

Brodman

→ **Columbia University**
in the City of New York

Estelle Brodman
MEDICAL LIBRARY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
630 WEST 168TH STREET

September 19, 1944

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

*Med. Lib. copy, frontisp. -
* exactly same as Mrs.*

Dear Dr. Francis:

It has come to our attention that there are at least two states of the plate illustrating William Withering's Account of the Foxglove (1st ed., Birmingham, Robinson, 1785)- one like the facsimile in Medical Classics, v. 2#4, 1937, p.305, and the other a reversed print. We are trying to make a census of the copies in America which are complete with the plate. If your library possesses such a copy, would you please give us the following information:

*Yes, but fig. 10
disappears on
face, not even
name.*

- 1) Is the plate the frontispiece, or has it been placed somewhere else in the book? *Yes, but transferred from Lewis copy.*
- 2) Is the plate signed, and if so, who is the artist? *Yes, J. Savory del & sculp.*
- 3) Do the words Digitalis purpurea appear in the lower right-hand corner, or in the lower left-hand corner? *(S.W.)*
- 4) Is the large leaf at the bottom of the print, which is folded back to show the underside of the leaf, on the right or left of the drawing? *right (F)*
- 5) Is there a watermark (VT?) in the center of the plate? *I.T. [AY] LOR*
If not, is there any watermark and what is it?
- 6) Are the small figures no. 2,3,9,10 on the right or left *(W.)* of the plate?

We should be very grateful for the answers to these questions.

Very truly yours,

Estelle Brodman

Estelle Brodman
Reference Assistant

EB:RAV

Columbia

,2

OSLER LIBRARY,
27 Sept., 1944.

Miss Estelle Brodman,
Reference Assistant,
Medical Library,
College of Physicians and Surgeons,
630 West 168th Street,
New York City, U. S. A.

Dear Miss Brodman,

We have two copies at McGill of the 1785 "Foxglove",
a in the Medical Library and b in the Osler Library, and Dr. D. Sclater
Lewis, of Montreal, has another, c, from which the frontispiece-plate
was generously given fifteen years ago to complete the Osler copy, b,
which lacked it. In both the plate resembles the "Medical Classics"
facsimile, so the answers given below to your questions apply to both
copies.

I take the "right" and "left" of your questions to be
the observer's, i.e. East and West, respectively, if the top of the plate
is towards the North. In heraldry and sometimes in describing pictures
they are used with the opposite meaning. In this regard can you be sure
of the answers you get?

- 1) Yes. (The plate now in b was formerly the frontispiece
in c.)
- 2) Yes, "J. Sowerby del. et sculp."
- 3) Lower left-hand.
- 4) Right side.
- 5) Both plates show the same watermark in the centre, the name
I. TAYLOR, in large (22 mm.) and small caps, the two letters
between T & L illegible through the coloring.
- 6) On the left.

Please give my kind regards to Miss Schramm.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

WFF:CD

Columbia University
in the City of New York

[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE
104 BUTLER LIBRARY

19 October 1954

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

Dear Sir:

The Oral History Research Office at Columbia University is about to undertake a unique project in the history of medicine. We have made plans by which, through the use of skilled interviewers and recording tape, the autobiographies of physicians who have made important contributions to the development of contemporary American medicine will be obtained. In this manner many chapters of individual experience relating to the modern medical revolution, of a kind seldom before recorded, will be saved from oblivion. This material will give new rich insights into diverse subjects ranging from the development of medical education and medical techniques to the views which the present-day physician takes of the important problems of disease, hygiene, and rehabilitation. In effect, we hope, a living and continuing archive of authentic documents on the progress of medicine will be created, for use by various institutes in the history of medicine, medical libraries, and medical educators.

As the chief of the Osler Library we wonder if you could suggest to us the kind of material that you would find most useful to meet your day to day library problems, and the kind of lacunae now existing that we could best help fill through our project. To put the question in another way, what policies would you, as a librarian, especially like us to pursue? We shall be very grateful for a considered answer to this question.

