

OSLER LIBRARY,
6 Oct., 1955.

Dr. R. Quinn,
School of Medicine,
Vanderbilt University,
Nashville, 5,
Tenn., U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Quinn,

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 honor Dr. Francis at the time of the annual banquet, 16th February, 1956. 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

MEDICINE AND DIAGNOSIS

E. P. SCARLETT, M.B.
D. L. MCNEIL, M.D.
W. S. JOHNS, M.D.
F. H. FISH, M.D.
R. P. DOUGLAS, M.D.
M. STRACHAN, M.D.
T. SAUNDERS, M.D.
M. A. VERNON, M.D.
G. H. MORRISON, M.D.
A. D. MULDOON, M.D.

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

B. M. HUMPHREY, M.D.
G. S. THOMAS, M.D.
V. T. MASON, M.D.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

L. I. YOUNGER, M.D.

SECRET FILE

CALGARY ASSOCIATE CLINIC

214 SIXTH AVENUE WEST
CALGARY, ALBERTA

SURGERY

HUGH A. STUART, M.D.
H. V. MORGAN, M.D.
D. W. RAMSAY, M.D.

PEDIATRICS

H. W. PRICE, M.D.
G. PRIEUR, M.D.
J. BIRRELL, M.D.

ORTHOPEDICS

A. C. WALSH, M.D.
D. D. STURDY, M.D.

UROLOGY

L. F. SPACKMAN, M.D.

OPHTHALMOLOGY

J. F. AIKENHEAD, M.D.

November 25th, 1955.

Dr. G. Lloyd Stevenson,
Osler Library,
McGill University,
MONTREAL, P.Q.

My dear Stevenson:

Your letter of November 22nd is a virtual cri de coeur. I do appreciate it, particularly as it comes from you.

I understand perfectly the changes which may be necessary in order to fit my screed into the general scheme of things, and, as I said before, you are entirely free to do whatever you wish with it. I am sorry that I had gathered the notion that W.W.F. was retiring, and in consequence the changes which you have set out will of course be necessary and entirely in character. You are right in supposing that you are "the World".

I am afraid that it may be only too true that I am the sole example of that figure of pomposity, metaphorical beard and metaphysical abstraction known as a University Chancellor who reads W.H. Auden. As one who has the most immense regard for the wisdom of poets, even modern ones, it would be assuredly better for others of the chancellorial stripe if they did know Auden, however crotchety he may be at times.

Thanks again for your note. It has left me immensely exalted.

With warmest personal regards,
Sincerely yours,
C. G. Stevenson.

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J. F. AIKENHEAD, M.D.

November 17th, 1955

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

My dear Stevenson:

I am enclosing under this cover my contribution to the Francis volume. I do hope that it is the sort of thing you wanted.

May I say that you have full editorial prerogative to do anything with it you wish - cutting, altering or indeed consigning to oblivion.

I am sure that the Francis presentation will be a real occasion. I herewith send along my good wishes in that regard.

Sincerely yours,

E. P. Scarlett

E. P. Scarlett, M.D.

EPS/hb

Is this satisfactory? It preserves your original wording as possible, with the deletion of all reference to retirement. the rest, you could hardly please us more. Your piece is a truly sal bon d'argent and altogether appropriate.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

Dr. E. P. Scarlett,
The Calgary Associate Clinic,
214 Sixth Avenue West,
Calgary,
Alberta.

OSLER LIBRARY,
22 Nov., 1955.

Dear Dr. Scarlett,

Your manuscript is a daisy, a ducky, a lamb. The stuff I have been getting from others is mostly well and good, but too serious and too much of a kind. Yours will brighten the picture enormously.

I am sorry to say that slight changes will be necessary. No titles - each piece is to have a roman numeral only - so "There was a man ... I will tell it softly" becomes your first sentence. More important, W. W. F. is not retiring. We suggest changes leading to this:

And then the World comes in at the door and I am led down a corridor and told that Dr. Francis will shortly be called upon to witness the agonies of books in process of transplantation. In the meantime, and on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Osler Society, it is desired that some of us join in a salute to him. An extra-mural affair of course - for it occurs to me that every book in its respective shelf will come to attention and salute, before marching off to the ground floor to a new, but unchanged, Osler Library.

Is this satisfactory? It preserves your original wording as far as possible, with the deletion of all reference to retirement. For the rest, you could hardly please us more. Your piece is a truly delightful jeu d'esprit and altogether appropriate.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd

P.S.

You are probably the only Chancellor in Christendom who reads and quotes W. H. Auden.

