

Involved in contributions to Royal Society of Medicine 78, 80

Antiquarian Booksellers' dinner, London 2

Distribution of "Life of Pasteur" to medical school libraries 2-5
64;

Egyptian Trip with brother 2; 5-17

News of death of H.P. Bowditch 15; 19
of Dr. Charles M. Elliot 26; 26-a

Harvard documents from Glasgow to Pres. Howell 19

On full-time scheme at J.H.H. 20; 22
33; 40; 58-60;

Dr Maude Abbott reports at London on Med. Museums. 22

Mrs. Osler's description of Victoria Memorial unveiling 23
Court presentation 25;

W.O. Wweil's uncle's tablet at Swansea 24

Correspondence about Payne library sale. 26; 32
Secretus "Restitutio" to W.O. 35 34; 40

Baronetcy 26-a-
34;
Answering letters of congratulation 42; 56-62

Memorial to Abbots of Reading 35-a-39

Purchases from van der Corput sale, Amsterdam 40

Erasmus' "Praise of Physique." 41

Final Reports of Roy. Commission on Tuberculosis 42-6
Welch Campaign 43

Commission on University Education 46

B.M.A. at Birmingham 48

Invited to give Dilliman lectures at Yale 49-52
Californian invitation to lecture 50

Month at Llandudulas, North Wales 55
Dr Howard's engagement to Miss Wright 58

Opening of Path. Inst., Royal Infirmary, Glasgow 65-7
High Blood Pressure

Hon M.D., University of Christiania 65

Appointed Pres^d. Clin. Sect., Royal Society Medicine 69

"Hell Heaven & Death" in W.O.'s library 69
"Macberlinek on Death" 70-73

Huth book-sale 73

"New Books" series to Macphail's journal 74-7
81-5

President, Med. Sect. 1913 International Congress 80

1
Jan.
1911
Aet. 61.

Chapter XXXI.
1911

The Barandey?

"I was very sorry to hear of the death of Frank Frick - ultimus Romanorum of the old guard at Baltimore - a fine set of men, a better is not grown anywhere." So begins a letter of early January to a member of the old Maryland 'Faculty' to whose library Mr. Frick had so generously contributed; and Osler continues: "Is it not splendid to hear of the success of the Appeal? I feel rather mean not to have given anything, but to tell the truth I got involved more deeply than I had intended in the new building of the Royal Society of Medicine."*

*It was decided by a resolution passed at a special general meeting of the Fellows, February 1910, that an effort should be made to raise the whole amount of the cost of the handsome building to be erected at the corner of Wimpole and Henrietta Streets, by means of voluntary gifts from Fellows of the Society, the members of the Sections, and the friends of Fellows and members - a difficult job.

For one whose name was still apt to appear on subscription-lists for all medical projects started in Toronto, Montreal, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and who for this very reason, perhaps, felt that he must give no less generously in his new home, he must many times have ^{been conscious of} ~~groaned because~~ of the cobwebs in his pockets. And he says again, later in January:

"I suppose you will move to New York for the Hoe sale. I have not yet

2
Jan.
1911

seen the catalogue, but Quaritch has promised to send me one as soon as they are out. I am afraid I shall be too poor to bid on anything special."

For a bibliophile this was a hard-up, but on the whole,
But as he was so apt to say ~~in writing of others,~~ 'life did not owe him very much' ^{or he was apt to say,} and at this juncture his brother ^{came} comes to the rescue and ^{will} takes him ^{to} away from the temptation of book catalogues and sales. None too soon: for

~~the last day of the month~~ ^{on January 26th} he ^{was} is actually to be found in the lion's den -

of all queer places for the R. P. M. - in attendance at the annual ^{dinner} meeting

of the International Association of Antiquarian Booksellers at ^{the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly,} ~~Anderton's~~ Hotel, London, where in an ~~after-dinner~~ ^{at which} speech he paid a handsome tribute ^{after a little friendly banter with the President James Jurganski} to ^{Mr. Blackwell} ~~Mr. Blackwell~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{the} Oxford ^{Booksellers} around whom rotates much of the intellectual life

~~of the undergraduate.~~
On this very day

~~A few days before,~~ he had finished his promised introduction for ^{a valuable novel} the ~~volume Mr. Phipps was getting reprinted and which was subsequently distributed to all Anglo-American medical-school libraries where copies, dog-eared from much reading will still be found, in which there is a presentation note~~

Jan.
1911

and reading will still be found and inserted their own personal note

from the Oxford Regius. ^{and to} ^{inserted} In his 'introduction' after a review of what Pasteur had accomplished through his researches, ^{Osler} went on to say:

The translation of Vallery Radot's which was used, was the well-known one of Mrs. R. L. Devonshire, first published in a two-volume edition. Since Osler's "Introduction" came to be prefixed there have been at least six reprintings. In this 1910 edition Osler explained how he had come to write the preface, but the explanation was omitted in subsequent reprintings.

at Mrs. Phipps request

Lyth's publications

13, Norham Gardens,
Jan. 26, 1911.

