

May 12th, 1939.

My dear Dr. Francis:

I am wondering if you will

12 May, 1939

I would like to ask for help - perhaps Dr. E. B.

Mrs. Lawrason Brown,  
104 Main St., before his death about a Dr.  
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Pierre Beaubien of Canada, who is said to have

My dear Mrs. Lawrie,  
been the first to bring the stethoscope either

Yes, I had some correspondence with the dear  
to Dr. fellow about this and other stethoscope questions, and wrote  
him a long letter about Beaubien on 14 April, 1936, with  
Would quotations in French from the Beaubien family book which seems  
to be the only (and far from satisfactory) source of information  
library about him. I will send you a copy of the letter if you like,  
but it would fit in with the doubtful facts if you make Lawrie's  
sentence reader the publisher, and of

there are no "I can find no mention of any Canadian who studied  
under Laennec. Pierre Beaubien, a pupil of Récamier from about  
1818, is said to have used the stethoscope in Paris and to have  
introduced it into Canada when he returned to Montreal in 1827."

like to check, if possible, is

The privately printed book is so rare that a reference  
to it is hardly worth a footnote, which could read:

studied under Laennec, Beaubien, C. P., "Ecrin d'amour familial,"  
Montreal, 1914, p. 164.

Montreal, who is said to have

I had advised Lawrie to look into Beaubien's Paris  
thesis, 1822, "Dissertation sur le rhumatisme articulaire," in the  
Surgeon General's Library, as I could never find a copy of it here  
in Canada. L. wrote me, 21 Oct., 1935, "If my recollection is  
correct, I either went through or intended to go through it, but  
if I did I found no evidence in it that he had studied under Laennec."  
The family book makes it practically certain that B. did not study  
directly under Laennec.

Some one had told me that Lawrie's long-looked-for  
book was in your good hands and would be well finished and published.  
Please call on me for any help I can give.

I am well and flourishing. My daughter whom you  
probably didn't see (aged 4) at Oxford, is just through her 1st year  
in science at McGill. One of the best of our graduating medical students,  
Mack, of Montana, tells me he is engaged to Bob Paterson's daughter, Lois,  
whom you may remember; I haven't seen her since she was a baby in  
Ste. Agathe.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

60.4.7

104 MAIN STREET  
SARANAC LAKE  
NEW YORK

May 11th, 1939.

My dear Dr. Francis:

I am wondering if this is a second appeal to you for help - perhaps Dr. Bro Brown wrote you before his death about a Dr. Pierre Beaubien of Canada, who is said to have been the first to bring the stethoscope either to Canada or to America - I think to Canada. Would you have any reference to him in your Library? I am trying to get Lawrie's manuscript in shape for the publisher, and of course there are many snares for my feet. The quotation from his manuscript that I would like to check, if possible, is as follows:

"I can find no mention of any Canadian who studied under Laennec, unless Pierre Beaubien of Montreal, who is said to have brought the

104 MAIN STREET  
SARANAC LAKE  
NEW YORK

first stethoscope to Canada in 18       , did so."

I would be glad to pay someone to look this up, if you have any workers who do look up references, etc.

I hope you are very well. It has been a long time since we met at Mrs. Osler's in 1926. Forgive me, I should have said Lady Osler - Lawrie talked so much about the Oslers of the old Baltimore days, I forgot.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Martha H. Brown*

(Mrs. Lawrason Brown).

14 April, 1936

Dr. Lawrason Brown,  
24 Church Street,  
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Dear Lawrie:

I took your letter this morning to be an ultimatum, though it was far too polite to be called that, and went out and found the elusive Beaubien book, though not the copy that Pariseau has been promising to lend me the last few years. ~~He also is~~ *The author* evidently more concerned with the piety of his family connections than with their scientific achievements. It appears that Dr. Pierre Beaubien was born here in Canada in 1796 and left the Collège de Montreal in 1816-17 to go to Paris to study medicine. He worked there under Récamier, to whom he dedicated his thesis, and apparently ~~not intended to settle there until an uncle visited him in 1827 and induced him to return to Montreal.~~ Here is the passage about the stethoscope:

Beaubien, Charles-P., "Ecrin d'amour familial, détails historiques au sujet d'une famille ...", Montreal, Arbour & Dupont, 1914, 247 pp., 32 plates:

- p. 163, "Il dévoua sa vie entière aux soins des malades, *de ce* dernier institut [the Hôtel-Dieu of Montreal], et c'est là où il s'appliqua le plus à marcher sur les traces de son illustre maître Récamier. Comme lui, la pratique des vertus chrétiennes, la réserve la plus délicate, la prudence thérapeutique la plus scrupuleuse et le diagnostic heureux, furent le cachet de sa carrière.
- p. 164, "Au surplus, le Dr Beaubien introduisait un des premiers l'usage d'un instrument qui facilitait si ingénieusement l'auscultation de la poitrine. Le célèbre Laënnec sic en était l'inventeur. ... [three paragraphs about Laennec and his invention, quoted from Benoit, and including the statement that L. gave one of his early paper stethoscopes to his friend Récamier.]

P.T.O.

Then follows an account of his marriage, after which there seems to be nothing more at all in the book about Pierre Beaubien!

Pariseau told me that he doubted rather whether there was any documentary evidence to prove that Beaubien really did bring the stethoscope to Canada. He thinks it may have been a pious family tradition.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L.W.F.

P.T.O.

La nouvelle qu'un célèbre médecin de Paris "enseignait comment écouter la poitrine des malades" se répandit, aux quatre coins du monde, et le Dr Beaubien fut le héraut chargé de la publier sur le sol canadien."

... three paragraphs about Lammec and his invention, quoted from Benoit, and including the statement that L. gave one of his early paper stethoscopes to his friend Récamier.)

Then follows an account of his marriage, after which there seems to be nothing more at all in the book about their beautiful

Parison told me that he doubted rather whether there was any documentary evidence to prove that Beaudien really did bring the stethoscope to Canada. He thinks it may have been a pious family tradition.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

F.W.W.

07.9

DR. LAWRASON BROWN  
DR. JOHN N. HAYES  
24 CHURCH STREET  
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

April 16, 1936.

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

Dear Bill:

Thank you so much for sending me the notes on Beaubien. While there is no definite evidence, of course, that he did bring a stethoscope to Montreal it seems to me that it is highly likely that he did. I was interested to learn that he studied under Récamier. Récamier and Cayol were the first of the "early experts" with the new method. Of course, in 1827 the wooden stethoscope had already gone through two or three states. I certainly appreciate your kindness in looking this matter up for me as I have had no opportunity to do so.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Lawson Brown*

DR. LAWRASON BROWN  
DR. JOHN N. HAYES  
24 CHURCH STREET  
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

December 17, 1935.

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

Dear Bill:

I am returning the photostats of the Osler stethoscope. Thank you very much for letting me have them. The short chapter on stethoscopes in my little book on the "Clinical History of Pulmonary Tuberculosis" is getting into shape. It has been quite a job to get together a lot of the material.

I am hoping that something is going to take me to Montreal shortly so I will have the pleasure of seeing you.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Lawrason Brown*

DR. LAWRASON BROWN  
DR. JOHN N. HAYES  
24 CHURCH STREET  
SARANAC LAKE, N. Y.

November 26, 1935.

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

Dear Bill: Francis:

Thank you so much for the letter from Down Bros. which I am returning. I have taken the privilege of making a copy of it so as to have the references.

I have the photostat which you were good enough to send to me and have laid it aside until I could get busy on my chapter on the stethoscope. I have not yet been able to get around to it but hope to do so in a short time. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all of the interest you have taken. You will be interested to know that I have found three men who apparently studied under Laennec, two besides Morton; one, Dr. John D. Fisher of Boston and the other Dr. John Bell of Philadelphia. But no Canadian as yet!

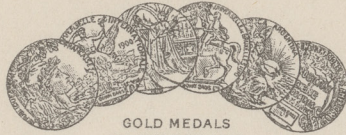
We had a nice little visit with Archie Malloch. He certainly is a delightful fellow.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Lawson Brown*

GRANDS PRIX.  
PARIS 1900, BRUSSELS 1910, BUENOS AYRES 1910.



GOLD MEDALS  
ALLAHABAD 1910.  
CAIRO 1928.

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

REF.

G.D.

*21823, St. Thomas's Street,*

*(Opposite Guy's Hospital.)*

FACTORY:-TABARD WORKS, TABARD STREET, S.E.1

*London, S.E. 14th November 1935*

AND AT

22, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.1.  
TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 0406.

21, OLD COURT HOUSE STREET, CALCUTTA.

TELEGRAMS: DOWNBRO, CALCUTTA. TELEPHONE: CALCUTTA 3172.

143, COLLEGE STREET, TORONTO.

TELEGRAMS: DOWNBRO, TORONTO. TELEPHONE: WAVERLEY 9245.

W.W. Francis Esq., MD.  
Librarian,  
The Osler Library,  
McGill University,  
MONTREAL.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated 17th October asking us whether the late Sir William Osler was responsible for some modification or other of the Stethoscope which we used to make, and which he used in Baltimore in the '90's or later, we regret the delay which has taken place in replying to this letter but we have very carefully traced through our records and cannot find any note of any modification to any Stethoscope which we manufacture which is due to the late Sir William Osler. The delay has been occasioned by our waiting to have the opportunity to question those who were in charge of the department at that time.

It may be of interest to you to know that we do keep a very full record of the origin of instruments which we make and are very interested in the history of surgical instruments, we shall therefore look forward to seeing Dr. Lawrason Brown's history of the Stethoscope when it appears. We presume Dr. Lawrason Brown is in full possession of the literature which is referred to in the files of the Surgeon General's Library, but as it is not indexed we venture to call his attention to a little note in the "Lancet" December 1st, 1923, page 221, where he will see an amusing reproduction of a caricature of Laennec which originally appeared in the Journal de Bordeaux et du Sud-Ouest.

We would further like to add a few notes which might be of interest to Dr. Brown. Among the Monaural Stethoscopes which were still listed in our catalogue of 1914 was that of Dr. Billings. Dr. Billings was a pupil of Laennec. Also Dr. Andrews; Dr. James Andrews, M.D., F.R.C.P. 1820-1897, Ref "Lancet" Vol.1, page 1293, 1897

W.W. Francis Esq., M.D.

Dr. Burrows, St. Barts. Hospital. He was President of the British Medical Association in 1862 and Physician to Queen Victoria.

Dr. Dobell. Dr. Horace Binge Dobell, was another Barts. man. Also attached to Brompton Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, 1828-1917.

Dr. Golding Bird. He was a brilliant Guy's Surgeon whose history can easily be traced in Guy's Hospital Reports.

We hesitate to add to these notes, but if Dr. Brown wishes to do so we venture to suggest that any information he requires on the subject, he communicates direct with us, when we shall be most pleased to put at his disposal any matter which we have. You will of course realise that being a business house, any information we have is necessarily brief and limited more or less to commercial basis.

Yours faithfully,  
p.p. DOWN BROS. LTD.,

*H Guy Brew*

HGD/EMS.

2 November, 1935

Dr. Lawrason Brown,  
24 Church Street,  
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Dear Lawrie Brown:

I enclose photostats from the two pages (527-8) of the  
Medical News, 1885, Vol. 7, containing the article by W. A. Edwards  
describing the new binaural stethoscope which W.O. is said to have had  
constructed. If you don't want to keep these photostats permanently  
I should be glad to have them back when you have finished with them.

I am sorry the photographer took longer over them than  
I expected.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

25 October, 1935

Dr. Lawrason Brown,  
24 Church Street,  
Saratoga Lake, N.Y.

Dear Lawrie Brown:

I have just had a letter from Cushing saying he had an idea that he had stated something about the stethoscope in the biography but could not find it. He thought it was somewhere in the Philadelphia period. Sure enough, on reading through that period I find the passage on p. 247 (Vol. I) under date of April, 1885, where he is speaking of Osler's Goulstonian lectures in London:

"It was on this visit also in all probability that Hawksley, the London instrument-maker, perfected for him the type of binaural stethoscope, which replaced the single-tube stethoscopes until then in common use in Philadelphia and known as Pepper's and Da Costa's models. With little variation in its construction, the next generation of medical students everywhere came to utilize this new instrument; but Osler carefully kept his name out of it."<sup>2</sup>

The footnote reference reads: "Cf. Wm. A. Edwards: 'A New Binaural Stethoscope'. Medical News, Phila., Nov. 7, 1885, xlvii. 527."

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.