

LOUIS J. BRAGMAN, M. D.  
PHYSICIANS' BUILDING  
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

June 21, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Francis,  
Librarian,  
The Osler Library,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Doctor Francis:

I have been working on a paper to be called: "Walt Whitman, Hospital Attendant and Medical Critic". In it I am making use of Sir William Osler's contact with Whitman during the last days of the poet's final illness. In connection with this, I find that Dr. Cushing, in Volume II of "The Life of Osler", p. 666, refers to the "Walt Whitman lecture, never to be delivered...". Would it be presuming too much to ask if the mss. of that lecture is to be found at the Osler Library; and if so, whether such material as pertains to the medical aspect of Whitman could be included in the article as contemplated?

May I add that this article is one of a series on the medical wisdom of the makers of literature, three of which among others have appeared in recent numbers of the Annals of Medical History, namely, The Medical Wisdom of Mark Twain; of De Quincey; and of Nathaniel Hawthorne?

Very truly yours,

Louis J. Bragman

Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

See excerpt on p. 264 of vol. i of 'Life'.

Must consult lit. mss. before beginning  
for publication other relevant passages.

See A.M.

W. W. F.



ask A.M.

=====

LOUIS J. BRAGMAN, M.D.  
PHYSICIAN'S BUILDING  
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

June 21, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Francis,  
Librarian,  
The Osher Library,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Doctor Francis:

I have been working on a paper to be called: "Walt Whitman, Hospital Attendant and Medical Critic". In it I am making use of Sir William Osler's contact with Whitman during the last days of the poet's final illness. In connection with this, I find that Dr. Cushing, in Volume II of "The Life of Osler", p. 666, refers to the "Walt Whitman lecture, never to be delivered...". Would it be pressing too much to ask if the name of that lecture is to be found at the Osher Library; and if so, whether such material as pertains to the medical aspect of Whitman could be included in the article as contemplated?

May I add that this article is one of a series on the medical wisdom of the makers of literature, three of which among others have appeared in recent numbers of the Annals of Medical History. Namely, The Medical Wisdom of Mark Twain; of Dr. Quincey; and of Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Very truly yours,

Louis Bragman

Enclosed for you are three copies of the Annals of Medical History, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1930, containing the articles mentioned above.



Walt Whitman

LOUIS J. BRAGMAN, M. D.  
PHYSICIANS' BUILDING  
SYRACUSE, N. Y.

ans'd 9th.  
P. D.

Oct. 7, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Francis,  
Osler Library,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Can.

Dear Doctor Francis:

May I again ask, in reference to your  
reply to me on June 23, if access can be to that part  
of Osler's mss, no. 7660, pertaining to his experiences  
while treating Whitman. This is by way of a paper I  
am preparing called: Walt Whitman, Hospital Attendant  
and Medical Critic.

Very truly yours,

Louis J. Bragman



Could I love through it for any  
particular information for you,  
or make a summary of the unprinted  
portions? Of course Osb's contact with  
Whitman began long after W.'s 'hospital  
attendant and medical critic days' (about 1855-



The Boston Herald ... 11th ... Boston ... April 24th,  
Corporate ... probably March.

The ... Green Lake, ...  
... 24 Aug., 1910, ...  
... 11, 280), so I have changed it from "1909".

OSLER LIBRARY,  
7 Dec., 1950.

Robert D. Brewster, Esq., "R. D." and the ...  
Mount Kisko, ...  
N. Y., ...  
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I have now read about half the letters. What a godsend they were to Dr. Cushing and what good use he made of them! I am even picking up an item or two about my own past.

Here are the dates of the 7 undated letters, in case you should want to put the copies in their proper sequence:

"1 West Franklin St. [Baltimore], Wednesday ... The mutterings and rumblings of last Thursday ..." End of Feb. 1905, soon after the unfortunate "chloroform" speech of the 22nd.

"7 Norham Gardens, Oxford, May 12th ... You will be glad to hear that Sargent's picture ..." This was 1906.

"St. Botolph Club ... Boston, Saturday ... We had a splendid gathering on the 14th ..." His mother's 100th birthday, Dec. 1906, written between the 14th and Xmas.

The next two are headed 13 Norham Gardens Oxford:-

"March 1st ... I am so sorry to hear that you are not well ..." 1907 (workmen still in his new house).

"14th ... I hope by this time you are comfortably settled." 1907, probably April (getting his books arranged in the new house).

In envelope, postmarked LONDON JAN 15 10A; crest of Athenaeum Club, London, "14th ... It was very nice to have such good news of you all ... We have had a very happy New Year ..." January 1910.



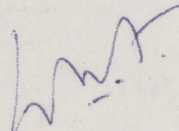
"13 Norham Gardens ... 11th ... Passage is taken, April 5th, Campania ..." 1913, probably March.

The letter from Ogwen Lake, introducing Sylvia to "Flopsy Mopsy Dopsy" is postmarked 24 Aug., 1911, when he was certainly in N. Wales (see Cushing, ii, 290), so I have changed it from "1909".

My best regards and thanks also to your sisters. I should like to know their present names, if I may, how many grandchildren, some, I hope, resembling "R. B." and the lovely "Mabel". When they visited the Library here, I can't remember how many years ago, she was too ill to do more than glance at it, but she was still beautiful.

I hope you and the sisters may visit it some time, preferably while I'm here to welcome you.

Yours sincerely,



WWP:cd



Brewster

Osler-Brewster letters Osler-Brewster letters

Dec. 1950

(4597) 1911 Received <sup>no</sup> in 4 packages, mostly with envelopes and in chronological order, put by me in strict order and numbered in pencil, thus: 1-32, plus 15a, 19a, 22a, 25a & 27a, i.e. thirty-seven (1901-7); 33-64, i.e. thirty-two (1908-13); 65-82, i.e. eighteen (1914-15); & 83-116, i.e. thirty-four (1916-17), making 121 letters in all. & interesting reasons for refusing in 1905

(54) Yale lectures

(7) 30.ix.02, "I wish you could have seen me hugging a beauty

(56) 6.x.12, will send the new ed. of textbook, "if you'll

(book) today, which that saint Quaritch has got at last, my good & dear friend promise not to read it."

John Locke's famous Essay on the Human Understanding (& bound by Bedford in

(58) About Mrs. Gwyn (copy sent to N. B. G.).

blue morocco) 1690." He gave this to the R.C.P. when he acquired no. 1030,

(62) Phipps Clinic, "best yet done in hospital work in this

in the mistaken belief that they are duplicates. They are different issues. country." (? Who is "Q.A."?). G.A.

(63) (15) 25.v.04, "The Kerrs at her wedding."

(75) (16) 5.vi.05, "My first official act was to go in full academics

to a meeting of the Curators of the Bodleian Library. I am just crazy with

anticipation. The possibilities for mental pasturage are beyond description."

I have been connected."

(19) 6.iv.06, "Just to live in New York takes 33.30/o of the

(85) 10.vii.16, Welsh universities and language.

current and another 50 % is used up in keeping the dynamo going, so there

(87) Nov. '16. W. O. copies and encloses a letter of Revere.

is very small margin left for emergencies. Now that I have escaped into the

(115) 25.ix.19 (2nd to last) "The harbor is not far off."

peaceful life I can preach to the spirits in prison."

(21) 30.x.06 "This is a wonderful place. I am gradually getting

an education."

(33-4) Wordsworth.

(38) 16.v.08, Harry Kerr (McGill '04) of Washington doing well.

I wrote to H. H. K. 1951. W. O. mentions Dr. K. senior's illness.



Osler-Brewster letters (continued)

(4507) 1911

Egypt, ~~the~~ Passage in 45 about the Sphinx and evening star  
*the praise of Mohammedan religion.*  
(of hope). Copies sent to Penfield, Rosie, Anne Wilkinson  
and Palmer Fitcher re religious views.

- (50-1 ) an illness.
- (52) Baronetcy & interesting reasons for refusing in 1905
- (54) Yale lectures
- (56) 6.i.12, will send the new ed. of textbook, "if you'll  
promise not to read it."
- (58) About Mrs. Gwyn (copy sent to N. B. G.).
- (62) Phipps Clinic, "best yet done in hospital work in this  
country." (? Who is "G.A."?). *G.A.*
- (63) Seeing "friends & wrecks in Phila."
- (75) 4.i.15, Proof of R.'s book-plate, "Mine is still wading <sup>it</sup>  
until I can find someone who can put in a moderate space  
something distinctive of the four universities with which  
I have been connected."
- (85) 10.vii.16, Welsh universities and language.
- (87) Nov. '16. W. O. copies and encloses a letter of Revere.
- (115) 25.ix.19 (2nd to last) "The harbor is not far off."



OSLER LIBRARY,  
23 Nov., 1950.

Robert D. Brewster, Esq.,  
Mount Kisko,  
N. Y., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

That pathetic last letter of 25 Nov.,  
1919, is for us the most important of all. I am so glad  
you found it. It has so often been twisted and garbled.

Dr. Cushing copied it exactly in the Life  
(vol. 2, p. 679), but I could not persuade Mrs. Reid to use  
the genuine version in her short Life, "The great physician",  
p. 290. As soon as Sir Wm. died your mother sent a copy of  
it to Lady Osler, who misquoted it from memory in letters to  
friends on this side.

The other letters have not reached me  
yet. I shall write again as soon as they come. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Wm

WWF:cd



TELEPHONE  
MT. KISCO 5413

MOUNT KISCO  
NEW YORK

Nov. 18, 1950

Dear Dr. Francis,

The letters will go  
off on Monday addressed as  
you suggested. The envelopes  
are with them.

Just after packing  
them up, I happened to find  
the enclosed letter & photograph  
in a book in my library, &  
am sending them to you to go  
with the others. I think this  
must be the last or next to last  
letter Dr. Osler wrote my mother.



Hoping the letters will  
read you safely.

Yours sincerely

Lakeside Brewster

---

This most important letter, 25 Nov. '19,  
because misquoted by Lady O. to  
Dr. Shepherd as "The Harbor almost  
reached after a splendid voyage  
with such companions all the way  
and my boy awaiting me". That  
distortion, much to my annoyance,  
Mrs Reed preferred (p. 250) to  
Cushing's subtitle (p. 679).

L. C. F.

letter 115 (second last) presents the  
Others - by lettered O.R. & H. C. C. & Mrs. Brewster.



Telephone  
Mt Kisco 5413

MOUNT KISCO  
NEW YORK

Oct. 29, 1950

Dear Mr. Francis.

OSLER LIBRARY,  
1 Nov., 1950.

Robert D. Brewster, Esq.,  
Mount Kisco,  
N. Y., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I was about to enquire how the copying of the letters was progressing, so I am delighted to get your letter of Oct. 29th.

The precious originals had better be sent addressed impersonally to:

The Librarian  
Osler Library, McGill University  
Montreal, 2. Canada.

In that way our rapacious customs are less liable to hold them up. And it would be best to send them by post, even if that should necessitate more than one package. The Express customs here in Montreal are notorious, involving long delays and much annoyance.

Have the envelopes been kept with the letters? As I well know, they are often the only clue to the dates of my uncle's letters. But perhaps your careful mother dated them herself on receiving them.

It is more than good of you and your sisters to part with them. If there are any passages that puzzle you in the copies, let me know. I have become a bit of an expert at reading his script and interpreting his allusions, playful or learned.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

WWF:cd



TELEPHONE  
MT. KISCO 5413

BREWSTER

MOUNT KISCO  
NEW YORK

Oct. 29, 1950

Dear Mr. Francis,

Did you ever receive  
my letter written some time in  
May in answer to yours about  
Mr. Olsen's letters to my mother?  
Since writing it I have been in  
Europe, but am now back here  
again + have had the letters copied  
+ am now ready to send you  
the originals if you want them.  
I will wait to hear from you  
before doing so as I want to  
be sure I am addressing you



Mount Kissick  
New York

Telephone  
Mt. Kissick 2413

you correctly so that they will  
not get lost.

Sincerely yours,

Laurel D. Brewster.

---



TELEPHONE  
MT. KISCO 5413

BREWSTER

MOUNT KISCO  
NEW YORK

May 28, 1950

Dear Mr. Francis,

Your letter of May 5<sup>th</sup>  
did reach me, & I have  
delayed answering it until  
I could talk to my sisters  
about Dr. Osler's letters.

Sylvia is married to an  
Englishman named Eric Maude  
& lives in Maryland.

The letters have indeed  
been kept, & we will be



Mount Kisco  
New York

TELEPHONE  
Mt. Kisco 3413

th

very glad to send them to  
you for the Belier Library.  
There are quite a good many  
of them, postcards, etc., &  
probably not all of interest,  
but I shall send you them  
all in any case. I am now  
having copies of them typed,  
& should get the originals back  
& be able to send them to  
you in a week or two.

We are very glad



that you want these letters  
& that they will be in the  
Osher Library. Although I  
was born too late to remember  
Mr. Osher, my mother used  
often to tell me about him,  
& I have always been proud  
of the fact that he was my  
godfather.

Yours sincerely

Robert D. Brewster

---



OSLER LIBRARY,  
5 May, 1950.

Mr. Robert Brewster, Jr.,  
Mount Kisco,  
N. Y., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I hope this reaches the son of Sir William Osler's charming correspondent, whom I knew in her Mabel Tremaine days, when she was about the most beautiful thing I ever set eyes on. I'm not sure that your name is Robert and I don't know Silvia's married name, or address.

I am hoping that Sir William's letters, which were so valuable for his biography, are being carefully preserved, and that perhaps they may ultimately be deposited here in the Osler Library.

We have all Cushing's material, including copies of a good many of W. O.'s letters to your mother. And I've succeeded in begging original letters of his from many of his less beloved correspondents.

I am Osler's nephew and librarian.

Yours sincerely,

L. L. F.

W. W. Francis, M.D.

WWF:cd