Very truly yours,

Allan Nevins

Allan Nevins
Director

*Specimen to be taken from
the 1st started on a piece
of research. In many cases documents
chronological. Only in a small number of cases
did I explain how it came to his which he
was doing a study of history of medicine
and about work of their teachers, e.g. Nothmann's account of insulin
diabetes & diabetes mellitus, as briefly reported in Bull. Hist. Med.
May 1954*

25: 272

OSLER LIBRARY,
26 Oct., 1954.

The Director,
Oral History Research Office,
104 Butler Library,
Columbia University in the City of New York,
New York City, 27,
U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

The radio has given me a horror of autobiographies elicited by your so-called "skilled interviewers", but it would be interesting to get the important men to record their accomplishments, after first writing out their own account to their own and to your satisfaction. I've no faith in the HI-PI-delity of what tape recordings I have heard, but a phonograph disc of W. H. Welch's speech at the National celebration of his 80th birthday in 1930 sounds natural and is a "joy forever".

A colleague, Dr. Lloyd Stevenson, suggests that it would be interesting to get them to explain how they got started on a piece of research, e.g. Murray Barr's discovery of sex chromatin. In a much later paper he told how it had dawned on him during an unrelated study of fatigue of nerve cells! Also reminiscences of famous teachers, e.g. Nothman's account of Minkowski's discovery of pancreatic diabetes, as briefly reported in the Bulletin Hist. Med., 1954 (May-June, 28: 292).

^{KEEP}
But help the "interviewers" out of it, or it becomes rank journalism.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Francis

W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian.

WWF:cd

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
622 WEST 168TH STREET
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.

Department of Nursing
Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing

May 31st, 1957

OSLER LIBRARY,
21 June, 1957.

Miss Eleanor Lee,
Department of Nursing,
Columbia University,
622 West 168th Street,
New York 32,
N. Y., U. S. A.

Dr. William W. Francis
McGill University Osler Library
Montreal, Canada
Dear Miss Lee,

Many thanks to you and your famous Department of Nursing from me and our Medical Faculty and the Curators (trustees) of the Osler Library for the wonderful "Catalogue, of the Florence Nightingale Collection." I am glad to see that in your illuminating Introduction and in your letter to me you don't cut off the tail of that important word. Let an old hand congratulate you on a thoroughly laudable and well-done compilation. It is evidently much more than a catalogue, and more than a calendar in the archivist's sense, for it seems to give the gist and more of every letter.

We are particularly interested in her letter to Acraman, 16 Aug., 1878, and would like, if possible, to obtain a photostat of it. Ellen Webb was the only one of those stout lasses, "saved three times from a watery grave", our four last Nightingale nurses, of whom the General Hospital had any record. This letter tells us the names of the other three and a lot more than was known here of their harrowing adventures. Dr. H. E. MacDermot in his "History of the School for Nurses of the Montreal General Hospital", 1940, p. 26, says they have two books inscribed by F. N. to Ellen Webb. And a few years ago I acquired Dr. H. E. MacDermot's "Surgeon's Vade Mecum", 1870, inscribed in F. N.'s hand, "Nurse Maria Sealy / with Florence Nightingale's / earnest prayers / for the Nursing foundation / in Montreal. / Remember! / Lea Hurst / Sept. 15 1875". We have no other record of Maria, either; but the book was said to have come from a descendant or collateral of hers in Newfoundland.

EL:d

Again much thanks,

Yours sincerely,

W.W.F.

W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian.

WWF:cd

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
622 WEST 168TH STREET
NEW YORK 32, N. Y.

Department of Nursing
Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing

May 31st, 1957

Dr. William W. Francis
McGill University Osler Library
Montreal, Quebec
Canada

Dear Dr. Francis:

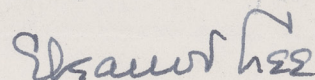
I am mailing to-day, under separate cover, a copy of the new catalogue of the Florence Nightingale Collection which has just come from the Columbia University Press.

The first copy of the catalogue was sent, airmail, to the bibliographer of The Wellcome Historical Medical Library in London, who is preparing a catalogue of all Nightingale material in the world. We are indeed proud of our Nightingale Collection.

