Library

Part I

Part II

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The William O'ber and the Medical Library

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Part I

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"No one man has left his imprint
on the libraries of two continents
as has Sir William Osler."

Marcia C. Noyes (1)

INTRODUCTION

The name, Sir William Osler, is encountered early in the career of most medical librarians (fig. 1); indeed, it is almost impossible to be a medical librarian and not run across this name frequently. Although Osler's efforts have been appreciated by many librarians, and from time to time short accounts have appeared in the literature, I have not uncovered what seems to me to be an adequate account of Sir William's manifold contributions to medical libraries. I, therefore, have tried to tell for librarians the story of Sir William Osler and his interest, work, and efforts in behalf of our profession.

Osler's career divides itself rather easily into four periods: (1) the Canadian period (Toronto and Montreal, 1869-1884), (2) the Philadelphia period (1885-1889), (3) the Baltimore period (1889-1905), and (4) the Oxford period (1905-1919). Characteristic of the man, however, was his life-long interest in the libraries and librarians of each community in which he lived.

THE CANADIAN PERIOD AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN LIBRARIES AT MONTREAL AND TORONTO

William Osler (2), the son of the Reverend Featherstone Lake Osler and Ellen Osler, was the sixth son in a family of nine children. He was born in the parsonage at Bond Head, Ontario, on July 12, 1849. In 1857 the family moved to Dundas, a town of three thousand inhabitants. He attended the local school at Dundas from which he was expelled for a prank in June, 1864. The next autumn he was sent to a boarding school at Barrie. In 1866 at the age of sixteen, Osler was sent to the Episcopal School at Weston where he came under the influence of the Reverend William A. Johnson. This school, which was known as the Trinity College School, was a preparatory school for Trinity University. Osler derived much benefit from his association with Johnson, especially in the direction of his early reading. He became acquainted also with Dr. James Bovell, the medical director of the school, who also influenced his reading habits. Osler matriculated at Trinity University

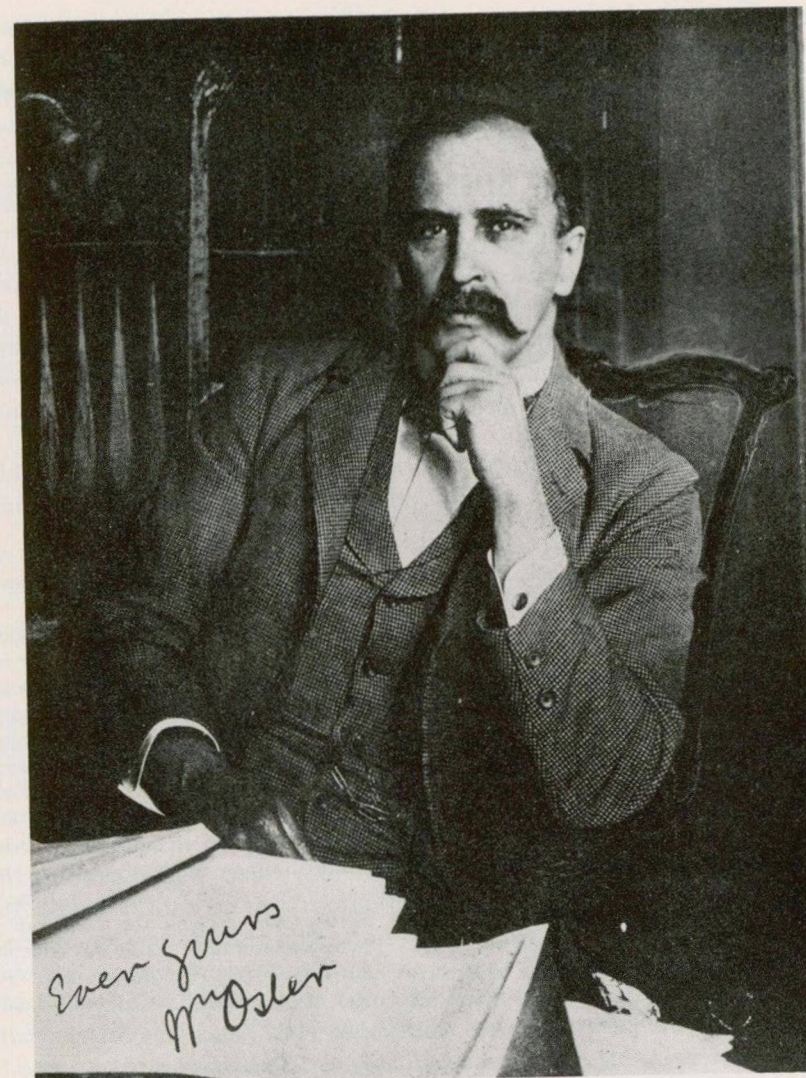


FIG. 1. William Osler during the Baltimore Period. From a photograph taken in Dr. Osler's library by Dr. W. G. Macallum (Courtesy, The National Library of Medicine.)

in 1867 and in the spring of 1868 also attended medical school in the afternoons. In the fall of 1868 Osler dropped his liberal arts course and devoted his time to the study of medicine at the Toronto Medical School. As mentioned by Symonds, (3) Osler continued his interest in Trinity College School until the day of his death; he would give money for prizes or for the cricket club or would send books for the library.

At Trinity College School Johnson introduced Osler to the *Religio medici* by Sir Thomas Browne. Johnson read aloud to the students, and he often chose passages from the *Religio medici*. This made a profound impression on Osler, who purchased a copy in 1868. Browne became his favorite author, and this copy his favorite book. It lay on his bier when his body lay in state at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, after his death. Interestingly enough this same book was on Lady Osler's bier at her burial service. It is now a sacred treasure of the Osler Library in McGill University.

While still a medical student Osler published his first two papers (4, 5). In the second paper Osler acknowledged the help of Professor Bovell of Trinity College and the Reverend W. A. Johnson of Weston especially in the use of books and microscopic apparatus. Making such acknowledgment was to be characteristic of Osler throughout his career and was an important factor in his continuing influence on men, books, and libraries.

Indeed, Osler acknowledged his early use of books and libraries in his essay, "The Collecting of a Library," published posthumously (6). He said:

At Weston, with the Warden and Founder of Trinity College School, the Rev. W. A. Johnson, came the first opportunity to see scientific books—elementary manuals of geology, botany, and microscopy. . . .

It has been remarked that for a young man the privilege of browsing in a large and varied library is the best introduction to a general education. My opportunity came in the winter of 1869-70. Having sent his family to the West Indies, Dr. Bovell took consulting-rooms in Spadina Avenue, not far away from his daughter, Mrs. Barwick, with whom he lived. He gave me a bedroom in his house, and my duties were to help him keep appointments—an impossible job!—and to cut sections and prepare specimens. Having catholic and extravagant tastes, he had filled the rooms with a choice and varied selection of books. After a review of the work of the day came the long evening for browsing, and that winter gave me a good first-hand acquaintance with the original works of many of the great masters. After fifty years the position in those rooms of special books is fixed in my mind: Morton's "Crania Americana," Annesley's "Diseases of India" with the fine plates, the three volumes of Bright, the big folios of Dana, the monographs of Agassiz. Dr. Bovell had a passion for the great physician-naturalists, and it was difficult for him to give a lecture without a reference to John Hunter. The diet was too rich and varied, and contributed possibly to the development of my somewhat "splintery" and illogical mind; but the experience was valuable and aroused an enduring interest in books. . . .

In 1870 Osler decided to study medicine at McGill University because of better clinical opportunities and because his mentor, Dr. Bovell, had joined his family in the West Indies. At McGill Osler came under the influence of several men, but especially that of Dr. R. Palmer Howard whom Osler got to know almost as a father. Dr. Howard put his library at Osler's disposal, and Osler profited much thereby.

Cushing (2a) thought that Osler seriously began to read general literature at about this time as he adopted the idea which he always carried out there-

after of reading in bed for a half hour before putting out his light. The books he recommended as a bedside library (7) for medical students probably were those with which he became acquainted in this way.

BED-SIDE LIBRARY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

A LIBERAL education may be had at a very slight cost of time and money. Well filled though the day be with appointed tasks, to make the best possible use of your one or of your ten talents, rest not satisfied with this professional training, but try to get the education, if not of a scholar, at least of a gentleman. Before going to sleep read for half an hour, and in the morning have a book open on your dressing table. You will be surprised to find how much can be accomplished in the course of a year. I have put down a list of ten books which you may make close friends. There are many others; studied carefully in your student days these will help in the inner education of which I speak.

- I. Old and New Testament.
- II. Shakespeare.
- III. Montaigne.¹
- IV. Plutarch's *Lives*.¹
- V. Marcus Aurelius.²
- VI. Epictetus.²
- VII. *Religio Medici*.²
- VIII. *Don Quixote*.
- IX. Emerson.
- X. Oliver Wendell Holmes—Breakfast-Table Series.

Osler was graduated from McGill in 1872, winning a special prize for his thesis. Then came a two-year period of study in Europe. For several months he worked in the laboratory of Dr. John Burdon Sanderson at the University College Hospital, London. Thirty-four years later Osler was destined to succeed Sanderson as Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford. After studying on the continent and spending another few months in London, Osler returned to Canada. Shortly after his arrival he accepted an appointment at McGill as lecturer in the Institutes of Medicine. The preparation of the 100 lectures he was asked to give required much reading and frequent use of the library. According to Ruhräh (8) the library of the Medical Department of McGill became his first love. Later on it became his hobby and, though he did not serve on the library committee, his wishes were always carried out. Osler started a journal club for the purchase and distribution of periodicals; ten members of the faculty including Osler chipped in \$10.00 per annum for the purchase of journals, especially those in French and German.

Osler was chosen to deliver the introductory address at the opening of the 1877 session of the medical school (9). This, probably his first public address, was interspersed with numerous quotations, a feat he was often to repeat and which showed his scholarly leanings.

¹ The Temple Classics, J. M. Dent & Co.

² Golden Treasury Series, MacMillan & Company, Ltd.

Meanwhile his interest in the library continued unabated. During his Montreal days and later, too, he donated many volumes to McGill's medical library. Many of these have his own annotations on the flyleaves. Even after he left McGill, he sent the librarian brief notes with words of encouragement, and, according to Cameron (10), sent money, too. On one occasion Osler sent from Italy a superb collection of early Venetian illuminated diplomas. In 1909, during a visit to Rome, Osler collected many "donaria," votive offerings excavated from the banks of the Tiber River. Some of these went to McGill.