Dear Mr. Phipps: Constable and Co. sent 25 copies of the little sermonette ["Man's Redemption of Man"] to you some time ago; I daresay they have reached you; I have written asking about them. They are pushing ahead with the printing of the Pasteur Life, the introduction to which I have got ready. We are making headway in this country in our tuberculosis fight, and have established a dispensary in connection with the Radcliffe Infirmary, very much on the lines of the Phipps Dispensary at the Johns Hopkins. We hope to get in touch with all the tuberculosis cases of the county. We have a young Scot as physician, who scours the country on his motor 'bike.' I enclose you the cards of our meeting to-day. I am off to Egypt next week for six weeks with my brother. I hope you will have a very comfortable winter at Palm Beach. With kindest regards to Mrs. Phipps, Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler.

The 'Pasteur Life' was subsequently distributed to all Anglo-American medical schools, where copies dog-eared from

~~In his "Introduction", after a review of what Pasteur had accomplished~~

~~through his researches, Osler went on to say:~~
and the lessons to be gained therefrom
~~Osler went on to say:~~

*Write to
ask Constable
about this etc.*

Jan.
1911

In his growth the man kept pace with the scientist - heart and head held even sway in his life. To many whose estimate of French character is gained from 'yellow' literature this story will reveal the true side of a great people, in whom filial piety, brotherly solicitude, generosity, and self-sacrifice are combined with a rare devotion to country... Was there ever a more charming picture than that of the family at Dôle! Napoleon's old sergeant, Joseph Pasteur, is almost as interesting a character as his illustrious son; and we follow the joys and sorrows of the home with unflagging attention. . . .

✓ This is a biography for young men of science, and for others who wish to learn what science has done, and may do, for humanity. From it may be gleaned three lessons. The value of method, of technique, in the hands of a great master has never been better illustrated. . . . In the life of a young man the most essential thing for happiness is the gift of friendship. And here is the second great lesson. . . . And the last great lesson is humility before the unsolved problems of the Universe. Any convictions that might be a comfort in the sufferings of human life had his respectful sympathy. His own creed was beautifully expressed in his eulogy upon Littré: 'He who proclaims the existence of the Infinite, and none can avoid it - accumulates in that affirmation more of the supernatural than is to be found in all the miracles of all the religions; for the notion of the Infinite presents that double character that it forces itself upon us and yet is incomprehensible. When this notion seizes upon our understanding, we can but kneel. . . . ~~I see everywhere the inevitable expression of the Infinite in the world; through it, the supernatural is at the bottom of every~~

Jan.-Feb.
1911

~~heart.~~ The idea of God is a form of the idea of the Infinite, whether God is called Brahma, Allah, Jehovah or Jesus; and on the pavement of those temples, men will be seen kneeling, prostrated, annihilated in the thought of the Infinite.' And modern Pantheism has never had a greater disciple, whose life and work set forth the devotion to an ideal - that service to humanity is service to God: "Blessed is he who carries within himself a God, an ideal, and who obeys it: ideal of art, ideal of science, ideal of the gospel virtues, therein lie the springs of great thoughts and great actions: they all reflect light from the Infinite."

The future belongs to Science. More and more she will control the destinies of the nations. Already she has them in her crucible and on her balances. In her new mission to humanity she preaches a new gospel. In the nineteenth century renaissance she has had great apostles, Darwin, for example, whose gifts of heart and head were in equal measure, but after re-reading for the third or fourth time the Life of Louis Pasteur, I am of the opinion, expressed recently by the anonymous writer of a beautiful tribute in the Spectator, 'that he was the most perfect man who has ever entered the Kingdom of Science.'

