

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON, CANADA

December 27th, 1932

Dr. W.W. Francis
Curator of Osler's Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

My dear Dr. Francis:

In reading J.J. Walsh's article in Medical Life (July 1932)
I ran across a statement that Bartholemew, the Englishman was
Bartholomew Anglicus de Glanvilla. In looking up your catalogue
no. 7419 I find that it is stated that these are two different
men. I thought possibly you would be interested in knowing
Walsh's opinion on this question.

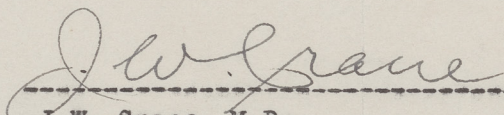
I have a reprint of Sir William's Short History
of Medicine but have unable to find it listed in your catalogue.
Perhaps I am too lazy to check up all the references and it is
easier for me to write to you than to do the proper thing,—go
through the Bibliotheca Osleriana.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

JWC/MW



J.W. Crane, M.B.,
Professor of Pharmacology

30 Dec. 1932

Dr. J. W. Crane,
Faculty of Medicine,
The University of Western Ontario,
LONDON, Canada

My dear Dr. Crane:

Apparently you have misread Walsh's article in the July number of Medical Life. On the second page (566) he says "Bartholomew the Englishman, Bartholomeus Anglicus de Glanvilla, as he is sometimes erroneously called because of an unfortunate mistake of Luke Wadding in his account of Franciscan writers in the sixteenth century." I think there can be no doubt that Bartholomew de Glanville was a later Bartholomew who had nothing to do with the encyclopaedia.

No doubt you refer to the work which was first published in 1919 as "A Concise History of Medicine", and in the Encyclopaedia Americana in 1920, as "History of Medicine". This has always been a mystery to us. Malloch tried to trace its history without success, consequently he entered it in the Classified Bibliography of Osler in Dr. Maude Abbott's Memorial Volume, p. 574, with the note "From its contents this does not appear to have been written entirely by Osler".

Osler had no copy of the 1919 edition. I was with him a good deal that year and so was Malloch. It is hardly possible that he could have written it at that time and not have mentioned it to us or shown us the proofs. On the other hand a good deal of it shows the Osler touch.

With hearty New Year's greetings,

Yours sincerely,

W. G. F.

OSLER LIBRARY,
19 April, 1945.

Dr. J. W. Crane,
Medical School,
University of Western Ontario,
London, Ont.

My dear Crane,

Thou (probably) art the man who sent me the "Alumni Gazette" giving me the whereabouts of our Dean and the review and handsome face of Dr. Seaborn, which I've cut out to put into his good book. The review mentions malaria, the prevalence and disappearance of which from your parts is a subject that interests me (and interested Osler), but the two pages, 52-3, all I find about it, were disappointing.

It's no slur on the rest of the contents of that Gazette to maintain that by far the best thing in the number is your circular Letter #27. Are the other 26 by you and similar little masterpieces? I'm tempted to collect them if possible.

Penfield was the speaker at our recent Osler Society dinner. He told how he had hoped to be asked before and had prepared his reminiscences of W. O., but had to favor you with them when you got ahead of us in 1941. His subject with us was "Ur of the Chaldees", a sort of fantasy on the life of Abraham and his influence on medicine, all a propos of the excavations at Ur which P. saw on his way to Russia. A very original and interesting talk.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.

WWF:CD

OSLER LIBRARY,
5 April, 1945.

Dr. J. W. Crane,
Medical School,
University of Western Ontario,
London, Ont.

My dear Crane,

*(God forbid that this should mean that
you are "settling your affairs"!)*

Thanks for the "housecleaning" bibliography of good old "Frankie". I must look up what we have in the way of a record of his writings. Anyway, this and the other scraps from his own pen will be useful.

I've just survived the flu and my 67th birthday. Two years ago I was threatened with the statutory axe, but they mercifully decided only to annuate, not super-, me, as a reward for neglecting to train anyone to take my place. I can still keep my balance on the top of the book-ladder. I don't think I ever worked hard enough to annoy my "coronary", but my contemps. call me a fool for still playing tennis. One never knows.

I suppose you have read about the much admired but "eccentric" Dr. Crane in "Campus Shadows", the recent autobiography of the remarkable paralytic, Trott. I sent Miss Sullivan a note of the book.

I hope you keep young. Good to hear from you, but it would be better to see you walk in the door, as of old.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

WWF:CD

2 February, 1940

Dr. J. W. Crane,
Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario,
Ottaway Ave. & Waterloo Sts.,
London, Canada

My dear Crane,

Thanks for returning my "W.O. as a literary man" MS.
and for your flattering remarks about my "latchkeyers" talk.
The "Comic history of England" is an old favorite of mine.

When Cushing began working on the biography he was scandalized to find that I had no diary of my eight years in Baltimore. Perhaps it is just as well because if I had kept one it would have vanished tragically with all my other belongings stored here when I was abroad. I confessed to him that I had destroyed a diary of sorts which I had kept the first year. I had gone at it too ambitiously. Having been scandalized that there was no provision for Latin in my pre-medical course at Johns Hopkins, except as an elective in the last year, I tried to keep my diary in Latin. It turned out to be rather unmanageable. "Societas ad canticas decantandum" for Glee Club. The result was more than medieval abbreviations which, with my handwriting, made the thing illegible very quickly. So don't hold me up to the boys as an example, unless as a shocking one.

I expect to be in Toronto. I ought to be in Portland, *Oregon!*
for our Medical Library Association meeting the following Monday
but it is too far to go in these days of taxation.

Yours sincerely,

L. L. F.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON, CANADA

January 30/1940

My dear Dr. Francis -

I read your article yesterday and had a few chuckles. I re-read this morning and enjoyed it still more. I am leaving it on my desk - just to lower my blood pressure. I am reminded of a Beckett's Comic History of England - your play on names and your subtle Oslerian wit.

I showed your letter to our Osler Society members with resulting megalos cephalo.

Last night, we had over 40 to the meeting and it was the most enthusiastic yet. (I didn't speak, for a wonder, but had a small exhibit of Hauviana).

I am looking forward to seeing you at C. M. A. next June.

Sincerely

J. W. Lane

P.S. Am returning your MS - Thanks so much.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON, CANADA

P. S.

You have let me down. I re-read
your Cushing reprint and I find out that you
do not keep a diary. I have been telling my
students about you, and I was sure that
you kept a diary. All famous men do.
What shall I do?

J.W.C.

19. i. 38 40.

Dr. J. W. Crane
London, Ont.

Dear Crane,

Excuse my amateur typing. I envy you those well prepared symposia and seminars of yours. I wish I could substitute something like them for my futile formal lectures and the one-man papers at our Osler Soc.

For Dr. Shute's wants I may have had to look beyond my "finger-tips", but it is one of the privileges of my job to lighten the labours of my less lazy friends.

I enclose the MS. of a 1934 talk of mine, not for the press, 14 typed pp. & unfinished at that. It seems to be the only copy I have, so (on your life!) please see that it is returned to me. The references in it to *Aequanimitas* &c. are to the various issues of the 2nd ed., before the 3rd, Phila., 1932, in which the pagination was changed.

A good appreciation is that by Radin, H. T., The literary flavor in the writings of Sir W.O., in the *Med. Pickwick*, 4:292-6, Saranac, 1918.

A non-medical wise lad, Wm. White, of the English dept of the U. of So. Calif., wrote his Ph.D. thesis a few years ago on some such title as WO as a literary man, and has printed 4 good instalments of it, as follows:

Bulletin Hist. Med. (Balto.), "Re-echoes of WO's 'Fixed period'", 5:237-40, 1937; "Aequanimitas: O.'s inspirational essays", 6:820-35, 1938; & "Biographical essays of WO", 7:28-48, 1939. *Med. Record*, 148: 340-2, N. Y., 1938, "WO as a critic of the novel."

This is all I can find on that particular aspect, & I hope it may be available & useful.

I'll send you separately a reprint of my frivolous reminiscences at Cushing's birthday party last April.

Yours sincerely,

W.W.F.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON, CANADA

Jan 18. 1940

Dear Dr Francis -

Dr Shute wants material for an article on Osler as a litterateur. Undoubtedly you have this information at your finger tips. If I were not so lazy, I would not have bothered you.

I am having plenty of fun with our Medical History Seminars, the Osler Society and the Harvey Club.

Sincerely

J. W. Gane

OSLER LIBRARY,
25 Feb., 1949.

Dr. J. W. Crane,
871 Hellmuth Ave.,
London, Ont.

Dear Crane,

Thanks for returning the Constitution. The girls have improved the quality of our Osler meetings, but I can't say that they've had any good effect on the attendance. Bless 'em, all the same.

No, not identical. FitzGerald improved on Omar and took his quatrains where he found them. Most of the FitzG.'s "Rubayyat of Omar Khayyam", were Omar's, but some were originally by other poets, at least one of them "almost certainly" by Avicenna, viz:

Up from Earth's Centre through the Seventh Gate
I rose, and on the Throne of Saturn sate,
And many a knot unravelled by the Road,
But not the Master-knot of Human Fate.

I remarked on it in a review of Gruner's "Avicenna", in the C. M. A. J., 24: 865-7, 1951.

I hope you are not kept so occupied that you can't cut any of your Puckish old capers!

Yours ever,

L. W. F.

WWF:cd
Encl:-

London. Out

Feb 24 / 1949

Dear Dr Francis -

Thanks for the loan of your Osler Society constitution. I am enclosing it in this letter.

There were 40 out at the last meeting of the Osler Society and for the first time in its history women have been admitted to membership. Perhaps that helps to account for the interest and enthusiasm.

A friend presented me with a copy of his poems, written as a parody on Omar. I recalled to him that you sometime, somewhere intimated Aricenna and Omar were identical. Am I correct?

The Osler Society, the Harvey Club and the Noon Day Study Club fortunately keep me occupied.

Sincerely J. W. Lane

OSLER LIBRARY,
25 June, 1949.

Dr. J. W. Crane,
871 Hellmuth Ave.,
London, Ont.

Dear Crane,

If I remember rightly, your Jack Simpson's Margaret was such an attractive lass that I did my durn'dest. That may account for the alleged "inspiration"!

Don't be too sure that I can answer to Dr. Hughes's satisfaction. Don't forget Jenner. I've just been putting out a bicentenary exhibit of him before Osler's Centenary next month. J.'s "Address to a Robin" may not put him with the poets, but his essay on the cuckoo made him a famed but bewildered ornithologist. Sir Thomas Browne left a lot of notes upon birds, and of course, all the famous old ornithologists were incidentally physicians, e.g. Gesner, Ray, Aldrovandi, Linnaeus. The only names I get out of T. K. Monroe, "Physicians as men of letters, science, and action," 1933, are Geo. Bennett (1804-93), John Latham (1740-1837), and the Pierre Belon (1517-64). No leads in Moynihan's "Truants ... who deserted medicine," 1936.

Our benefactor, Casey Wood, collected the excellent Emma Shearer Wood Library of ornithology for McGill. The only work they have on our question is E. E. Hume, "Ornithologists of the U. S. Army Med. Corps, 36 biographies," Balto., Johns Hopkins Press, 1942, 585 pp., 109 illus. It looks as though they can't be such rare birds as one would suppose, if he can raise 36 in that corps alone!

I can't think of any others, except W. G. MacCallum and his early work on malarial-like parasites in the blood of birds. Let me know if I can do any further "fowling."

I suppose you could walk backwards if the wind makes you coronary-conscious. I've always refused to go up stairs that crabby way.

Yours ever,

WWF:cd

L.W.D.

OSLER LIBRARY,
14 Feb., 1951.

Dr. J. W. Crane,
871 Hallmuth Ave.,
London,
Ont.

Dear Jimmie Crane,

Did I ever thank you for ~~the~~ of Jan. 5th and your biographical book-plate. It is a masterpiece. I should know Osler by his collar and moustache, and you by your face if not by your nightshirt. Do you still sport one? The last one I saw out of hospital was on a colleague working in Berlin in 1905. He also was a genial genius, promoter of Fred Fry's Far-Famed Food For Fattening Vanished Foundlings (whey). I don't know whether to file yours under book-plates or Osleriana. If you could spare another, the difficulty would be solved!

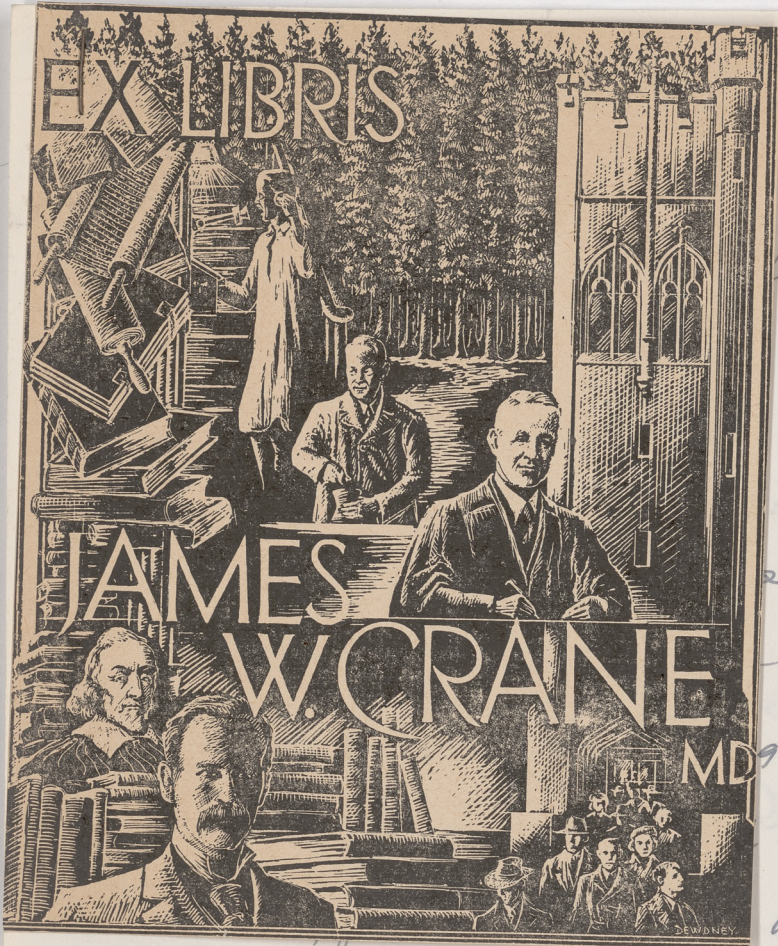
Osler never acquired one. The label we use (and which I'm not allowed to alienate, or even Graniate) was made after his death. In a letter of his which I acquired recently he said he hoped to adopt a plate when he could get a design neatly symbolizing the Universities he had worked at.

Thanks, too, for the St. Joseph Bulletin. Did they show you my serio-comic protest at that Osler Soc, lad making your St. Thomas school antedate our Montreal Med. Inst.² The idea! We beat you there by several points (I mean months).

Yours sincerely,

WJF:ed

WJF



These are annotated
 at book plate to Mrs. Crane for the
 collection W. H. D.
 May

Wellmouth Ave London

March 12/51

and you will find another
 prize to myself every time I
 gotistical but what can you
 give it to you? Perhaps I should
 in the blanks like you do in

Garth's Dispensary or Pepys' Diary - Osler
 (Osler Society started in 1926) Harvey (Harvey Club
 going since 1919), - J.W. in L.L.D. gown - J.W. mortar & pestle
 in practice - J.W. answering a night call. (When you
 reach the menopause, a night gown is superfluous).
 J.W. & students & grads, University College doorway
 (Hippocratic Society, UWO Med. Journal, Merry-makers,
 Alumni Ass'n) - trees, books, rolling pins (inserted
 but without the knowledge of my wife.)

I have a copy of Dr. Arthur Jakes
 Johnson's Coroners. Would you care to have it?

There is another
at Brockle & Munro's for the
collection of the
man.

871 Hellmouth Ave London

March 12/51

Dear Dr. Francis -

Enclosed you will find another
book plate. I apologize to myself every time I
look at one. - too egotistical but what can you
do when a friend gives it to you? Perhaps I should
explain it - fill in the blanks like you do in
Garth's Dispensary or Pepys' Diary - Osler
(Osler Society started in 1926) Harvey (Harvey Club
going since 1919), - J.W. in L.L.D. gown - J.W. mortar & pestle
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J.W. & students & grads, University College doorway
(Hippocratic Society, UWO Med. Journal, Merry-makers,
Alumni Assn) - trees, books, rolling pins (inserted
but without the knowledge of my wife.)

I have a copy of Dr Arthur Jakes
Johnson's Coroners. Would you care to have it?

I smiled when I read about the
first Medical School in St Thomas. I knew
that Dr MacDermot would say something
under his breath.

I just ran across a Cmaj.
and your article on Osler. Have you a
reprint that you can spare me? I can
see how far behind I get in my reading.
Your article was published in 1949.

I tried to interest Victoria Hospital
in a Historical Committee but didn't get far.
I thought perhaps starting one at St Joseph's
would be a sufficient stimulant.

The Osler Banquet - last Wednesday
- Good crowd - Dr Lloyd Stevenson the speaker.

Kindest & best.

Sincerely
J. W. Crane