His experiences with American libraries began early. In 1876 he traveled to the Boston Medical Library to consult books on clinical subjects not available at McGill. Osler felt that these early experiences helped him to a good start.

In 1881 Osler and Palmer Howard represented McGill University at the International Medical Congress in London. Those in attendance heard excellent addresses by such outstanding men as Paget, Virchow, Huxley, Pasteur, and John Shaw Billings. Probably Osler's contact with Billings made at that time led to several important bibliographical undertakings by Osler with Billings and also with Fletcher. On September 28, 1881, Osler wrote to Fletcher acknowledging the receipt of some pamphlets and bringing to the attention of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office some duplicates that the Surgeon General's Library might have:

September 28, 1881

DEAR DOCTOR:

Just acknowledgement of pamphlets to hand. I write to tell you that in cataloging our Medical Library we have found nearly 500 duplicates. A list of them has been prepared. Would Dr. Billings care to look it over as I am sure the faculty would be only too glad to send any of them to the Library as a very slight return for the many handsome and valuable volumes received from the Surgeon-Generals office.

I see in the index of the Index Medicus that you have my name as Osler &, then, as Osler again with Montreal after it as if there were two, whereas I believe the references are all to my contributions.

Always wishing to be helpful Osler early in 1883 wrote to Billings at the Surgeon General's Office as follows:

22/1/83

DEAR DR. BILLINGS:

I will send in a day or so a copy of the new Health By-law and will request the officials to send you all printed regulations & c. as they come out.

The present Board of Health is a perfectly reliable organization composed chiefly of disinterested individuals who are trying to put health matters on a solid basis. It is quite without political bias. The health officer is a good honest old fellow who tries to do his best. I feel sure that the new by-law will be administered honestly—whether efficiently or not will depend largely in the powers granted by the legislature and the way in which the council acts.

I have collected a few of the college announcements which you want. I am afraid that it will be impossible to complete the list particularly of the Ontario colleges. I have written to the officials of each one & made known your wants.

Always glad to be of any service. . . .

Osler also wrote Billings in May, 1883 thanking him for some volumes of the *Index-Catalogue*:

May 1, 1883

DEAR DR. BILLINGS:

Many thanks for the volumes of *Index-Catalogue*. They will be most useful. I send Ontario Health Report for '82 and will get the New Anatomy Act. Neither the city or provincial Health Bills passed last session—got a six month hoist.

Always interested in provincial medical history Osler sent Billings the following letter:

Oct. 4, 1883

DEAR DR. BILLINGS:

I secured today a copy of the documents in one Laval-Victoria quarrel which will find a suitable place in the library as it is a history of a remarkable administration of Medical & ecclesiastical affairs such as could occur nowhere else but in this intensely Catholic province. The Pope has graciously permitted "Victoria" to reopen.

Osler's Contributions to the Library of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto. Although 1957 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto, the beginning of the library and museum collections date back into the early nineteenth century (11). In 1839 the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Upper Canada was formed and one of its first actions was to establish a medical library and museum. The library, however, did not prosper at first, but in 1887 a group of physicians founded the Ontario Medical Library Association.

In 1898 Osler spoke before a meeting of the Association and urged the amalgamation of the medical societies of Toronto. The Ontario Medical Library Association, meanwhile, continued to prosper as indicated by a note in the *Medical Library and Historical Journal* of 1904 announcing that the Association had acquired the Thorne residence, 9 Queen's Park, Toronto, for its library building (12). Its purchase was made possible by many subscriptions including one from Dr. Osler for \$1,000 and one from Osler's brother, E. B. Osler, for \$500. Osler returned to Toronto in 1905 before going to Oxford to "open" the new building. His remarks included the statement: "It was for their intellectual refreshment, always in order for medical men, and for friendly and social intercourse, also always in order" (13).

Osler's suggestions of 1898 gradually sank in and the three medical organizations of Toronto including the Ontario Medical Library Association

joined in 1907 to form the Academy of Medicine. The Ontario Medical Library became the nucleus for the library of the Academy of Medicine.

Miss Marian Patterson said:

The Academy of Medicine, Toronto, like many illustrious medical institutions on this continent, owes a great deal to Sir William Osler. . . . Owing to dissension among the medical profession and the medical schools, Osler was advised to leave Toronto to complete his studies elsewhere. A man of lesser calibre would have turned his back on the centre which has closed its doors to him, but one quality of the truly great which runs like a clear red line through all Sir William's life, is that no matter how high he climbed the ladder of success he never forgot his early associations. Toronto, the city in which the beloved teacher of his early youth, Dr. James Bovell, lived and worked, was never overlooked. (11a)

Gwyn (14) pointed out that book collecting had begun early in Osler's career in Montreal. This was of necessity limited until his Philadelphia days, but he did send a few books even then to the Ontario Medical Library. From Philadelphia later came 60 bound volumes from the library of Dr. A. V. Meigs. They arrived as a present from someone through Osler. In 1893 Osler started to send an annual gift to \$25.00 to the Ontario Medical Library.

About 1907 Osler donated \$100 a year for five years to form a Bovell library in honor of his Toronto teacher. From then on until his death Osler remembered the Academy library. Typical of Osler's generosity was the letter he sent to Dr. Powell of the Toronto Medical Library in 1900 from Baltimore:

BALTIMORE, Jan. 13th, 1900

DEAR DR. POWELL:

I am sending a couple of boxes of books to the Library. The Virchow's Archiv will be a valuable set, and I will try to fill up the missing numbers before long. Some of the other books, too, may be useful.

I will send in a little while the second installment of my subscription to the Bovell section of the Library.

The first professional librarian of the Academy of Medicine Library was Miss Margaret Charlton who came from McGill to take the position in 1913. While she was medical librarian at McGill, she had become acquainted with Osler although he was then living in Baltimore. Osler wrote to her frequently, and the present librarian of the Academy has made available the following letters:

OXFORD, January 26, 1917

DEAR MISS CHARLETON:

Delighted to hear of your upward progress. You have much ferment in your composition and will put that library in good form. I have a few prints for you and will take the first opportunity of sending them. You will also have a beautiful book-worm plate for the Library within a few weeks—have it framed.

OXFORD, November 27, 1918

I hope your library grows. I have some duplicates to send you when the opportunity offers. It has been too risky. I have had several losses on the Atlantic and a whole package from Egypt. Are you trying to collect all details about the local profession? Find out who is alive of the Widmer family and of the Canniffs and of the Beaumonts. I will write to Miss Hodder and ask if she has any of the doctors letters and papers and perhaps Miss Barwick has some papers and even books of Dr. Bovell. All such things should go to the Library and as the years pass are of increasing interest and value. Mrs. I. H. Cameron may have Dr. H. H. Wright's papers and one of the Dr. Aikens or W. H. Aikins papers, etc. Ask Dr. Malloch of Hamilton if the Drs. Case left any records or case books—three generations (or 4) practiced in Hamilton. You should start a special section of the library, if you have not done so already, dealing with local Ontario Medical History—pictures, books, pamphlets, letters and diplomas, etc. I enclose you \$100.00 to be spent by the Library Committee in this work. . . . Greetings to the Library Committee.

* * *

February 5, 1919

DEAR MISS CHARLTON:

So glad you are getting on with the local collections. . . . With a little patience and energy the Academy should have one of the best libraries on the Continent.

Osler's advice in the letter to Miss Charlton dated November 27, 1918, was followed and, as pointed out by Miss Patterson (15), the Academy now has a collection rich in historical interest. One of the latest acquisitions was a portrait of Dr. and Mrs. James Bovell. Another was the presentation by the late W. W. Francis, librarian of the Osler Library (McGill), of Sir William's handsome inkstand on the occasion of the Academy's fiftieth anniversary. This had been a wedding present inscribed, "Dr. Wm. Osler from his medical friends in Toronto, May 16, 1892."

THE PHILADELPHIA PERIOD (1884-1889)

Following a trip to London in 1884, Osler accepted the chair of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Before he left Montreal he gave his collection of scientific journals to the McGill Medical Library. Osler soon was elected to membership in the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and he made much use of that organization's library, which at that time contained more than thirty-four thousand volumes. As mentioned by Charles Perry Fisher, Librarian of the College of Physicians: "Dr. William Osler was elected a member of the Library Committee . . . Jan. 6, 1886, and served until the end of 1888, when he left Philadelphia . . ." (16).

Osler's many friends in Philadelphia were not limited to those in his new school (2b). Chief among them were Drs. S. W. Gross, Minis Hays, James Wilson, and Weir Mitchell. It is true, too, that through his wide reading in the Canadian period he had become acquainted with three old Jefferson men, Drs. John Eberle, Robley Dunglison, and Samuel P. Gross. Osler

especially appreciated Dunglison's dictionary, saying, "After all, there is no such literature as a Dictionary, and the twenty-three editions through which Dunglison passed is a splendid testimony to its usefulness. It was one of my standbys and I still have an affection for the old editions of it, which did such good service." The elder Gross, earlier referred to, was the author of numerous medical books and many important volumes of especial use to librarians. No wonder Osler liked Gross, senior! After Gross's death in 1884, his son, Dr. Samuel W. Gross, became Osler's best friend. Osler was frequently invited to Dr. Gross's home for Sunday dinner until after Gross's untimely death in 1889. On his deathbed Gross asked Osler to look after his wife, little realizing that Osler's friendship for the wife was later to ripen into love.

Packard has written of Osler's devotion to the Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (17). Among the many notable gifts the college received from Osler was a most valuable incunabulum, the *Astronomici veteres*, published by Aldus at Venice in 1499. Osler was also instrumental in the library's acquisition of the important first printed edition of the *Works of Celsus* (1478). Cushing (2c) includes this incident concerning its acquisition as related by Keen:

Once he wrote to Mitchell [during the Oxford period] that Quaritch had a superb copy—the best he had ever seen except the famous Grolier copy in the British Museum—of the first printed edition of Celsus (1478), beautifully bound, as became its author, which could be had for £80. He wanted the College to have it and wrote: "I'll give \$25. Can't you bleed the Fellows for the rest." Mitchell promptly phlebotomized the other Fellows and the book now ornaments our shelves.

Osler donated many rare books to the College, but Packard thought the greatest service rendered by Osler "was the vigilance with which he watched for anything which he thought might be of value to our Library and put us on the track of obtaining it."

Krumbhaar (18) mentioned Osler's fondness for writing letters as being a major pursuit rather than a pleasant avocation and, as we have seen earlier in our story, his letters to librarians during the Canadian period were of frequent occurrence. This letter-writing he was to continue throughout his busy career. Shortly after going to Baltimore, he wrote several times a year to Mr. Fisher, the College librarian, as well as to Drs. W. W. Keen and Weir Mitchell, the honorary librarian, or to the library committee itself, congratulating them on a worthy acquisition or suggesting some gift of books or calling to their attention important volumes that he thought they should acquire. Dr. Krumbhaar made a study of the 84 letters in the College archives and cited typical examples:

"Dear Fisher—Has the Library *Lélut L'Amulette de Pascal*, 1840. I have a duplicate copy. It is an interesting history of hallucination." Again: "Have

you *Medicina diastolica. Paracelsus*. Translated by Parkhurst 12 mo., 1653. I have a spare copy." Or again: "Have you the 1485 *Opus reperiendi prognosticon* with the *Hippocratis Libellus de Medicorum astrologia*—the beautiful type and initial letter, etc. of Ratdolt No. 56 of Redgreaves list? If not I can send a copy as another one came bound with a recent acquisition . . . Tell Dr. Henry to please send me that paper of his on the bookworm. I have a drawing of a bookworm at work that will make the Library Committee set up. Hope you will have it as a Xmas present. You will have before long a typed copy of my list of Medical Incunabula to 1480 . . . It has been a deuce of a job, but I hope it is fairly complete. My love to the President and to the members of the Library Committee." Dr. Krumbhaar cited many more letters all written from Oxford. In some of these Osler suggests the collecting of novels written by physicians as well as their poetry.

Dr. Krumbhaar also examined the accession book of the library and it revealed that Sir William had presented to the College 54 books, which he listed at the end of his paper (18). They covered a wide range of subjects.

Packard (17) had an argument for those soulless physicians who thought it unwise and extravagant to buy rare books:

To those "Sons of Belial," as he (Osler) would have termed them, who begrudge the expenditure of money in the acquisition of incunabula or other ancient books for a medical library, and consider the space they occupy on the shelves would be better employed if filled with the ephemeral publications of the day, we can only offer the advice that they need Osler's own writing in order to see of how much practical usefulness such venerable tomes are.

In commenting further on Osler, Packard mentioned that Osler did not propose the purchase of a book nor send one as a gift without a brief statement of the reason why the work referred to would be useful to the College library. A good example of this was in a letter to Fisher accompanying a Priestley pamphlet in which he said "The college should collect the Priestley pamphlets not only for their intrinsic worth but from his association with Pennsylvania" (17a).

Another trait that Osler had was to explore the books in the stacks in all the libraries he frequented. For example, as noted by Krumbhaar (18a):

He not only served ably on this Committee (the Library Committee) during the rest of his stay in Philadelphia, but habitually prowled among its treasures, so I am told, instead of keeping office hours or seeing private patients. An "important engagement" often was kept with old favorites on the library shelves. So well did he get to know the library's contents, that he was able to write from Baltimore several years later as to just where to find some duplicate odd volumes of the *Transactions of the Philadelphia Pathological Society* that he wanted for the Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty.

Walton B. McDaniel, II, immediate past librarian of the College of Physicians had this to say:

There can be no doubt whatever that he (Osler) did more than any other man in his time, or since, to encourage the development of medical libraries on a scientific basis; to point out their proper cultural and educational function; to stimulate the librarians to raise their professional and personal sights (19).

Many of Osler's contributions as suggested by McDaniel will be found in the account of the Baltimore and Oxford periods.

THE BALTIMORE PERIOD (1889-1905)

In the course of a combined meeting in Washington, D. C., of several American medical and surgical societies in the fall of 1888 the Army Medical Library somewhat tardily celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in its new building (20). At this meeting, Billings was seen often in Osler's company. This was not strange because they shared an interest in books and Billings as presiding officer of the meeting talked on a subject dear to Osler's heart, medical museums with special reference to the Army Medical Museum. But as Thomas has mentioned (21), Billings in 1876 became medical adviser to the Johns Hopkins Hospital Board and assisted not only with the construction of the building of this hospital but with the future of the medical school as well. William H. Welch, Garcia recalled (22), was appointed professor of pathology of the newly organized Johns Hopkins University and Hospital in 1884. Osler was his choice for professor of medicine. This choice was approved by Billings and by President Gilman, and Osler was elected chief physician to the hospital in 1888 by the trustees.

Osler has described the brief interview he had with Billings which led to Osler's leaving Philadelphia for Baltimore (23):

Early in the spring of 1889 [probably the fall of 1888 as mentioned by Cushing (2d)] he came to my rooms, Walnut Street, Philadelphia. We had heard a great deal about the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and knowing that he was virtually in charge, it at once flashed across my mind that he had come in connexion with it. Without sitting down, he asked me abruptly, "Will you take charge of the Medical Department of the Johns Hopkins Hospital?" Without a moment's hesitation I answered, "Yes." "See Welch about the details; we are to open very soon. I am very busy to-day; good morning;" and he was off, having been in my room not more than a couple of minutes.

Osler assumed his new duties in May, 1889. In Baltimore Osler missed the fine library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. This was probably one of his reasons for traveling rather frequently to Philadelphia. Occasionally, too, he sent a colleague, as when (summer, 1890) a young McGill graduate, Jack Hewetson, whom Osler loved as a son (2e) went to Philadelphia to look up something in the library of the College of Physicians. Osler said to Hewetson as he was leaving, "Do drop in on my old friends, Philip Syng Physick, and Shippen, and give them my love." Hewetson took Osler literally and spent most of his afternoon in Philadelphia trying to

locate Drs. Physick and Shippen, and it was not until Hewetson had returned to Baltimore that he learned that he had been duped by his revered chief.

During his early Baltimore years especially Osler made frequent use of the Surgeon General's Library in Washington. And on at least one occasion Billings reprimanded Osler about a book. To this reprimand Osler replied:

February 18, 1890
209 W. Monument St.

DEAR DR. BILLINGS:

Bring a club with you in your next visit & pummel me well. What an aggravating devil I am! Yes do order the book & make me pay double for it, if possible.

Osler frequently called on Billings for help with the task at hand as the following letter indicates:

BALTIMORE, July 20, 1891

DEAR DR. BILLINGS:

Sorry to worry a busy man, but I would like very much to know when the vital statistics of the census of 1890 will be available. I wish particularly to refer to such questions as tuberculosis among the Indians, u.s.w.

With kind regards, . . .

P.S. I suppose it would be possible if I send some one over to get the cards on trichiniasis. I want to make a reference to the number of epidemics which have occurred in this country and the number of cases.

Garrison (24), while an undergraduate student at Johns Hopkins University in 1889, met Osler at a meeting of a scientific society. The students who heard Osler talk "felt that the newcomer was a man of mark, a man of swift perceptions, a man of character." Garrison, continuing his reminiscences of Osler, said, "Thereafter, through his affiliations with Dr. Billings and Dr. Fletcher, Dr. Osler was a frequent guest at the Surgeon General's Library, and to all of us he has seemed something more than a distinguished visitor. He has been a friend to the Library force, as well as its sagacious advisor. He could not enter a dull office room without making everyone feel the warm glow of his genial personality."

Osler had been asked in April, 1889, to address the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland, which was the august name for the state medical association. At that time there were five medical schools in Baltimore and the sixth, Johns Hopkins, was in sight. Most of the medical schools were not of a high order, and Osler in his talk, "License to Practise" (25) pointed out the inadequacies of medical education in Maryland and asked for higher standards in the preparation of physicians and the requirement that they pass a state examination.

He must have noticed during his visit the sad state of their library, which was housed in the basement of the Maryland Historical Society and consisted of a few hundred mid-nineteenth century medical volumes. How

different this was from the Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia with which he had earlier been associated! As soon as an opportunity presented itself, Osler volunteered to serve on the library committee (1891), and according to Marcia Noyes (1) was largely responsible not only for the rejuvenation of the library but also for the upbuilding of the state society and, by his sterling character, for the betterment of the quality of medicine in the entire state.

Osler was officially elected a member of the library committee of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland in 1892 and continued to serve until his departure for Oxford in 1905. Characteristically, too, he kept his interest in this library until his death. When he became a committee member, the library had many difficulties, financial and otherwise. Osler saw the library grow from a small collection to 14,590 volumes in 1905. That it continued to grow even after his departure to England must have given him tremendous satisfaction. The library was rejuvenated by new quarters in 1895 and through Osler's influence by the appointment of their first professional librarian, Miss Marcia C. Noyes, in 1896. Miss Noyes continued to be associated with the library until her death in 1946. It is fitting that the Medical Library Association has named its award for distinguished service to medical librarianship after Miss Noyes who became one of the most distinguished of medical librarians and the Association's first woman president. How this would have delighted Sir William!

As Miss Noyes pointed out, Osler was responsible for the Charles Frick section of the library and the establishment of the Book and Journal Club. The Book and Journal Club according to Chatard (26) helped much in improving the library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty by purchasing new books and new journals. Osler helped the library in innumerable ways. In 1899 he presented \$1000 toward an endowment fund on the occasion of the Faculty's centennial.

In 1909 the widespread desire to honor Osler helped in the purchase of the Faculty's present home at 1211 Cathedral Street (1). A further wish to honor Osler provided a testimonial fund of \$10,000 for the purchase of books in his name which was presented to the Faculty in 1917. Osler's friend, Max Brödel, the eminent artist, designed the beautiful bookplate used to mark the volumes purchased through this fund for the library (fig. 2).

The present librarian, Louise D. C. King (27), who used to work with Miss Noyes has related an amusing anecdote:

I do remember Miss Noyes saying that Sir William used to pop in on her at all hours, sometimes before breakfast. She never got over the embarrassment the time he stayed for that meal and she had herring. This shows she was no southerner for herring roe and corn cakes is not an unusual breakfast south of Mason & Dixon's Line. At these times he often gave her pointers and information about books and also kept himself informed of the way things were going.



FIG. 2

FIG. 2. Bookplate designed by Max Brödel to mark volumes purchased through the William Osler Testimonial Fund. (Courtesy, The Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland.)

In summing up Osler's influence on the Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland, Miss Noyes said (1):

The development of the library, to its fullest extent, interested him beyond measure, for he was not only a lover, but a user of books, and he insisted that his students should learn the art. The familiar slip bearing his reference was presented almost daily by some one of them, and our reading room on Saturday afternoons became a rendezvous for students and physicians who thought to meet him there to seek his advice. . . . Hardly a Saturday passed without Dr. Osler coming to scan the shelves containing the new journals and to browse among the books to be found in the Charles Frick Reading Room.

One of Osler's students, Dr. Joseph H. Pratt, who met Osler in the library had this to say (28):

I remember well my first meeting with him. It was before I had begun clinical studies. One afternoon during vacation I was reading in the Library of the Medico-Chirurgical Faculty. There was no one in the room except the librarian and myself. Dr. Osler entered and spent a little while looking over the new journals. After chatting a minute with the librarian he left, but before doing so he came over to where I was reading and spoke a few words to me; no joke, no epigram, words from him unusually commonplace, but the fact that this great man showed by his manner and act a kindly interest in a strange student made a deep impression on me and warmed my heart.

Pratt in his monograph, *A Year with Osler, 1896-1897* (29), refers to Osler's generosity and certainly, as Pratt said, Osler's outgoing spirit as reflected in his generosity was amazing. As we have already seen, Osler was continually giving away money and books, especially to libraries. He also gave to individuals the fruits of his labor, even his unpublished work on purpura (29). As Pratt (29a) also mentioned, Osler from the outset emphasized the historical aspects of medicine including the importance of reading the original works of the contributors: "He advised us to read the old books of the masters of medicine and the present-day journals, leaving the new books to older men. He assigned topics to the students and asked them to read up the literature and prepare five-minute papers which were presented at subsequent meetings."

Another one of Osler's students, G. H. Whipple, in a recent account told more about Osler's personal contacts with his students: "He enjoyed having the fourth-year medical student groups at his home for Saturday suppers which resembled seminars, including some of the interesting clinical material of the week plus a discussion of medical history, often with rare books from his large library to point up the reviews (30)."

Osler's Principles and Practice of Medicine. When Osler joined the Johns Hopkins Hospital staff in 1889, the new University was in financial difficulty and the opening of the new medical school was necessarily postponed. Even though this must have been a disappointment to Osler and his colleagues, it left Osler with some free time for his medical writing. His interest and knowledge of modern medical practice was thorough, and as Cushing said (2f): "His pathological training had been such as to make possible, from first-hand knowledge, vivid descriptions of the morbid anatomy of disease in a way unusual for a clinician." Moreover, as we have seen, his knowledge of books gained from his studious library habits was profound. He also kept up with the modern developments through constant perusal of the new medical journals. Another factor contributing to his knowledge was his lifelong habit of taking notes as he read. He also was continually writing medical papers on both modern and historical subjects. That there was a need for a textbook was self-evident and, during his Philadelphia period, he had been asked by Lea Brothers to prepare a work on diagnosis. He had given it a halfhearted

try but had not put his full energy to the task, because he felt that up to one's fortieth year, "a man was fit for better things than text-books."

On his return from Europe in September, 1890, the D. Appleton Company approached him with such an attractive contract, including a guaranteed circulation of 10,000 copies in two years, that he accepted. He had then turned forty-one. The entire task of preparing the book including composition, editing by a Mr. Powell of the English department, proofreading, verification of each reference used, and the personal preparation of the index occupied much of Osler's time until January, 1892.

Occasionally during this period Osler would travel to Philadelphia to visit with Mrs. Samuel W. Gross, the widow of his best friend. As told by Muirhead (31), Mrs. Gross and Dr. Osler kept their forthcoming marriage a secret, but on the day of the publication of the book (February 24, 1892) Osler is reported to have taken the first copy to Mrs. Gross with the words: "There, take the darn thing! Now what are you going to do with the man?" The marriage took place on May 7, 1892.

Osler's *Principles and Practice of Medicine* became the outstanding book of Appleton's medical publications (32). It was translated into the chief languages of the Western world, and its success was a primary factor in Osler's generosity to libraries in the years to come. After Sir William's death in 1919, the book was revised by Thomas McCrae and following McCrae's death by H. A. Christian. It continues to be one of the firm's best medical sellers. Elmer Belt (33) said that by 1937 about five hundred thousand copies had found their way into the hands of students of medicine.

(To be concluded)

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 - (c) Vol. 1, p. 277, footnote.
 - (d) Vol. 1, p. 297.
 - (e) Vol. 1, p. 335.
 - (f) Vol. 1, p. 340-341.
 - (g) Vol. 1, p. 682.
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Since our life of Osler is intimately connected with books and libraries, it is not surprising that he had much to do with the Medical Library Association and its predecessor, the Association of Medical Librarians. A combined meeting of the British and Canadian medical associations was held at Montreal in 1897. At the meeting, as mentioned by Francis (34), Osler was present, but Dr. George Gould, who also was to become important in the Association's affairs, was not. Apparently Miss Charlton suggested that an association of medical librarians be established. Another account (35) suggests that Gould was present at the Montreal meeting and that Miss Charlton spoke to him about forming a medical library association. To me this seems more likely since the first meeting was held in Philadelphia in Gould's office on May 2, 1898.

Miss Myers in trying to clear up this point, wrote in 1919 to Miss Charlton whose post card reply was not of much help:

[Postal card dated May 20, 1919]

Secretary of Medical Librarians
13 Queen's Park

My dear Miss Myers:

You ask me how I came to organize a Medical Library Association. I do not remember if I spoke to Sir William or Dr. Gould first. Yours, G. H. Whipple

Miss Grace Myers, who was present at the second meeting, also thought that Gould and Miss Charlton "were the prime movers" and that "Dr. Osler was interested in us from the start" according to the following letter in the Medical Library Association's archives:

August 25th 1913

Dear Maury:

Miss Charlton has written that she will join me at Atlantic City and that she has been told to see me.

As to the founding of our Association, I always supposed that Dr. Gould and Miss Charlton were the prime movers. Yours, G. H. Whipple

Sir William Osler and the Medical Library

Part II¹

By THOMAS E. KEYS, *Librarian*

*Mayo Clinic Library
Rochester, Minnesota.*

OSLER AND THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SINCE the life of Osler is intimately connected with books and libraries, it is not surprising that he had much to do with the Medical Library Association and its predecessor, the Association of Medical Librarians. A combined meeting of the British and Canadian medical associations was held at Montreal in 1897. At the meeting, as mentioned by Francis (34), Osler was present, but Dr. George Gould, who also was to become important in the Association's affairs, was not. Apparently Miss Charlton suggested that an association of medical librarians be established. Another account (35) suggests that Gould was present at the Montreal meeting and that Miss Charlton spoke to him about forming a medical library association. To me this seems more likely since the first meeting was held in Philadelphia in Gould's office on May 2, 1898.

Miss Noyes, in trying to clear up this point, wrote in 1919 to Miss Charlton whose post card reply was not of much help:

[Postal card dated May 20, 1919]

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, TORONTO
13 QUEEN'S PARK

MY DEAR MISS NOYES:

Yes it was my idea of starting a Medical Library Association. I do not remember if I spoke to Sir William or Dr. Gould first. Yours, M. CHARLTON

Mrs. Grace Myers, who was present at the second meeting, also thought that Gould and Miss Charlton "were the prime movers" and that "Dr. Osler was interested in us from the start" according to the following letter in the Medical Library Association's archives:

BOSTON May 24, 1919

DEAR MARCIA:

Miss Charlton has written that she will join me at Atlantic City and share my room. So I expect to see her.

As to the founding of our Association, I always supposed that Dr. Gould and Miss

¹ Part I. BULLETIN 49: 24-41, Jan. 1961.

Charlton were the prime movers, and that it did originate with them. I was not one of the original members; I came in in 1899, I think, which was the second year. I know that the first meeting was held in Philadelphia, May 2, 1898. Dr. Osler was *interested* in us from the start, but I never heard that he was one of the originators. Miss Charlton is probably withholding information from a sense of modesty, not realizing that she is about the only one who really knows this important bit. Does the secretary's file contain nothing about it?

Affectionately, GRACE W. MYERS

Many years later (1934), Miss Noyes summarized this moot point as follows (36):

Miss Charlton was the one person who indirectly brought the Association into being from speaking with Dr. Osler. She had belonged to the American Library Association. Their problems were not our problems, and she felt lost and that the time was wasted, yet she had striven for contact with those doing just the sort of work she was doing. And so she suggested to Dr. Osler that it would be a fine thing if the Medical Libraries could do the same thing the American Library Association was doing. Just how that contact came to Dr. Gould—whether by the way of Dr. Osler or else from Miss Charlton direct I do not know. You can think of that vivid personality of Dr. Osler as being back of it all, but it really took the dynamic force of Dr. Gould at that time to put it across.

Certainly both Drs. Gould and Osler deserve great credit and Miss Noyes has said it well.

At the organization meeting in Dr. Gould's office letters of regret that they could not be present were read from Dr. William Osler and Dr. J. G. Adami (37). Even though Osler was not present Baltimore was well represented by Miss Elizabeth Thies, Librarian of Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Miss Noyes, Librarian of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. In his customary generous manner, Osler, according to Ballard, supplied Miss Thies with funds from his own pocket to make the trip from Baltimore to Philadelphia (38).

At the first meeting Dr. Gould was elected President and Miss Charlton, Secretary. Dr. Gould read a paper in which he suggested many committees including one on exchange of duplicates (35). The second meeting of the new Association was also held in Philadelphia on October 5, 1899. Shortly thereafter, on December 1, 1899, the exchange was established in Philadelphia and in October, 1900, the exchange was transferred to Baltimore into the competent hands of Miss Noyes. There it remained until 1904. During Miss Noyes' time an enormous number of duplicates were transferred from one library to another. The third meeting of the Association was held in Atlantic City on June 4, 1900. At the fourth annual meeting on May 25, 1901, which was held in Baltimore, Osler was elected President, Dr. Gould, Vice-President, Dr. George D. Hersey, Treasurer, and Miss Charlton, Secretary. Following the meeting Dr. and Mrs. Osler entertained the entire group at dinner. After dinner an informal meeting was held at the Osler home. The subject was "Classification"!

The exchange of duplicates between medical libraries and the solicitation of gift books and gift subscriptions for libraries were at their height and even Osler was besieged by Gould as the following letter signifies:

BALTIMORE
Jan. 17th, 1900

DEAR GOULD:

I hardly know what to say about the typhoid number. I suppose I could get something ready for you, though I am very hard pushed. I probably could get ready the summary of our first ten years work at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. There are two or three additional things, too, that would be of interest. Gwyn, who has been working at the typhoid organisms in the urine, might give a short practical paper on the study and on the importance of disinfection of the urine. Cushing and Finney have the whole question of the operative measures at their finger's ends.

About the books, I would be very glad to forego the royalty on twenty-five copies of my practice. I don't feel like giving them, as my last year's bill at Appleton's for my text book distributed to libraries and personal friends and doctors who applied for it amounted to \$363.70. In a year and a half, when a fourth edition is ready, I shall be quite glad to confer with the Committee about the libraries to which I should send complimentary copies. Sincerely yours, WM. OSLER

The exchange idea caught fire with Osler, as might be expected, and during his first term as president Osler sent out a form letter to a selected list of physicians asking that they join the Association and contribute their old medical works and files of the more important journals (fig. 3). A typical response to Osler's plea was the following letter from Dr. Samuel Alexander of New York City:

October 30th, 1901.

Miss M. C. Noyes,
Manager, Association of Medical Libraries,
847 Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Md.

MY DEAR MISS NOYES:—

At the request of Dr. William Osler I enclose my check for \$5 in payment of an annual subscription to the Association of Medical Libraries. I shall be glad from time to time to notify you of any books or files of pamphlets which I have to contribute.

I am, Yours very truly, SAM. ALEXANDER

On June 10, 1902, the fifth annual meeting of the Association of Medical Librarians was held in Saratoga Springs, New York. Osler's presidential address, "Some Aspects of American Medical Bibliography," was delightful (39). In his opening paragraph Osler acknowledged his love and indebtedness to libraries:

In conferring upon me the presidency of this Association, I felt that you wished to pay a compliment to a man who had been much helped by libraries and who knew their value, and I hoped that it was, perhaps, in recognition of the fact that a practical and busy physician may be at the same time a book lover, even a book worm.

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES

847 N. EUTAW STREET

BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 1st, 1901.

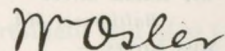
DEAR DOCTOR:

I WRITE TO ASK YOUR ACTIVE CO-OPERATION IN THE WORK OF THIS ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS ORGANIZED THREE YEARS AGO WITH THE OBJECT OF PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED AN EXCHANGE OR CLEARING HOUSE FROM WHICH LIBRARIES MAY FILL OUT FILES OF PERIODICALS AND OBTAIN BOOKS WANTED, THROUGH IT THEY MAY ALSO DISPOSE OF DUPLICATES WHICH ARE OF GREAT VALUE TO LIBRARIES JUST FORMING.

SO FAR AS LIBRARIES ARE CONCERNED THE WORK WE DO IS LARGELY GRATUITOUS, EACH RECEIVING SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE VALUE OF THEIR YEARLY DUES. THIRTY-FIVE LIBRARIES HAVE JOINED THE ASSOCIATION.

YOU CAN HELP US--(FIRST) BY JOINING THE ASSOCIATION AND CONTRIBUTING YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION OF \$5.00. (SECOND) BY SENDING OLD MEDICAL WORKS AND FILES OF THE MORE IMPORTANT JOURNALS. ON ACCOUNT OF LIMITED SPACE, NO SHIPMENT OF BOOKS SHOULD BE MADE UNTIL NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED FROM THE MANAGER OF THE EXCHANGE.

FAITHFULLY YOURS,



W. Osler
PRESIDENT.

MISS M. C. NOYES,
MANAGER OF THE EXCHANGE.
(TO WHOM THE SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE SENT)

FIG. 3. Form letter written by Osler to physicians urging them to join the Association of Medical Libraries and to send their surplus old books and journals to Miss Noyes. (Reproduced from the Archives of the Medical Library Association, courtesy, Miss Louise D. C. King, Archivist.)

Osler then mentioned to his audience how the smaller libraries can profit from the larger ones, especially with needed advice and the blessings of exchange. He continued:

The organization of a library means effort, it means union, it means progress. It does good to men who start it, who help with money, with time and with the gift of books.

It does good to the young men, with whom our hopes rest, and a library gradually and insensibly moulds the profession of a town to a better and higher status.

Osler then led up to his subject, American medical bibliography: "We desire to foster among our members and in the profession at large a proper love of books." At this meeting the incumbents were re-elected to office. Osler was returned for a third term as president, at the sixth annual meeting held in Brooklyn on May 16, 1903.

In his 1902 presidential address, Osler gave thanks to the editors who donated their journals for distribution. That gifts were not always forthcoming is indicated in the following letters which were written in reply to a letter from Osler asking for a journal donation.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS
AND
DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

WM. WOOD & CO., PUBLISHER
51, FIFTH AVENUE

BROOKS H. WELLS, M.D.,
EDITOR

DEAR DOCTOR OSLER,—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 22nd inst. asking that the journal be given to the Association of Medical Librarians.

Your letter was referred to the publishers and as the clearest way of answering it I enclose their letter to me.

I must say that while I would like to give you the Journal I appreciate and sympathise with the views of Messrs. Wood & Co. We receive an average of over seven letters a month from medical libraries throughout the world asking that one or more copies of the Journal be sent them as a gift.

We have found by experience that compliance with these requests always results in the loss of practically all of our paid subscriptions in that neighborhood so that the gift from our point of view does only harm.

With kindest regards to yourself

BROOKS H. WELLS

May 24th, 1902

Mr. Gill of the William Wood & Company, publishers of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*, wrote Dr. Wells as follows:

NEW YORK May 28, 1902

DEAR DR. WELLS:

We are in receipt of yours of the 24th inst., with enclosure of letter of Dr. Osler.

We are in receipt constantly of letters of a similar character from librarians and professors in medical schools from all over the country, and are always embarrassed to know how to answer them without giving offense. It certainly seems as if the medical profession considered publishers of medical books, as under such obligations to them, as to warrant such applications. We have sometimes wondered if doctors considered that they were under obligation to their patients for their patronage, and such obligations too as would justify them in asking the doctors to make donations of time or services in direc-

tions in which they were interested. Probably the doctors have never looked at it in this light.

We do not at all believe that the letter sent you signed by Dr. Osler, was ever composed by him, and almost doubt if he ever read it. Why should publishers give their journals to the association in question? As a rule medical journals throughout the country have hard work to make both ends meet, the chief drawback being the extreme difficulty of making collections from their subscribers.

The loss of "35 subscriptions" as suggested in the letter referred to us, is by no means a trifle to "The American Journal of Obstetrics," especially if these subscribers happen to be prompt paying men. The suggestion that this loss would be offset by the gain in advertising is wholly chimerical, and is a delusion which many medical men appear to entertain respecting the publishing business; but it is rubbed into us most persistently by every doctor who wants us to give him anything. One would almost imagine that we did not understand our business.

We quite agree with the letter that "the building up of medical libraries is to the advantage of the profession," that is to such of them who are so located that they can avail themselves of them. Nothing however is said concerning the publisher, and on his behalf we may say that medical libraries are a very serious drawback to the welfare and prosperity of the publishing business. We know from practical experience that a set of, for instance, the Reference Handbook, in a library in a city containing fifty or sixty medical men, will kill the sale of not less than ten or fifteen copies of the same work in that city. It is getting to be more and more the case that the poor doctor, who is unfortunately located in the back-woods, or at a distance from a large city, is the mainstay and backbone of the success of publishing medical books, and the men who are so earnest in building up libraries are placing a greater burden upon such of their confreres.

We always feel that the receipt of these letters asking for donations places us "between the Devil and the deep sea," since we have learned from experience how difficult it is to answer them without giving offense. We are therefore glad that this letter from Dr. Osler has not been addressed to us, and trust that you will be able to write him so tactfully, and with such judicious command of language, as will enable him in some little degree to appreciate the situation of the medical publisher. Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM WOOD & COMPANY Per E. GILL

At the annual meeting in 1901 the new Association decided to publish a quarterly bulletin. It was issued by Miss Noyes, Dr. H. M. Hurd, of Baltimore, and Mr. John S. Brownne, Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine. The first issue published as v. 1, nos. 1-2, for January-April, 1902, included Osler's article, "A Visit to the Hunterian Library at Glasgow" (40). Osler received this number while vacationing in Canada and wrote as follows to Miss Noyes:

POINT A PIC
P-2
9th

DEAR MISS NOYES

Very much better I feel to be independent. The first No. was a great success & we can make the Bulletin a really useful medium of communication. My article must be in The Am. Med. by this time. You can have it set up, and let me have a proof. I am due at home on the 22nd.

Even after Osler left America for England in 1905, he kept up his interest in the affairs of the Association he had helped indirectly in founding and whose name was changed in 1907 to the Medical Library Association. The following letters from the archives of the Association indicate his continuing interest.

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD

Oct. 11th, 09.

DEAR MISS NOYES,

I am very glad indeed to hear that you have got the exchange under way and have a special assistant for the work.

What a large family you must have now that the Humptons have joined you.

Give my love to Miss Nickols and tell her we are all very well, and very busy now the term has begun.

* * *

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD

Dec. 1st, 10.

DEAR RUHRÄH,²

I am glad you stirred up the Exchange; not an easy business to get in good order, but there are great possibilities. I must unload on you myself through the Smithsonian; I have a number of volumes that would be of value; and of course the Medico-Chirurgical could have the first choice.

* * *

December 13, 1910

DEAR DR. OSLER:—

Thank you very much for your letter of December 1st about the Exchange. We shall be delighted to have anything you send us, and shall see that it is properly distributed.

We are getting the Association in good working order and I hope to see a lot of new members before long. Very sincerely,

[JOHN RUHRÄH], *Treasurer*

* * *

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD

24th June, 1912

DEAR RUHRÄH,

I think it is a very good plan indeed to have a financial committee, and it would be very helpful to get an endowment. I wish I could help you. The Bulletin is excellent, and should do a great deal of good.

Do let us know when you are coming over.

² Dr. John Ruhräh, of Baltimore, long a member of the Association, served for 16 years as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, Chairman of the Publication Committee and then as President (1927).

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD

June 21st, 1911

DEAR RUHRÄH,

I think it is a very good idea to issue the "Quarterly Bulletin," as I am sure it would be very useful to the smaller libraries, and serve as a medium for exchange.

I enclose you a few scraps, as it may help to fill up.

With kind regards and best wishes,

* * *

BALTIMORE, June 14, 1912

DEAR OSLER:—

At the last meeting of the Medical Library Association you were elected a member of the Finance Committee. This committee, you will remember, was originally planned with the idea that the members of it try to get some endowment for the association; the income of which will be used to further the interests of the association particularly needy libraries and the Exchange. The other members of this committee are:

Dr. William C. Posey, 21st & Chestnut Sts., Phila.

Miss M. M. Loomis, Quine Library, Chicago, Ill.

Dr. A. Jacobi, 19 E. 47th Street, New York.

Dr. A. D. Blackader, 236 Mountain Street, Montreal.

I hope you have had time to look over the Bulletin of the association, and if you have you will note the work has progressed pretty satisfactorily in the last two years. I wonder if you could not interest some of the foreign libraries to join the association. If you could find time to write us an article for the Bulletin I am sure all the members will be very glad to hear from you. Something about the Italian libraries or the old Italian medical books I am sure would be very much appreciated.

The Faculty is progressing very well indeed, and we are doing great things along the line of Public Instruction.

I may get over your way for a few weeks this summer, if I do I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Osler.

With my kindest regards, I am, Very sincerely,

[JOHN RUHRÄH] *Treasurer.*

* * *

DEAR DR. OSLER:—

I am sending you with this Miss Humpton's transcription of the remarks you made in Washington, as you will possibly want to look these over. There were one or two instances where we were not sure of the names, and which you will have to supply.

We feel we had an unusually interesting meeting, and I am so glad we can print the report so that the members who were unable to be present may have the benefit. Thank you so much for your talk.

I know how glad you must be to get on board ship, and feel that you have a peaceful week before you after such a strenuous American visit; but really we, who had counted so much on your coming, feel that we have hardly seen you. Please don't make it so long before you come again, and I speak here and now for a bigger portion of your time for the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty not to mention myself. Very sincerely,

[MARCIA C. NOYES] *Manager of the Exchange*

The letter from Miss Noyes probably refers to Sir William's talk (41) before the sixteenth annual meeting of the Medical Library Association held in Washington, D. C., May 5, 1913.

The final letter to Osler in the archives notifies him that he was elected an honorary member of the Association at the meeting held in Washington in 1915:

May 20, 1915.

MY DEAR DR. OSLER:—

It gives me pleasure to notify you that at the Meeting of the Medical Library Association, just held in Washington, you were elected an honorary member of that body.

Regret was expressed at the conditions which make your resignation a necessity, and the members were only too glad of an opportunity to show their appreciation of your great interest in the Association. Very sincerely,

[JOHN RUHRÄH], *Secretary and Treasurer.*

OTHER LIBRARIES AND PAPERS

One of Osler's most interesting papers concerning libraries and books was read in January, 1901, at the dedication of the new building for the Boston Medical Library (42). In it occur many of his often repeated quotations:

It is hard for me to speak of the value of libraries in terms which would not seem exaggerated. . . .

To study the phenomena of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all.

Osler's contempt for bigotry and intolerance is evident in his address on chauvinism before the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association in 1902 (43). To combat this besetting sin of many of his colleagues Osler said: "Next to a personal knowledge of men, a knowledge of the literature of the profession of different countries will do much to counteract intolerance and Chauvinism."

Ruhräh (8) wrote that the library at Johns Hopkins Hospital was started about the same time as the hospital (1887). It seems strange that Billings allowed only one room in the administrative building for it. Nevertheless Osler took a great interest in its development, not only using the library himself but making his students use it, giving them references to journal articles or to books and instructing them in the importance of consulting original sources. Probably he also advised them to consult the library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty. Osler donated many books and journals, sought out material for both, not only at home but on his many trips abroad.

Miss Minnie Blogg who became librarian of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1899 remembered Osler in these words (44):

The present librarian . . . , entering upon her duties twenty years ago (April, 1899), found herself overwhelmed with work, and one day arranging books and journals came to a point where she settled herself comfortably on the floor the better to reach some

desirable shelves. She was alone in the Library, and was absorbed in arranging the hundreds of journals and reprints which surrounded her. Suddenly she became aware of a light, rapid step approaching, and almost immediately there appeared in the doorway a man who paused and looked at her. Distinguished, keen, slight and wonderfully alert, he stood; he wore a black frock coat, carried a silk hat and gaily swung a slender cane. We looked at each other (let me change from the third person); neither spoke. Then in a singularly kind and sympathetic voice (I immediately felt myself a pathetic figure) he asked:

"Is this the new Librarian?"

I could not deny it. "Well I declare!" said Dr. Osler, as he mounted a chair and reached for a book . . . consulted it, and after a while went away.

It was several days before I knew who my distinguished visitor was, but even after I knew Dr. Osler as the always kind and generous friend of the Library, I retained the pleasant impression of friendliness received at this first meeting.

For many years Osler had wished to make his home in Great Britain and had been tempted by many of his British friends to be a candidate for the chair of medicine at the University of Edinburgh. The chair became vacant in 1900, at which time Osler was a candidate, but withdrew his application. In August, 1904, however, when offered the position of Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, he accepted.

Before assuming his new duties in 1905, he presented a stirring farewell address to American and Canadian medical students (45). He told his listeners to "Divide your attentions equally between books and men. The strength of the student of books is to sit still—two or three hours at a stretch—eating the heart out of a subject with pencil and notebook in hand, determined to master the details and intricacies, focussing all your energies on its difficulties." And for the physician's continuing education Osler said: "Given the sacred hunger and proper preliminary training, the student-practitioner requires at least three things with which to stimulate and maintain his education, a notebook, a library, and a quinquennial braindusting."

Later Contributions to the Johns Hopkins Library. Realizing that the Hopkins library was inadequate historically, he looked for ways to remedy this situation during his early Oxford years. In 1906 an opportunity presented itself. A London bookseller called on him and said that a library of seventeenth and eighteenth century medical books was for sale. These had been gathered together in the early days by the physicians connected with the Warrington Dispensary. Osler, realizing that this was a valuable collection and that it would supplement the special libraries at Johns Hopkins, wrote to W. A. Marburg, a Hopkins friend, who authorized Osler to purchase it and to put it in good repair. To complete the gift Mr. Marburg also furnished bookcases. In January, 1907, Osler returned to Baltimore and talked at the presentation of this valuable collection to the library of the medical school (46).

THE OXFORD PERIOD (1905-1919)

A few days before Osler left America for England, a large farewell dinner was given for him in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria. Attending the dinner, which was held on May 2, were about five hundred guests, many of whom were leaders of the medical profession of the United States and Canada. At the dinner several talks were given, and Weir Mitchell presented Osler with Logan's translation of *De senectute* (Philadelphia, B. Franklin, 1744).

In his response Osler spoke of the happiness of his life and ended with his personal ideals, which I shall cite because they apply not only to physicians but to members of other professions including librarians as well:

To do the day's work well and not to bother about tomorrow. . . .

To act the Golden Rule, as far as in me lay. . . .

To cultivate such a measure of equanimity as would enable me to bear success with humility, the affection of my friends without pride, and to be ready when the day of sorrow and grief came to meet it with the courage befitting a man (2g).³

Osler concluded with these words from which all of us can derive comfort: "I have made mistakes, but they have been mistakes of the head and not of the heart."

A very tired Dr. Osler set sail from New York on May 19, 1905, having two days previously finished the sixth edition of his textbook and having been subject for the last few months to a most rigorous and fatiguing schedule.

Osler's new professorship automatically made him a curator (member of the Board) of the Bodleian Library and his first official act was to attend a meeting of the curators on June 2, 1905. His contacts with this important library, especially as a member of the Standing Committee, enlivened the collection as well as the library's personnel.

In 1908 Reginald H. Hill (47) became a member of the staff of the Bodley. Since Osler took a keen interest in the library staff, he soon became acquainted with Hill and liked him so much that later he became one of the "latch-keyers" in the Osler house at 13 Norham Gardens. To Hill, as well as to W. W. Francis, Archibald Malloch, and L. L. Mackall, Osler was to entrust the cataloging of his library. In 1915, Osler hired Hill to work evenings to type his letters, pay his book bills, and catalog his new books. In assessing Osler's chief influence on libraries, Hill said (48):

I suppose Osler's chief influence on libraries (and I am thinking not only of medical collections, for I know what he meant to the Bodleian) was in emphasizing their fundamental importance in life, professional and otherwise; and in urging young students to form and use them; in fostering the collecting instinct; in encouraging the acquisition of earlier basic material; and in humanising and enriching them. . . .

³ For references 2g-2m to CUSHING, H. *The Life of Sir William Osler*, see Part I, BULLETIN 49: 39, Jan. 1961.

In the same communication Hill refers to Osler's intense interest in the Bodleian Library as curator. Osler was a great help to the two directors of his era, Nicholson and his successor, Falconer Madan. He encouraged the younger members of the staff to develop themselves and to get into print; indeed, he established the *Bodleian Quarterly Record* for this purpose.

Falconer Madan related in some detail Osler's influence on the Bodley (49). Osler promoted establishment of a room for musical students and a science research room and often helped in a most liberal manner with important acquisitions. The chief of these, of course, was the repurchase in 1906 of the Bodleian first folio of Shakespeare. This story is well told by Cushing (2h). The original copy came to the library in 1623 under the agreement with the Stationers' Company. After the Restoration it had been culled out for a newer edition! Osler "persuaded" Lord Strathcona to send his check for £500 to help repurchase it. The total purchase price was £3,000!

Perhaps no part of the Bodleian Library appealed so much to Osler as the books which came to it under a codicil of the will of Robert Burton, author of the *Anatomy of Melancholy*. Burton in bequeathing the books added instructions that all duplicates of books already in that library should be passed on to Christ Church Library (50). In 1907, Sir William Osler brought together the Burton books that had been scattered through the shelves at Christ Church Library and grouped them around a portrait of Burton copied from the well known picture at Brasenose. The volumes received by the Bodleian and Christ Church libraries have been listed. The collections contain contemporary plays and masks, and many religious works in addition to 86 medical books. Since there is scarcely a medical author of any note to that time who is not mentioned in the *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Burton must have found the medical material already available in the Bodleian and Christ Church libraries while he was preparing his work (51).

Osler, in 1914 in a demonstration of the "Manuscripts and Printed Books in the Bodleian Illustrating the Evolution of British Surgery," pointed out the fact that the Bodleian was one of the great medical libraries of the world. He then described the rare treasures it contained that illustrated the evolution of surgery in Great Britain (52).

In 1916 appeared Osler's article about a living bookworm he had discovered burrowing through volume three of the *Histoire abrégée de la dernière persécution de Port-Royal*. This three volume set had been purchased in October, 1915, from a Paris bookseller. Osler described the worming as follows (53):

The backs of two of the volumes were wormed, vol. i with two holes, vol. ii with ten, and this volume when opened showed at the back close to the binding a single large tun-

nel, an inch and a half in length, with laterals above and below. The borings had a fresh look and there were many granular castings. Near to the top of the main tunnel my eye caught a globular nest or casing . . . and from the upper open end of this a brownish black head bobbed in and out. With a lens part of the body could be seen, and with gentle manipulation the little worm was extracted. . . .

Quick to acknowledge gifts, Osler, in October, 1905, after receiving the *Collected Papers of the Graduates of the Johns Hopkins Medical School* in 12 volumes, wrote an open letter in the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* (54). In it he said:

Many pleasant incidents have happened in the course of more than thirty years' teaching, but I do not remember ever to have been so completely overwhelmed, so to speak, by the character of the gift. Of course I was well aware that, in the few years that had elapsed since its foundation, much good work had been done by the members of the school. No small part, indeed, of your education consisted in helping you to reach the state in which you could become contributors to science, and for this your careful preliminary training, and your course in the medical school had fitted you. But that in so short a period of eight years you should have been able to accomplish so much, is a matter not less of astonishment than of pride. . . .

That same October, Osler was asked to speak at the Physical Society, a student organization of Guy's Hospital. He chose for this, his first lecture after his Oxford appointment, to talk about Sir Thomas Browne and his *Religio medici* (55). With his entire collection of more than fifty editions of Browne's book before him Osler gave a bio-bibliographical lecture stressing his own interest in Browne, the life of the author, the contributions of Browne, and Osler's appreciation of his favorite author.

Another position Osler held was that of a delegate to the Clarendon Press. He attended with great regularity their weekly meetings. The discussions of what books to print or to reprint must have been exciting. Osler also acquired a typographical knowledge from his contact with the press which was invaluable to him in his library and bibliographical work. Osler, too, initiated here the important *Quarterly Journal of Medicine*.

His great interest in the British libraries that he was associated with as well as his enthusiasm for the Clarendon Press probably led Osler to think of a possible "College of the Book." At any rate Cushing called attention to some unpublished data, written in 1907, which pointed in this direction (2i). He quoted Osler as follows:

There should be a college where men could learn everything relating to the Book, from the preparation of manuscript & the whole mystery of authorship, to the art of binding; everything from the manufacture of paper to the type with which the book is printed; everything relating to the press & to the mart; everything about the history of printing from Gutenberg to Hoe; everything about the precursors of the printed book: the papyrus, the rolls, the parchment & the vellum, even about the old writing on the burnt bricks of Nineveh; everything about the care of books, the Library lore, how to stack &

store books; how to catalogue, how to distribute them; how to make them vital living units in a community; everything that the student should know about the use of books, his skilled tools in the building of his mind. That there should be such a College & that it should be at Oxford is evident to any one who knows the Bodleian Library & the Clarendon Press. Here is a unique opportunity—let us see how it can be utilized.

Osler then suggested other departments of such a college as (1) the School of Library Economics, (2) the School of Bibliography, and (3) the School of Publication and Printing.

Admirable as these suggestions were they were not accepted. Later Osler used similar ideas in his talk given at the opening of the Summer School of Library Service at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, July 31, 1917 (56). What a thrill it would have been to have heard Osler say:

The librarians of today, and it will be true still more of the librarians of tomorrow, are not fiery dragons interposed between the people and the books. They are useful public servants, who manage libraries in the interest of the public. The old notion of the right person to have charge of books is going, but by no means gone; the sooner it goes the better for everybody. Many think still that a great reader, or a writer of books, will make an excellent librarian. This is pure fallacy.

Since there was no association of medical librarians in Great Britain similar to the one in the United States, Osler organized such a group in 1909. Twenty-seven librarians met at Belfast at the time of the meeting of the British Medical Association. Osler, as President of the newly organized Medical Library Association of Great Britain, gave a stirring address entitled "Remarks on the Medical Library in Post-Graduate Work" (57). The objects of the new society were:

- (a) To bring together those engaged in or interested in medical libraries and medical literature, and for the discussion of matters associated with their fostering and care;
- (b) To maintain an exchange for the distribution of duplicate books and periodicals;
- (c) To increase the facilities for reference work;
- (d) To encourage the study of the history of medicine;
- (e) To issue publications dealing with medical library work;
- (f) To form a library union amongst those of the medical libraries between which the exchange of books can be arranged.

Osler said, "This is not to be simply a society for those whose work is more or less officially concerned with libraries, but it is for all interested in the book as a living factor in the education of the members of a learned and consequently of a very bookish profession." He pointed out the fact that there were more medical libraries in Great Britain than in any other country in the world. There were the important national libraries with large collections of medical books such as the British Museum and the Bodleian Library. There were the libraries of the colleges (medical departments), the medical libraries proper, such as those of the Royal Colleges, and finally

there were the smaller libraries in the provincial cities and towns and in the hospitals. It seems amazing, then, that with such a stimulation the newly formed society was short-lived.

In his address Osler also emphasized the importance of a physician's continuing his education after graduation from medical school:

Post-graduate study is a habit of mind only to be acquired, as are other habits, in the slow repetition of the practice of looking at everything with an inquiring spirit. . . . There are many factors in this training—note-taking, reading, the medical society, and the quinquennial brain-dusting at a hospital or a post-graduate school. But I am only here concerned with one—books. . . . So far as the library is a factor, the greater part of a man's post-graduate education must be at home. In the country no man practises very far from a country town in which there is a medical society or a general hospital with a library attached. . . . The country library, wherever situated, should be the much-esteemed consultant of the general practitioner.

Osler was a great friend of bookdealers, especially the antiquarians, who had helped him enormously in filling the gaps of his collection as well as turning up important volumes that he subsequently presented to friends and libraries. It is not surprising, then, that he accepted an invitation to attend the annual dinner of the International Association of Antiquarian Booksellers held at the Criterion Restaurant on January 26, 1911. A preceding speaker had lauded the antiquarian bookseller as follows: "I regard every Antiquarian Bookseller as a noble standard-bearer in our age of vulgarity. He holds up to us the light of better times, and he encourages us, and makes us believe that to better times by-and-by we shall be able to muddle through. . . ." Osler's remarks were in a lighter vein than usual (58):

I feel very highly honoured that what I might call the toast of the evening has been assigned to me. And really it is out of the deepest spirit of Christian charity that I propose it: because you see here before you a mental, moral, almost, I may say, a physical wreck—and all of your own making. Until I became mixed up with you I was really a respectable, God-fearing, industrious, earnest, ardent, enthusiastic, energetic student. Now what am I? A mental wreck, devoted to nothing but your literature. Instead of attending to my duties and attending to my work, in comes every day by the post, and by every post, all this seductive literature with which you have, as you know perfectly well, gradually undermined the mental virility of many and many a better man than I. . . .

On June 20, 1911, King George V was crowned, and Osler received a coronation honor, a baronetcy. That same day he wrote to Miss Marcia Noyes "They have been putting a baronetcy on me—much to the embarrassment of my democratic simplicity, but it does not seem to make any difference in my internal sensations. . . ." (2j).

In January, 1913, Sir William was elected President of the Bibliographical Society. He was re-elected for a second term at the annual meeting in January, 1914, and for all his remaining years. Pollard (59) related

that Osler brought to the Society not only an increase in its external prosperity but new inspiration which it badly needed.

On January 19, 1914, Osler read, as his presidential address before the Bibliographical Society, a paper with the title "Printed Medical Books to 1480." In the little leisure afforded him by his many wartime activities, Osler rewrote the earlier part of the address which was published posthumously as an introduction to his *Incunabula medica*. This magnificent volume is so well known that its description would be out of place in this review. However I cannot refrain from quoting the following:

As my profession had never before been honoured by the presidency of the Bibliographical Society, it seemed appropriate to try to indicate the influence which the introduction of printing had upon medicine, to get, if possible, a mental picture of professors and practice at the time from the characters of books they thought it worth while to have printed (59).

Meanwhile Osler kept up his correspondence with his library friends as the following letter to Dr. William Browning, librarian of the Medical Society of the County of Kings and Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn, indicates:

23, March, 1915.

DEAR BROWNING,

I suppose I have to thank you for that excellent biography of McNaughton. It is uncommonly well done, and I enjoyed so much looking it over. Evidently he served his day and generation to good purpose.

Hope all goes well with you and yours. We are having a strenuous time over here, but the old land is awake and very hopeful, and thankful that things have gone as well as they have. We are getting ready for a long, long struggle, and we shall do well to get out of it in two or three years and with our skins whole. Meanwhile, buckle on your armour in America, for if we come to grief it will only be about five years before your turn comes. And do not forget to profit by England's example—ships, ships, ships!

Love to all my old friends in Brooklyn.

Viets has described Osler's library during the war years (60). "His library was a library used, in a way I have never seen duplicated. Dust seldom collected, especially on the older books, where the masters of medicine originally described the clinical entities." Dr. Viets remembered also what Osler called his "annual shed" which was held each fall. This was the time he gave away his duplicate books to those who happened to visit him.

Osler's keen interest in the history of medicine prompted him to organize in 1912 the Section of the History of Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine. One of his most important historico-bibliographical papers was presented before this group on May 15, 1918 (61). This was his story and assessment of the first printed documents relating to surgical

anesthesia. Osler gave credit to Morton as the most important of the pioneers in this field, and Osler's observations have stood the test of time as reported by most present-day historians in this field. As a "follow-up" to the remarks Osler presented Morton's original papers to the library of the Royal Society of Medicine—a worthy gift.

To those who read them Osler's Silliman Lectures (62), entitled *The Evolution of Modern Medicine*, provide an invigorating and exciting experience. This volume should be made required reading for all medical librarians. Called by Osler "An aeroplane flight over the progress of medicine through the ages" (62a), these lectures unfold in a fascinating manner. Although Osler planned originally to deliver them in 1912, they were postponed until 1913. Because of numerous commitments they were not published during Osler's lifetime; even though he tried on several occasions to revise the proofs something always interfered. It remained for Fielding Garrison, Harvey Cushing, Edward Streeter, and Leonard MacKall to see to their eventual publication in 1921.

Osler, as we have shown, was ever a friend and journeyed to London on December 14, 1917, to honor an old friend, J. Y. W. MacAlister, President of the Library Association of Great Britain and Librarian and, later, Secretary and Editor of the Royal Society of Medicine. In speaking of MacAlister, Osler had this to say (63):

There are two groups of men—the idealist, who looks before and after, the worrying, perturbing spirit, never satisfied with existing conditions, who plays the Socratic gad-fly, stirring his fellow-men to higher efforts—and there is the plain practical man, whose business is with the day's work; in which class fortunately most of us come. . . . There is also a third group, very small, the men of combined vision and action, and our guest MacAlister is one of these, he dreams dreams, but he also has the energy and "go" to put into effect. . . .

Of one aspect of his many activities I have had full opportunities of judging. MacAlister began life as a medical student, but after three years, ill-health compelled him to abandon a career for which he was peculiarly well fitted. Shortly after coming to London he became Secretary and Librarian to the old Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. . . . A dozen or more Medical Societies met in the same rooms. The fusion of these various bodies into a Royal Society of Medicine has been very largely his work. . . .

MacAlister replied (in part):

I want especially to thank whoever conceived the happy and generous thought of securing Sir William Osler's presence to-night, for it is the simple truth that I shall value that all my life as the highest honour and reward I could receive for whatever I may have been able to do for the dear old Library Association.

In honor of Sir William Osler's seventieth birthday on July 12, 1919, his pupils and co-workers on both sides of the Atlantic presented him with a collection of essays in two volumes entitled *Contributions to Medical*

and *Biological Research* (64). The presentation took place at the Royal Society of Medicine amid a large and most attentive audience (65). Sir Clifford Allbutt, Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge, announced the celebration:

To me, as one of your oldest friends in time, and perhaps the oldest in age, has fallen the honour of announcing our celebration of your seventieth birthday. . . . The last lustrum of your three score and ten, if now merged in victory, has been a time of war and desolation, of broken peoples, and stricken homes; yet through this clamour and destruction your voice, among the voices in the serener air of faith and truth, has not failed, nor your labour for the sufferings of others grown weary. . . .

In these volumes we hope you will find the kind of offering from your fellow workers which will please you best—immaterial offerings indeed, but such as may outlive a more material gift. . . .

Sir William Osler replied:

Two circumstances deepen the pride a man may justly feel at this demonstration of affection by his colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic—one, that amid so much mental and physical tribulation my friends should have had the courage to undertake this heavy two-volume task, and the other, that this honour is received at the hands of my brother Regius, a friend of more than forty years. . . .

Osler then continued in his beautiful prose to thank his audience.

It must have been with considerable pride that he perused the two volumes with contributions from the leaders of the medical field in Canada, England, and the United States. Not only physicians but many librarians and medically minded historians were included: T. D. Acland, Arthur Keith, Archibald Malloch, Sir D'Arcy Power, Sir Humphrey Rolleston, Charles and Dorothea Singer, Mortimer Frank, Fielding Garrison, Bayard Holmes, Henry B. Jacobs, Leonard L. Mackall, William Browning, and Sir J. Y. W. MacAlister, whom I have mentioned earlier. Space does not permit me to go into detail concerning each of their contributions but I quote briefly from MacAlister who envisioned an Osler library of the future (66):

It was built in the form of a quadrangle, with a great open court-yard in the centre, in which was a noble marble statue. At first I thought I recognised it as the "Hope Asklepios," but going closer I was startled to observe . . . the face was that of our revered friend and teacher William Osler. . . .

My guide, taking out his watch, remarked that we should just be in time for breakfast with the staff, and led the way to the refectory, which I found to be a noble room with a southern aspect, set out with long tables where many of the staff were already seated, and in spite of the tempting meal set before them, were already engaged either in earnest conversation or disputation, and my guide explained to me that the rule of the house was that the members of the staff, with himself, took their meals together, as in this way they could discuss questions and difficulties without trenching on the time devoted to their official duties. . . .

FATHER AND SON

Osler was fond of children and probably nothing gave him more personal satisfaction than the birth of his son, Edward Revere, on December 28, 1895. The Oslers referred to him often in their letters. As the boy grew up his interests were noted. Fishing was the sport that appealed to Revere, and the father went with his son whenever it was possible. Osler and Mrs. Osler often called their boy "Ike," "Isaac" or "Isaac Walton, Jr." after the famous Isaak Walton. Their move to England was very exciting for Revere, and he looked forward to fishing the promising streams as well as the lakes. Many trips which included fishing for trout and pike were noted throughout the years. Being exposed to books and medicine was not without its effect on the son. In December, 1913, Osler wrote to Dr. Henry B. Jacobs:

"Revere has taken to the auction room & sent his first bid to Sotheby's, £1 for Landor's Pericles & Aspasia & got it!" (2k) In 1914, young Osler passed his matriculation for Oxford and began attending Christ Church that fall. The war came. Revere joined the reserve at Oxford. In January he accepted an assignment with the McGill unit. On February 24, 1915, young Osler left for the Canadian Military Hospital at Cliveden.

Revere began to take a serious interest in books and to acquire a library, not in medicine but especially in English literature. Sir William was most pleased and during the war on one occasion showed Revere's room to his Philadelphia friend, George Norris (67). He pointed with pride to Revere's books, "You must see some of his books. Are not these gems? These old editions of English classics which he has picked up."

The Oslers were extremely worried, as all parents would be, concerning the safety of their son, and hearing of the losses of the sons of their friends did not help. Then young Osler died of a severe wound on August 17, 1917, near St. Julien, France. Even though Osler kept his spirit of equanimity and plunged headlong into work, many thought that this loss hastened his death.

As a memorial to their son the Oslers decided to present the Edward Revere Osler Memorial Fund to Johns Hopkins University, "to encourage the study of English literature of the Tudor and Stuart periods." Revere's collection was to serve as a nucleus for a new club, and the fund was to be used "for the purchase of further books relating to these periods, and in the promotion of good fellowship and a love of literature among the members" (2l). To Revere's collection Osler added his own nonmedical books.

After the war ended, the Oslers were kept very busy. The Louvain Library had been destroyed and Osler was one of a committee to restock it.

He wrote a note in the *Lancet* giving a "want list" and urging physicians to supply sets of British medical and scientific journals (68).

POSTWAR DAYS

In some way the height of Osler's power was shown in what proved to be his last public address. This was his famous "The Old Humanities and the New Science" (69), delivered as his presidential address before the meeting of the Classical Association at Oxford in May, 1919. Cushing in his introduction to a brochure edition of his address (70) told about the significance of the Association and Osler's role. In addition to his address Osler exhibited a large number of historical objects illustrating Oxford's part in science and natural philosophy in days prior to the formation of the Royal Society. Besides this, he exhibited the outstanding books in their original editions from his own collection, his "Bibliotheca prima." Not being content Osler also prepared a pamphlet for the occasion including the life and work of the men who had made the contributions.

As has been mentioned, Osler's seventieth birthday occurred in July, 1919. Following the celebration he was not well (2m). It was necessary for him to spend much time in bed, but somehow he kept up the correspond-



FIG. 4. Dr. W. W. Francis taken in front of the Osler Shrine in his library at McGill showing the famous Vernon plaque of Osler. From a photograph by Miss Katharine McLennan, Sydney, N. S. (Reproduced courtesy of the Osler Library, McGill University, Montreal, Miss Cécile Desbarats, Assistant Librarian.)

ence with his many friends. He had suffered many attacks of bronchopneumonia; in his final illness empyema and pulmonary abscess developed and he succumbed on December 29, 1919.

Shortly before he died Osler jotted down the destination of certain choice books to the Bodleian Library, the libraries of the British Museum, the Faculté de Médecine de Paris, the Royal Society of Medicine, the University of Leyden, the Surgeon General's Office, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and the Bibliotheca Lancisiana, Rome. The greater part of his library he bequeathed to the Medical Faculty of McGill University (71) and expressed a desire that a catalog of his library be printed. At Lady Osler's suggestion W. W. Francis, Librarian of the Osler Library, R. H. Hill of the Bodleian Library, and Archibald Malloch, Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, were asked to carry out Osler's wishes, which they did in a most commendable way, and Dr. Francis (fig. 4) particularly was destined to keep the Osler tradition alive for many years to come.

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Oster's

Principles & practice of
medicine 1892

- 1 - McCrae, Thomas
 - 2 - H. A. Christian
 - 3 - Harvey, M. C. DeLee &
Fector M. C. Kusick
- subsequent
revisions after 1919

Oster, Isaac Willian 1849-1909

I. Montreal and Toronto Period

- graduated M.C.B. 11: 1872

- M.C.B. Medical Library: donated many volumes with his own annotations on flyleaf

- also used Boston Medical for items not in M.C.B.

- Oster's Contributions to the Library of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto

Philadelphia

II. ~~Baltimore~~ Period 1884-1889.

1884 - Oster accepts the chair of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Oster's devotion to the College of Physicians Library. - gives them the highly valuable incunabulum:

Astronomici Veteres. 1499 -
Venice, Aldus.

also - works of Celsus 1778.

III Baltimore 1889-1905.

In charge of the medical dept. at
John's Hopkins

IV - Oxford 1905-1919

- Curator of the Bodleian Library

... with gentle manipulation the little worm was extracted.

II. Baltimore Period 1887-1889

First - Latin accepts the chair of Chinese medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. ... College of Physicians & Surgeons - first ... Act. ... Vol. 1909-1910

... books of Colson 1918
Baltimore 1887-1890
in charge of the medical dept of Johns Hopkins