Sir Edmund and his party reached Naples on February 4th, as is evident from ^{his} letter of expostulation to The Times, written on this date, regarding the unsanitary condition of the carriages of the train de luxe which he said were 'fit only for the scrap heap.' But this was quickly forgotten

Feb.
1911

- not only by the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits but by the expostulator if one may judge from the shower of enthusiastic postcards and notes which in a few days issue from Cairo: cards to people as remote from one another as Bodley's Librarian and the 'mother' of Rosalie.

Shepherd's Hotel, Feb. 14, 1911.

Dear Nicholson Greetings & good health! I spent an hour with Dr. Moritz in the Khedival Library this morning. I am off up the river tomorrow. Yours sincerely, W^m OSLER.

Cairo [no date]

Dear Susan My love to the darling Rosalie. The bulrushes have gone & so have Moses and the daughter of Pharoah but they show the place all the same. Love to Mother and dad. Yours W. O.

But the hospitals interested him no less than the Khedival Library and Gizeh, and in a later letter to W. S. Thayer he says:

We had a week in Cairo where I saw much of interest medically. Looss showed me all his ankylostoma specimens. They have not yet organized a crusade against the disease and it really seems hopeless as no one wears anything on the feet in the country, and the conditions about the villages could not be more favourable for its spread. At every landing stage one

Feb.
1911

can pick out the victims. Bilharzia is even worse - very common and more

*It was this disease, so wide-spread in the Nile valley, that caused the military authorities chief apprehension when large bodies of troops had to be sent to Lower Egypt. ^{the first time} A special commission under the direction of Dr. R. T. Leiper of the London School of Tropical Medicine was sent out to investigate the life cycle of the parasite causing the disease and it was ultimately found that a variety of snail played the part of intermediary host.

hopeless. The Hospital has a score or more of bladder cases and as many of the intestinal form. The clinics are not properly organized, and men of the Griesinger stamp are needed. I was glad to see the old man's portrait [Bilharz] in the Library. I am to meet the Board of Education on my return and hope to stir them to the point of spending more money.

*and putting of
Bilharz in front
of dates.*

Finally when ^{small boat} they go up-river on their boat which 'had every possible

comfort including the most jovial dragoman in Egypt, ^{and} for once in his life he really writes some long letters - long enough to satisfy even Weir Mitchell who about this time had threatened to cease corresponding unless he could get something better than a p. c. in return. Thus from the S. S. "Seti" on February 22nd, posted two days later from Luxor:

Dear Cushing Such a trip! I would give one of the fragments of Osiris to have you two on this boat. Everything arranged for our comfort and the dearest old dragoman who parades the deck in gorgeous attire with his string of 99 beads - each one representing an attribute of God! We shall take about 10 days to the Dam (Assouan), 580 miles from Cairo. Yes-

*Pages 7-12 can be
incorporated but leave
in ship before what this
is. etc.*

*Letter to H.C.
following letter to
Noyes the analysis
was made*

something better than a p.c. in return. Thus from the S. S. Seti on

1911
Oct. 61

February 22nd, posted two days later from Luxor:

Such a trip! I would give one of the fragments of Osiris to have you two on this boat. Everything arranged for our comfort and the dearest old dragoman who parades the deck in gorgeous attire with his string of 99 beads - each one representing an attribute of God! We shall take about 10 days to the Dam (Assouan), 580 miles from Cairo.

Yesterday . . .

Pages 7-12 left uncopied. (Letters from Cairo)

Chap. 31

7

Feb.
1911

terday we stopped at Assiut and I saw the Hospital of the American Mission - 200 beds, about 20,000 out-patients. Dr. Grant is in charge with 3 assistants and many nurses. I found there an old Clevelander . . . who had fallen off a donkey and broken his ribs, and on the 8th day had thrombosis of left leg. He was better, but at 76 he should have stayed at home. The Nile itself is fascinating, an endless panorama - on one side or the other the Arabian or the Libyan desert comes close to the river, often in great limestone ridges, 200-800 ft. in height; and then the valley widens to eight or ten miles. Yellow water, brown mud, green fields, and grey sand and rocks always in sight; and the poor devils dipping up the water in pails from one level to the other. We had a great treat yesterday afternoon. The Pasha of this district has two sons at Oxford and their tutor, A. L. Smith, a great friend of his, sent him a letter about our party. He had a secretary meet us at Assuit and came up the river to Abutig. We had tea in his house and then visited a Manual Training School for 100 boys, which he supports. In the evening he gave us a big dinner. I wish you could have seen us start off on donkeys for the half mile to his house. It was hard work talking to him through an interpreter, but he was most interesting - a great tall Arab of very distinguished appearance. A weird procession left his house at 1- p.m. - all of us in evening dress, which seemed to make the donkeys very frisky. Three lantern men, a group of donkey men, two big Arabs with rifles ^{and} following us a group of men carrying sheep - one alive! chickens, fruit, vegetables, eggs. etc., to stock our larder. We tie up every eve about 8 o'clock, pegging the boat in the mud. The Arabs are fine; our Reis, or pilot, is a direct descendant, I am sure, of Ramases II,

pn

Feb.
1911

judging from his face. After washing himself he spreads his prayer mat at the bow of the boat and says his prayers with the really beautiful somatic ritual of the Moslem. The old Pasha, by the way, is a very holy man and has been to Mecca where he keeps two lamps perpetually burning and tended by two eunuchs. He is holy enough to do the early morning prayer from 4 to 6 a.m. with some 2000 sentences from the Koran. It is a great religion - no wonder Moslem rules in the East. Wonderful crops up here - sugar cane, cotton, beans and wheat. These poor devils work hard but now they have the satisfaction of knowing they are not robbed. We are never out of sight of the desert and the mountains come close on one side or the other. Today we were for miles close under limestone heights - 800-100 feet, grey and desolate. The river is a ceaseless panorama - the old Nile boats with curved prows and the most remarkable sails, like big jibs, swung on a boom from the top of the masts, usually two and the foresail the larger. I saw some great books in the Khedival Library - monster Korans superbly illuminated. The finer types have been guarded jealously from the infidel, and Moritz the librarian showed me examples of the finer forms that are not in any European libraries. Then he looked up a reference and said - "You have in the Bodleian three volumes of a unique and most important 16th cent. arabic manuscript dealing with Egyptian antiquities. We have the other two volumes. Three of the five were taken from Egypt in the 17th century. We would give almost anything to get the others." And then he showed me two of the most sumptuous Korans, about 3 ft. in height, every page ablaze with gold, which he said they would offer in exchange. I have written to E. W. B. Cyclops Nicholson urging him to get the curator to make the exchange, but it takes a University decree to part with a Bodley book! Curiously enough I could

Feb.
1911

not find any early Arabian books (of note) in medicine, neither Avicenna or Rhazes in such beautiful form as we have. I have asked a young fellow at school who is interested to look up the matter. . . . I am brown as a fellah - such sun - a blaze all day. We reached Cairo in one of those sand storms, the air filled with a greyish dust which covers everything and is most irritating to eyes and tubes. This boat is delightful - five-six miles an hour against the current, which is often very rapid. The river gets very shallow at this season, and is fully eighteen feet below flood level. I have been reading Heroditus, who is the chief authority now on the ancient history of Egypt. He seems to have told all of the truth he could get and it has been verified of late years in the most interesting way. Tomorrow we start at 8 for the Tombs of Denderah - a donkey ride of an hour. We are tied up to one of Cook's floating barge docks; squatted outside is a group of natives, and the Egyptian policeman (who is in evidence at each stopping place) is parading with an old Snider and a fine stock of cartridges in his belt. . . .

(P.S. 24th. Have just seen Denderah and the Temple of Hathor. Heavens, what feeble pigmies we are! ° Even with steam, electricity and the Panama Canal. . . .

A letter to W. S. Thayer on March 1st tells of his further impressions.

The country is wonderful - sun, sand, rocks, and crops, a lovely green belt, between the river and the desert. We had four days at Luxor, the ancient Thebes, the ruins of which are wonderfully impressive. No such monument of human effort exists as Karnak. It is simply staggering. St. Peter's and the Colosseum are toys beside it. Notre Dame could go inside

Mar.
1911

one of the courts. We had a glorious day at the Tomb^{luc} of Kings - only 47 of them! - cut in the solid limestone, long sloping corridors about the size of the covered one at the J.H.H., lateral chambers and then 300-500 feet in the heart of the mountain and 500 from the surface the mortuary chamber; and in one Seti I rests peacefully in his mummy case, with his hands folded and his features as clean cut as when he was embalmed 3500 years ago. Poor devil! Had he thought that troops of tourists would come and stare and that an electric light would flare in his face, he would have preferred a 'burning burial,' and he took such pains to hide his tomb, false passages, and an 80 ft. deep well to divert the robbers! Only about 10 years ago the opening was found. We make about 50 miles a day, stopping anywhere for the night, tying up to a mud bank. There is scarcely a mile of the river without some place of interest, Temples everywhere - and from all ages . . .

^{Four} Three days later, on March ^{5th} 4th he says in a letter from Assuan to ^{Mr. Thamer:} Mrs.

Brewster:

We have come slowly up to this first cataract where the big dam has been built. We had a great day at Edfu, the gem of the late Egyptian temples & the most perfectly preserved of all ancient buildings. Among the photos I send you will see three, not very good, but they give some idea; generations of natives had built their houses about & finally on it, which helped to keep away the Vandals. Now it is cleared and is really a gem. (Please read Hichens article on it in the Spell of Egypt which you will receive in a few weeks - a Tauchnitz edition which I have ordered from my Paris bookseller &

Mar.
1911

the delay will be in the binding). Every day on the river was a delight - a never ending panorama. We had three days at Thebes. Karnak simply takes away one's breath- top notch, as Revere would say in Winchester slang - of human effort. There is nothing like it, and old Amenhotep the 3rd must smile at the efforts of the architects of the 3500 years since he built his great temple. Thebes must have been in his day the greatest city the world has ever seen - no such magnificence of later cities has ever matched it. If you have never looked into it Breasted's History of Egypt gives an admirable summary & a specially good account of the golden age at Thebes. We had an ideal day at the Tomb of Kings - blazing hot and we went for a couple of miles over the desert & into a valley the very picture of desolation great yellow rocks & sands, nothing else, & on, on, with several turns, until deep in the mountains we came to the place those old fellows had chosen to wait the day of the restoration of all things. Marvellous tombs - 300-400 ft in the solid limestone - long corridors, deep pits, side chambers & then at the end the mortuary with the sarcophagus and mummy. The walls covered with beautiful inscriptions - texts in perfect preservation. Most of the Mummies have been stolen, but old Seti I fooled them all with false passages & deep wells & his tomb was found only 10 years ago. At the end of the long corridor in his mortuary, with an electric light at his head! lies the old man where he had rested in peace for nearly four thousand years. . . We stay here a few days & then turn back, seeing a few places on the way. ~~After a week in Cairo we sail on the 22nd to Naples & I hope to be back by April 1st.~~

On the next day he writes H. M. Thomas something of his impression of Islam:

Mar.
1911

I am having the most delightful trip, ~~here~~, loafing on the Nile with my brother, E.B.O., and a party of five friends. . . Everything here is so new and so old and so strange. By Jove, I should like to have seen Thebes in the palmy days 1500 B.C. The ruins are simply staggering. Had they developed in other sciences as in mechanics and architecture, not much would have been left for the Greeks or for us. We are here at the first Cataract, across which is the great Dam, a bit of work of which even the old Ramases II would have been proud. If the ordinary Egyptian could be made sanitary the country would be a paradise but it is dirty beyond description and the amount of ophthalmia and hookworm disease is appalling. And the bilharzia is very bad. I am to see the pellagra cases at the asylum as I return. . . I wish we could have been taught to pray in the Oriental style. The somatic attitudes are splendid. Before we tie up for the night our Reis or captain spreads his mat at the bow and goes through his devotions in a most graceful way. Allah pervades the East and the Moslem has a great religion. If Mohamet had not been so foolish on the woman question, Islam would have thriven and the crescent would not have waned as it has. Our dragoman is a fine old Arab full of humour. "Me," he says, "I have my Koran, my cold water, my cigarette and my home." He knows everything and manages the boat like a first-class hotel. The weather has been glorious - sun every day and sometimes very hot, today 86 degrees, but the nights are always cool. I hope the family thrives. . .

Almost every day long letters of this sort were sent off to his friends -

Mar.
1911

to Tyson, with whom he laments over the recent death of Theodore Janeway -
'honest as the day - life did not owe him anything but it is sad that he was
not allowed a happy old age with his family'; to Edward Milburn who gets
an enthusiastic postcard from nearly every stop while he is 'off on this
big spree'; to Mrs. McCrae his niece describing the heat and a sand-storm,
and he adds: "It seems a very lazy thing to take a long holiday like this,
but it ^{was} ~~seemed~~ too good a chance to miss and it really has been splendid";
and to many others, all expressing the longing that they might be sharing
in his delight over Egypt - 'a land of contrasts.'