MEDICINE AND DIAGNOSIS

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CALGARY ASSOCIATE CLINIC

214 SIXTH AVENUE WEST
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October 1st, 1955

SURGERY

HUGH A. STUART, M.D.
H. V. MORGAN, M.D.
D. W. RAMSAY, M.D.

PEDIATRICS

H. W. PRICE, M.D.
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OPHTHALMOLOGY

J. F. AIKENHEAD, M.D.

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

Dear Doctor Stevenson:

I have your letter of September 29th and I may say that I will be delighted to contribute to the volume in honour of Doctor Francis.

I shall look forward to having a further word with you in confidence concerning the details involved. While I am in Montreal next week, will you please make a point of bringing the matter to my attention.

Sincerely yours,

E. P. Scarlett

E. P. Scarlett, M.D.

EPS/hb

OSLER LIBRARY,
29 Sept., 1955.

The Calgary Scarlett Clinic,
214 Sixth Ave. West,
Calgary,
Alberta.

Dear Dr. Scarlett,

Next year marks the 35th anniversary of the Osler Society of McGill. The present executive, with the help and encouragement of Faculty members, plans to honour Dr. Francis on this occasion. It is proposed to issue a slender volume of tributes in time for the annual banquet in the spring. I should very much like to have your name among the authors represented. Please send me a page of two for this purpose. We are striving to avoid any valedictory flavour. Ave atque ave. Needless to say, this is all top secret.

We are looking forward with pleasure to your Shepherd Lecture in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
16 Feb., 1956.

Dr. Harold N. Segall,
1538 Sherbrooke St. West,
Montreal.

Dear Dr. Segall,

Yesterday we received from Dr. Bensley a cheque for fifty dollars, transmitting a generous donation given by you toward the cost of the complimentary copies of the Francis volume which we will have to distribute gratis. It is very good of you indeed, but no more than characteristic in view of your liberality to the Osler Society in the past. This contribution is particularly welcome because of the number of outside contributors, unassociated with McGill, who wrote pieces for the book and to whom we wish to present copies.

Not counting these complimentary copies, the advance sale has now reached about 265, so that 275 copies are paid for. Approximately 130 have already indicated their intention to go to the banquet, although there has hardly been time for the response we expect to invitations mailed out at the first of the week. A rosy picture altogether!

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
29 Sept., 1955.

Dr. Harold N. Segall,
1538 Sherbrooke St. West,
Montreal.

Dear Dr. Segall,

Next year marks the 35th anniversary of the Osler Society of McGill. The present executive, with the help and encouragement of Faculty members, plans to honour Dr. Francis on this occasion. It is proposed to issue a slender volume of tributes in time for the annual banquet in the spring. I should very much like to have your name among the authors represented. Please send me a page or two for this purpose. We are striving to avoid any valedictory flavour. Ave atque ave. Needless to say, this is all top secret.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
24 Oct., 1955.

Dr. R. H. Shryock,
The Director,
The Institute of the History of Medicine,
The Johns Hopkins University,
1900 E. Monument Street,
Baltimore 5,
Md., U. S. A.

Dear Dick,

Next year is the 35th anniversary of the Osler Society at McGill University. We are getting out a volume of tributes to Dr. W. W. Francis, who has been Osler Librarian and chief mentor (he calls himself "wet nurse") of the Society for nearly a generation. He is, you remember, Osler's nephew, and was principal editor of the Bibliotheca Osleriana. So far as I know he is a comparative stranger to you, but we would be very grateful nonetheless if you could send us, by December 1st, a brief message of greeting for inclusion in our little book. You might say a word or two about the usefulness of the B. O. In any case, we would like to hear from you on behalf of the Institute and of historians of medicine generally. No more than a paragraph is necessary.

I enclose herewith copy of the talk I gave in Philadelphia last spring. It seems, on re-reading, a little harder on "people" than I intended to be.

With thanks and good wishes,

Yours ever,

LGS:cd
Encl:-

D. McDermid

SIGERIST

I have made a few comments and suggestions

marked in pencil - and feel that it so does

I have been slightly disappointed - except of course

when there has been an obvious error

JH03

DR. MED. HENRY E. SIGERIST

Pura, 24. XI. 55

My dear Stevenson,

Here is my Letter
for the Francis volume.
I hope it reaches ^{you} safely
and in time.

Kindest regards and
soon more.

yours cordially

H. E. Sigerist

OSLER LIBRARY,
29 Nov., 1955.

Dr. Henry E. Sigerist,
Casa Serena,
Pura,
Ticino,
Switzerland.

Dear Dr. Sigerist,

Your delightful letter to W. W. F., for inclusion in our book of tributes, arrived this morning, hard on the heels of your cable. It is quite right for the purpose, striking just the proper tone, and W. W. F. is sure to be very much pleased with it. It will also add a great deal to the interest of the book for other readers. How vividly you have reconstructed that Montreal visit of 1933!

You will not mind, I know, if we make slight changes relating to points of fact. It is a matter for regret that W. W. F. was never actually appointed to a chair at McGill. Although W. O. planned that the Library should have a fireplace, none actually exists. The book placed next next the ashes - where the Browne collection is kept - must have been the Dutch works, Amsterdam, 1688.

Good luck and many thanks. It was truly generous of you to give time and thought to this matter and I am most grateful.

May I say how much I am enjoying some of your old papers in looking them over for translating.

Ever cordially yours,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
20 Oct., 1955.

Dear Dr. Sigerist,

I am so pleased that you like my idea of preparing a volume of your papers, particularly the German ones. All that I fear now is that some of your friends may reproach me for giving you an extra burden. However, beyond the list which I look forward to receiving, I shall make no demands on you until the material is ready to be submitted for your approval, and that will take some time. I am well acquainted with all four of the papers mentioned in your letter, but I am sure that I might miss others of importance which did not appear in the more obvious historical journals.

I am delighted, too, that you are willing to write a letter for the volume in honour of Dr. Francis. Because the date of the presentation banquet is rather early this time, we have had to set December 1st as our deadline.

The news of your great improvement in health is heartening indeed. I am so relieved to know about it that I feel as if I had thrown off a real burden myself.

By ordinary mail I am sending you a reprint of a paper I read in Philadelphia last April containing two paragraphs about your work as an historian and the inspiration it has provided for all of us.

Best wishes to you and to Mrs. Sigerist from all here.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Sigerist joins me in sending kindest regards to you and your wife, and believes me,

Yours very sincerely,

H. Sigerist

Henry E. Sigerist, M.D.

Casa Serena,
PURA, Ticino.
Switzerland.

Dr. Lloyd G. Stevenson,
McGill University,
Osler Library,
Montreal, Canada.

17th October, 1955.

OSLER LIBRARY
5 Oct., 1955.

Dr. H. E. Sigerist,
Pura,
Ticino,
Switzerland.
Dear Stevenson,

I wish to thank you for your kind letter of the 5th October. Yes, I feel my old self again, particularly after a month spent in Zurich, where I engaged full time in rehabilitation exercises, and I hope to finish the second volume of my History this winter, at last.

I greatly welcome your suggestion to bring out a volume of my essays, especially the German ones. I shall have to read them again, and will send you a list in the near future. Here are some titles of which I am sure must be included in such a volume:-

Sebastian-Apollo. Arch. Gesch. Med., Oct. 1, 1927, 19: 301-317.

William Harvey's Stellung in der europäischen Geistesgeschichte. Arch. Kulturgesch., 1928, 19: 158-168.

Die Sonderstellung des Kranken. Kyklos, 1929, 2: 11-20.

Psychopathologie und Kulturwissenschaft. Abh. Neurol. Psychiatr. Psychol., 1931, 61: 140-146.

Of course, I have no reprints left which I could send you, but you will find the papers easily in your library. Let me thank you for your generous suggestion of such a volume, which makes me very happy indeed.

As to the volume to Dr. Francis, commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Osler Society at McGill, you can count on me writing a letter which may be included in this volume.

Mrs. Sigerist joins me in sending kindest regards to you and your wife, and believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Yours very sincerely,

H. E. Sigerist

Henry E. Sigerist, M.D.

OSLER LIBRARY,
5 Oct., 1955.

Dr. H. E. Sigerist,
Pura,
Ticino,
Switzerland.

Dear Dr. Sigerist,

We were all delighted to hear, first from Fulton and then from Ackerknecht, that your improvement has been uninterrupted and that you are looking quite yourself again. Your well-being and the continuance of your great work are very near to our hearts.

I shall spare your time by saying my say briefly. I have long felt that it would be very nice for your English and American admirers to have a selection of your essays, especially the German ones, brought together in one volume. If you have no objection, I shall undertake, as time permits and probably over a considerable period, to translate these valuable papers with this idea in view. Should nothing come of it, I at least will benefit. If anyone else, or you yourself, should have the same idea, I will bow myself out.

Next year marks the 35th anniversary of the Osler Society at McGill. We are planning (very secretly) to issue a small volume of tributes to Dr. Francis on this occasion. I hate to burden you with any demand upon your time, but could you let me have, say by December 1st, a single paragraph of greeting to be included in this little book? Francis is not retiring so we hope to avoid any valedictory note.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Sigerist and affectionate greetings from all of us.

Sincerely yours,

Lloyd G. Stevenson, M.D.

LGS:cd