The two page introduction to the Catalog directs attention to the history of the collection.

I know of your great interest in History of Medicine and feel sure you would like to know about our collection.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Lee
Executive Officer
Department of Nursing

EL:d

FROM DR J.J. CONYBEARE.

TELEPHONES:-
WELBECK 6860.
HOP 1896 (14 ST THOMAS ST.)

*Is my letter to him, with
that hernia MS?
File this with it.*

16, UPPER WIMPOLE ST, W. 1.

AND
14, ST THOMAS' ST.
S. E. 1.

21st June, 1939.

Dear Mr. Francis,

Many thanks for your letter of June the 6th.
I believe the pamphlet about rupture was given to Sir
William by my father, but I have no idea how he came
upon it.

I am afraid I do not know Camper's Journeys or
that he had ever been to Guy's. It is still true that
above the bed of each patient is the name of the Physician
or Surgeon under whose care the patient is. Even among
local people in South London it is not uncommon to hear
Guy's Hospital referred to as St. Guy's.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

J.J. Conybeare

6 June, 1939

Dr. J. J. Conybeare,
Warden's House,
Guy's Hospital,
London, S.E. 1,
England

Dear Dr. Conybeare,

In 1925 I wrote you about an anonymous 18th century MS. (no. 7572A in this collection), "True secret of curing ruptures", by gradual cauterization, &c. You had given it to Sir William, but could give me no further information about it. I have now lit upon a passage which may be a clue to the author. It is from the interesting diaries of Peter Camper's journeys to England, which have just been published in the 15th vol., Amst., 1939, of the Nederland Tijdschrift's "Opuscula selecta Neerlandicorum". I enclose a transcript of the paragraph, as translated on p. 149.

I can't find this "Herniarius" Lee in any reference books, but I suspect him of having written your MS.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

P.S. In two or three places Camper speaks of Guy's Hospital. Not knowing I was going to write to you I did not note the passages. In one of them he remarks that there are four visiting physicians and that each bed bears the printed name of the physician whose patient occupies it. What caught my eye was that he always canonizes you into St. Guy's.

123 Woodstock Road,

Oxford.

Tel. 4036.

16.3.36.

Dear Dr. Francis,

I wonder if you would be kind enough to let me know the address of the institution to which Osler's brain was sent and whether this institution is still interested in receiving such material. I ask because the relations of Professor J.S.Haldane who has just died have suggested that his brain be sent to any workers who would welcome it.

I am,

Yours truly,

M. Brooke

M.D., F.R.C.P.

*14 H. Donaldson, Prof. of Anatomy, Western Inst. of
Anatomy & Hist. 36th St & Woodland Ave, Phila.
Direct to Dr M.J. Brennan.*

27 March, 1936
27 March, 1936

The Director,
The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology.

A. M. Cooke, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.,
123 Woodstock Road,
Oxford

Dear Sir:

Dear Dr. Cooke:

I have been asked by a correspondent in England whether the Inst. I enclose a copy of a note which I have sent to the Director of the Wistar Institute, to which Osler willed his brain.

The Professor of Neurology at the Institute, Henry H. Donaldson, Ph.D., studied Osler's brain and published the results as "A study of the brains of three scholars", Journal of Comparative Neurology, Philadelphia, 1928, vol. 46, p. 1-35. I am pretty sure he would be gratified to be entrusted with the brain of J. S. Haldane.

I thought it might save time if I were to get definite information and send it on to you.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Francis

W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian

Ir. fr. Inst. Mar. 30/36
(M. J. Greenman, Director)
sent on to Dr. Cooke 31.iii.36.

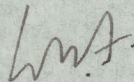
27 March, 1936

The Director,
The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology,
36th Street and Woodland Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have been asked by a correspondent in England whether the institution to which Osler's brain was sent is still interested in receiving such material. I have answered that I think the Wistar Institute is still interested. I shall be glad if you will confirm this.

Yours sincerely,



W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian.