



Jan. 5th /56

Dear Dr. Stevenson,

I would like to thank
for the cheque which I received
yesterday and, at the same
time, to say how pleased
I was to be given the privilege
of doing Dr. Francis' portrait.

I would, of course, be delighted
to undertake any future
commissions of the same kind.

Very sincerely,

Ludwig M. Maschmiedt

OSLER LIBRARY,
3 January, 1956.

Miss A. N. MacDermot,
4100 Côte des Neiges Road,
Montreal.

Dear Miss MacDermot,

We are all tremendously pleased with your drawing of Dr. Francis. I am sure that it will reproduce beautifully for the frontispiece of our book.

Here is a cheque from the "Friends of the Osler Society". I hope you will be willing to undertake some other commission of the same sort.

Very sincerely yours,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd
Encl:-

4100 COTE DES NEIGES ROAD

No. 14

MONTREAL, QUE.

November 5, 1955

Dear Floyd (to rhyme with Lloyd!)

I have been looking for someone like you for a long time. But now that you have been found I want to warn you that if ever you give me the pleasure of critically inspecting anything you write I shall become a dissecting microscope to which the splitting of the atom will be mere child's play!

Whether in code

Or else in an ode

Let it be showed

How the Tributes has growed.

All your joggings and suggestions have been accepted, sometimes with the very bad grace of one who realises that he should have thought of that himself, but certainly accepted.

I hesitated a little over "This service he performs daily." at first it seemed to have a tinge of the unnecessary, and then I thought it would be useful, not only as avoiding the "obituary tone" but as making it clear that we had not said goodbye to him in the library.

You are hypersensitive about "sources"! It's funny I didn't think that way about the word: not that I don't agree about going back to the real sources. I was thinking about them as guides and their indispensableness. Anyway I have swallowed what is left of my pride (!) and have turned these things into "tools."

I have even found one or two small

things which we both overlooked, and possibly will find more.

I had a word with young Sullivan at the hospital and he is aiming at the next ten days.

The picture?

Sincerely
Ernest MacFervest

AIRMAIL

Dear Mr Hill: I Thank you ^{for your letter}
of December 16th.

Most of our copy went off to the printer yesterday — the rest today or tomorrow. There is no time, therefore, to obtain your permission for a change to which I hope you will have no objection.

I have detached a few sentences from the last of your introductory paragraphs and put them at the end — after your Osler Club address — so as to conclude with something on W. W. F., for whom the book is intended. With minor alterations made necessary by this rearrangement, your final paragraph reads as follows:

"Looking back over ten years' work with the chief editor of the Catalogue, Dr. Francis, I recall a period on his part of real self-dedication to his task and of good-humoured fellowship in spite of our occasional

proddings. He was then and now is a
learned, witty, tolerant and lovable
soul. Like Osler, he loved Oxford
and the Bodleian, to which I belonged,
and where there are still happy
memories of W. W. F."

I hope that this is satisfactory.

With best wishes for Christmas,

Y. S.

Copy to M. G. H. - ers





McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

OSLER LIBRARY,

Dear Dr.

Once again, as in past years, the American Association of the History of Medicine announces a competition for the William Osler Medal.

The quality of the essays submitted in this competition last year was remarkably high, but the number of entries fell somewhat below the usual standard. We shall therefore be very grateful for the cooperation of American and Canadian faculties of medicine in bringing this contest to the attention of medical students.

Please post the enclosed notices and inform any members of your teaching staff who may be interested in the history of medicine. If occasion serves to make an oral announcement, or if it is possible to insert a printed announcement in a local calendar, journal or college newspaper, your students will be the better informed of this opportunity.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.,
Chairman, William Osler Medal Committee.



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Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.,
Chairman, William Osler Medal Committee.

OSLER LIBRARY,
17 Dec., 1955.

Dr. H. E. MacDermot,
The Montreal General Hospital,
Cedar Avenue,
Montreal.

Dear Inquisitor,

I am sending manuscripts to the printer with a few details, beyond inevitable errors, to be fixed up in the proofs. Among the things I have question-marked is Religio Librarenensis. Have you checked this with a classicist? It still makes me uneasy.

I don't want absolution. I want authority - as high as possible - because we can live down doubtful English but not doubtful Latin. If you are right, I shall gladly crawl, acknowledging myself much benefited.

Yours,

LGS:cd

P. S. Do you want to give your piece a title?

Religio Bibliothecarii

and the antecedent of "it" in the first line of the quotation is not then obvious.

OSLER LIBRARY,
3 Nov., 1955.

P. 5, l. 17: "so gently as he does," or "he does."

Dr. H. E. MacDermot,
4100 Côte des Neiges Road,
Montreal.

P. 6: "Obviously the Librarian does not attempt to withdraw himself," or as written in pencil.

P. 8: Big Protest: These books are not "sources."

My dear Fellow-Conspirator, they are either guide to, or away from, the sources themselves. Seldom need one go further than these

Ought we to communicate in code? Erwin H. Ackermann, in

A Short History of Medicine, just published, says in his preface,

"Your manuscript has been polished up to the point where my complaints are all quibbles - except one. But we are writing for (and about) the very prince of quibblers in literary matters, whose stylistic conscience is tender and whose eye is very sharp."

Bottom of p. 1, second last line: I am now persuaded that "authoritative" has at least two meanings and that "authoritarian" won't do; but my suggested substitution seems to me an improvement.

Top of p. 2: "writing" is singular, "passages" plural, and if the difficulty is merely formal, this does prevent a slight "catch" in reading. "He might not say anything about them."

P. 2 and throughout: much too free a use of past tense, which gives an undesirable obituary tone. How about "is" for "was" wherever possible? Hence also suggested addition to second paragraph.

P. 3, second paragraph: Hand-wrote comments would never of got wrote, as you say. But cut out the telephone book, because he wouldn't like it, and because he writes so amusingly.

P. 4, second paragraph: "when after coming out of the Royal Victoria College ... the students took the horses."

P. 4, first line of second paragraph: "a history" is a book; "the history" may be equivalent to "the past" or "past events,"

** But it sounds so much like a
spluttering fire I think we should
avoid it in most cases, in favor
of "his" or "of Dr. Francis" or
when suitable, "P. 10."*

and the antecedent of "it" in the first line of the quotation is not then obvious.

P. 5, l. 17: "so gently as he does," or "gently, as he does," but not "so gently, as he does."

P. 6: "Certainly the Librarian does not attempt to withdraw himself," or as written in pencil.

P. 6.: Big Protest: These books are not "sources." Indispensable as they are, they are either guide to, or away from, the sources themselves. "Seldom need one go further than these for medical historical facts." Ouch! Erwin H. Ackerknecht, in A Short History of Medicine, just published, says in his preface, "nobody really understands medical history unless he has read at least a few of the original texts." I am getting students to write reviews of hundred-year-old pamphlets rather than historical essays from the books in the little bay. Nevertheless they certainly ought to know about these. Can't you somehow reword this bit?

P. 7, second paragraph: "ms. or badly written material" - aren't they the same thing?

P. 7, third line from the bottom: "custodian of" might be the Regius Professor himself; "custodian at" seems to avoid the difficulty.

The whole effect is first-rate. I am glad you undertook to tell about the "patter," and you have included some other things that must be in the book but that no one else is attending to. I think you give a good picture of W. W. F. As he says himself,

Yours W. O.-fully,

LGS:cd
Encl:-

P.S. I have Dr. Francis' ruling that "Francis's" is the correct possessive form of his name^x All the other objections to the Davison and LeFanu contributions are points well taken.

x But it sounds so much like a spluttering fire I think we should avoid it in most cases, in favor of a his" or "of Dr. Francis" or, when suitable, "Bill's."

OSLER LIBRARY,
26 Sept., 1955.

Dr. H. E. MacDermot,
4100 Côte des Neiges Road,
Montreal.

Dear Dr. MacDermot,

As you are well aware, next year will mark the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the Osler Society. I think you also know that the present executive of the Society, with the encouragement of the Honorary President and some of the Alumni, has decided that it would like to honor Dr. Francis on this occasion. It is proposed to print a slender volume of tributes, to be issued at the time of the annual banquet in March, 1956. We hope to include messages from his friends and students at McGill and also from those who have been associated with him elsewhere.

There will be puffs about the catalogue from bibliographers and historians and reminiscences of various kinds from old associates. I count on you, however, to let us have something quite lively and personal, perhaps including an anecdote or two. I don't want the little book to be too formal or to have anything of a valedictory air. You will agree that this is a danger in gathering "tributes".

I think I need hardly add that the whole affair is "top secret," at least until a short time before the event.

Very sincerely yours,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
9 Dec., 1955.

Dr. J. Wendell Macleod,
Dean of Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon,
Sask.

Dear Wendell,

Thank you so much for your interesting manuscript. W. W. F. is sure to be pleased with it, as are the three editors. Our space limits are rather stringent and we may have to cut one of the shorter paragraphs of the seven you supplied. I know you won't mind, and the gap will not be apparent. It reads very smoothly and I am astounded that you can do this sort of thing after 1 a.m.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATOON, CANADA

DEAN OF MEDICINE

October 6, 1955.

Personal.

Dr. Lloyd C. Stevenson,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Lloyd:

I am very touched by the plan to honor Dr. Francis next February. Many will be so pleased that an ovation is planned.

I shall attempt something in the way of a tribute, although at the moment I am overwhelmed by a sense of inadequacy to do this justice. It should be smart and witty, and these qualities are difficult to evoke as I view the crowded agenda of the fall of 1955.

I hope to spend a few days in Montreal the first week of November and perhaps you can help me to become inspired!


With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Wendell Macleod".

J. Wendell Macleod, M.D.,
Dean of Medicine.

JWM:c



OSLER LIBRARY,
4 Oct., 1955.

Dr. Wendell McLeod,
Dean of Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon,
Sask.

Dear Dr. McLeod,

Next year is the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the Osler Society of McGill. The student executive, with encouragement from Faculty and Alumni, is planning to honour Dr. Francis at the time of the annual banquet, 16th February, 1955. We intend to issue a small volume of tributes and I should very much like to receive a contribution of a few pages from you - between one and five, double-spaced. As a past president of the Society and an old friend of Dr. Francis, I am sure that you will be glad to have a part in this project. Personal reminiscences seem to promise the greatest variety of material, but I leave it entirely to you and whatever you choose to send will be most welcome.

Since the time for editing, printing and binding is rather short, I shall be especially grateful if you can let me have your contribution by the 1st of December.

I need hardly add that we hope to give Dr. Francis a pleasant surprise and that the whole scheme is a secret.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd