

OSLER LIBRARY,  
5 October, 1942.

Dr. J.D. Bush,  
University of Alabama,  
School of Medicine,  
University  
Alabama, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Bush:-

Has your Medical School library a copy of Osler's printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", 1929? If so, its "Litteraria" section would help, and the many references in the index under "Physicians in literature"; Literature, medicine in"; "Novels"; etc. Ask Schuman's, 750 Fifth Ave., N.Y., to send you their "Catalogue 6, Spring 1940. Books about the Doctor" It lists nearly 800 items for sale, and they'll put you on their list for future catalogues. A useful article that may be accessible to you is by P. Findley, "The Dr. in literature", Medical Life, N.Y., Nov. no. 1934; also, E. Podolsky, "The Dr. as Author", in J. Lab. & Clin. Med., St. Louis, 21: 32-7. 1935.

I don't know to what extent Cushing collected these particular items. To find out, don't write to his widow, but to the Librarian, Yale Historical Medical Library, 333 Cedar St., New Haven, which now possesses his collection.

I shall write you again, if I can think up some more "leads" for you.

*Yours sincerely,*



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF  
BACTERIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY

FREIGHT, EXPRESS AND TELEGRAPH  
ADDRESS: TUSCALOOSA, ALA.  
POST OFFICE ADDRESS:  
UNIVERSITY, ALA.

September 23, 1942.

Dr. W.W. Francis,  
Osler Memorial Library,  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Dear Doctor Francis:-

In June 1941 I visited the Osler Library and talked with you for a short while. Unfortunately I could not spend as much time in Montreal and at the library as I desired. I could not then ask you all of the questions that filled my mind. Now I am writing to ask your help.

It has long been my desire to collect the literary writings of physicians but of course I have not been financially able to do much toward that goal. I have bought copies of Weir Mitchell's "Characteristics", Ian McLaren's "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush", John Brown's "Rab and His Friends", and a few others. Most of these I learned about through reading Dr. Cushing's essays and Dr. Osler's essays. How may I learn more about such literary contributions of physicians? Where may I be most successful in finding copies of such books, if possible first editions? Do you think that Mrs. Cushing would be kind enough to tell me how Dr. Cushing collected his books and from what sources he obtained them? Even though I could not spend much money now for books perhaps I could buy an occasional one for my library.

I shall be most appreciative and happy if you can give me some hints which will help me. Hoping that I may again soon have the pleasure of visiting the Osler Library and of talking with you, I am

Sincerely yours,

*J.D. Bush*

J.D. Bush,

M.D.

JDB/b



7 July, 1941.

Dr. Gordon Byers,  
1458 Mountain St.,  
Montreal.

Dear Gordon,

From a long letter of Casey Wood, 30 June, 1941:

"Now, in Gottas Namen, did you run across that paragraph of Rührh's, now over twenty years of age? Well, it was in part true, and, some way or other, reminds me of Osler's own dictum veritatis, a favorite quotation of mine that, to jog even your retentive recollecting apparatus, you will find, I think, somewhere in 'Student Life':- 'Nobody can know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Even the best of men must be content with fragments and with partial glimpses' --- or words to that effect.

"The facts, as I recall them, are that my wife and I spent ten happy days with the whole Osler family of three, when we crossed the Atlantic together on the old Allan Line many, many years ago. He talked on every subject under the sun, including cabbages and kings, and I, sitting at the feet of Camaliel, was daily refreshed and instructed. Principally, of course, I was encouraged to continue my omnium gatherum of bound books, manuscripts, reprints, letters, paintings, drawings and so forth, but Prof. Osler advised me henceforth to concentrate on ophthalmology and medico-historical items, and not to spread myself too thin over this and that, hither and yon. This advice (if you will include ornithology) I recognized as of the best and I have since followed it as well as I could, so that 'it presses to my memory like damned, guilty deeds to sinners' minds', as another Bill hath said. And, by the way, yet one more William---

'No dead Yesterday,  
No sad-eyed ghost but generous and gay,  
May serve you memories like almighty wine,  
When you are old.'

"Through the never-fading impressions of that transatlantic voyage I also gained some knowledge of the manifold influences wielded by a truly wise, kind, far-seeing, attractive -- almost unique -- leader in our profession."

I hope this will stimulate you to jot down on paper your part in getting his books for McGill. Apparently there was no suggestion of that from Osler.

Yours ever,

W. W. F.

in my probably  
in 1899 or  
1900. W. W. F.



Byers.

21 June, 1941.

Dr. Gordon Byers,  
1458 Mountain St.,  
Montreal.

Dear Gordon,

c/ I've come across the following in an article by  
John Ruhrsh in the Bulletin of the Med. & Chi. Faculty of Maryland, 12:  
62, 1920:

"Dr. Casey Wood, of Chicago, once crossed the ocean  
on the same steamship with Osler, and the splendid  
collection of books relating to ophthalmology that now  
grace the shelves at McGill was the result."

This may, of course, simply mean that Osler started his  
collecting. I've heard that you had a good deal to do with the collection  
coming to McGill. I wish you would put down on paper what you know about  
it.

There seems to be some uncertainty, also, about when he  
first sent his books to us.

I've written to "Casey", but his letters nowadays show  
that his memory is octogenarian, even if his energies are not.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

W.W.F.