On the way back to Cairo they stopped again for a few days at Luxor
where "Professor Sayre one of the leading Egyptologists, and Weigall, the
Director of Antiquities were most kind and gave us valuable hints as to the
best things to see." "All sorts of chairs &c make the visits to the Tombs
so easy and in many places there are carriages but yesterday I was on a don-
key for four hours. I was afraid lest I should shake out a pebble but I
stood it comfortably." And on March 10th he writes L. F. Barker: "Such

March
1911

weather! such monuments! such a revelation of the intellectual development of man 6000 years ago! I am a bit bewildered. I have just come from paying my respects to Dr. Imhotep whose ~~step pyramid, built for Zoser 5000 years ago, is the first large stone structure known in history; and Imhotep himself is the~~

~~The~~ first physician with a distinct personality to stand out in the mists of anti-

~~quity. I am brown as an Arab. The~~ It is a marvellous country. I am brown as an Arab. . . . The

country has one God - the sun, & two devils - dust & flies; the latter responsible I am sure for 2/3 of the disease. The Ophthalmia is awful and one sees a great deal of blindness." . . . And on March 17th, the last day of the trip he writes again to Mrs. Brewster.

Dear Mabel Our last morning on the Seti - such a glorious trip! Please make a memo of the name of the boat and of Akmed Barondi, the dragoon, as you & R. B. must make the trip before long. If in 1913, & all are well, you might take me as physician (& playmate) of Sylvia. . . . We have had some splendid days on our way down. Abydos with its old tombs, and the ruins of the city of the Horizon which Ikhnaton, the idealist Pharaoh founded in the 15th century B. C. If you wish to read a touching story get Weigall's book about him - published last year, or read Breasted's chapter on him in his history of the Egyptians - the first individuality in history. He tried to introduce the worship of one god, loved nature,

March
1911

leathed war, and devoted himself to his family and friends - and incidentally wrecked a great empire! Yesterday we spent at Memphis - all that is left of it. The desert covers the site of one of the world's greatest cities - only the tombs remain. I was specially interested in the step pyramid, built about 3000 B.C. by Imhotep, a physician & architect, for Zoser - the earliest stone monument of antiquity. The tombs of the old princes are extraordinary - among the earliest and the best so far as mural decorations and historical value are concerned. One can see, in stone representations, of weaving, baking, brewing, carpentering, boatmaking &c. Many show methods still in use in the immutable land. Sand, sand, sand everywhere, blown in from the desert gradually covered the ruined city. Excavations are still being made & every day something is brought up. We sail next week - 22nd for Naples, & I should get home by April 1st. Let me know your summer plans - any chance that you may come over? After this long holiday I shall have to stay quietly at work. I have my new edition of the text-book on hand, which will keep me very busy.

In Cairo again he searched the libraries in vain for an early Avicenna MS.

and says on a postcard to Ira D. Remsen: "I spent a couple of hours yesterday with the chancellor of this ancient university (10th cent). The teaching is all in the open - & all on the Koran & its commentators. A little geography, law, &c. There are 12,000 students from all parts of the Moslem world. Stu-

Dr. Cushing →

I have looked here and at the School
in all available editions —

(II^d, IIIth, VIth, VIIth, VIIIth)

and "Parasitic Diseases" comes first
in only the VIth & VIIth editions.

Mar.
1911

dents stay 1, 10 & even 20 years. It takes a life-course to know the Koran.

An extraordinary religion & with great potency." Then Alexandria, and

en route to Naples he writes ^{on} March 22nd for McCrae a long account of his

medical observations on the trip some of which find their way into a re-

vision of the section on Parasitic Diseases with which the VIIth edition

of his Text-book had led off (for the first time?). "I hope" he says, "to

be back by April 1st and must settle to hard work on the book. We should

go to press January 1st which would enable them to have it out completely

by October, 1912 - the 20th anniversary of the first edition."

On reaching Naples he received word of the death of Henry P. Bowditch

and sends this characteristic note to his widow:

Grand Hotel, Naples,
Mar. 25, 1911

Dear Mrs. Bowditch Among letters received this morning on my arrival I have news of the death of my dear friend - and with mingled feelings. It is sad to think he is gone, that the link of nearly forty years is broken; but then the release was best for him. He must have felt of late that there was no chance of recovery - and only a progressive increase in the disease. It has been a mercy - for him & for all of you - that his

March
1911

mind was spared. He had a fine life, so full & so useful. Think of what the Harvard Medical School was when he joined and what it was when he resigned. And his energy and the confidence he inspired were the motive powers in this great transformation. In those early days he brought the knowledge of how things should be, & fortunately he had the organizing capacity necessary to mould the old school on new lines. Then as the father of the American School of Physiology he brought a new spirit into the science of medicine. It was always delightful to recognize the affection, which the younger men had for him, and he did much to set the standard high in scientific work. You & the children have been fortunate to have had such a husband and father. I well know how much the family was in his life and it must be a deep satisfaction to you all to have been able to do so much for his happiness. My love & deep sympathy to you all. . . .

It was his first visit to Naples, and the thrill of the neighbouring coast as far as Sorrento and Capri, of the sight of Pompeii and all else, added to the impressions which ancient Egypt had made on his enthusiastic and impressionable mind, must have begun to affect his sleep, for he writes on a postcard of March 28th to one of his old neighbours at 3 West Franklin

Street:

Mar.
1911

Thus far on the trip. Glorious place - glorious weather. I wish you were mit I dreamt of you last night as operating on Hughlings Jackson. The great principle you said in cerebral surgery is to create a commotion by which the association paths ^{are} ~~were~~ restored. You took off the scalp - like a p.m. incision - made a big hole over the cerebellum & put in a christ-church-whipped-cream wooden instrument & rotated it rapidly. Then put back the bone & sewed him up. H#J seemed very comfortable after the operation and bought three oranges from a small Neapolitan who strolled into the Queen-Square Amphitheatre! I have been studying my dreams lately & have come to the conclusion that just one third of my time is spent in an asylum - or should be!

He had indeed been studying his dreams, to what purpose or effect is not apparent, but there remains a note-book filled with closely written observations upon them for he seemed always to awaken with most vivid recollections of astounding, amusing and bizarre somnambulistic experiences. Meanwhile an impatient wife writes from Oxford; "He has had a glorious time ^{but} the heat would have killed me so I am glad I did not go, and another reason I am glad is that I have read in his absence letters from young doctors - old doctors - men of all ages, which made me feel more than ever how wonderful an influence

April
1911

Dr. Osler has been in the profession. How proud I am of him - no one can believe. Excuse this outburst, but you both understand."

On April 2nd again at 13, Norham Gardens, he writes to H. B. Jacobs:

The Riviera looked delightful as I passed along the Coast the other side of Genoa. Rome was cold and rainy, & of five, we only had one good day at Naples. After Egypt one gets particular. I found nothing in the way of old books in either place, nothing of special note. Dr. Payne's executors have decided to sell the books at auction - at least to have an auctioneer's catalogue made first. I hope to head off a sale by a specific offer - asking to leave out the 15th century herbals. They have a rather exaggerated idea of the value of the library as a whole, but they would find the big prices limited to a few books. After the catalogue is made, I can talk with Sotheby's, & we may come to terms. It would be a great pity to miss it. You and Mrs. Jacobs really must do the Nile. I have never had such an enchanting trip. . . .

He is back to a mass of unanswered correspondence; to a ~~new and untried~~ ^{helpless & hopeless} secretary; to business of the university; ^{to} important matters at the Radcliffe Infirmary which had been awaiting his decision; to ^a London in a turmoil getting ready for the coronation.' - ~~The~~ ^{The} Londoner's one idea of decorating his

19

April
1911

as Whistler said, being
city ^{is} to cover it up and sit on it." On April 5th he dictates a letter
to F. C. Shattuck of Boston.

I do not see how your letter of Dec. 28th ^{comes to be in} is among a batch of February letters, which I find here on my return. . . . It is awfully sad to hear of Henry Bowditch's death. It was a tragedy was it not, for a man of his type to die in that way. He did a good work for the School and for the community. In a letter which I sent to the ^{Sanct Sanct} ~~LANGENT~~ about him, I remarked that it was men of his type that formed the 11* of a community. Not many are needed in a country; a teaspoonful of such yeast raises a mighty big lump of dough. With love to the family, Ever yours, W^m OSLER.

[Script] *Leaven - that is a good stenographic mistake - is it not!

With all that was going on, his habit of never losing interest in anything he had once seen or known about and of never letting slip an opportunity to contribute to another library than his own is illustrated by this letter of April 17th to President Lowell of Harvard.

Dear Lowell: Some time ago in the Hunterian Library, Glasgow, I came upon some interesting Harvard documents, the early lists of graduates, with their theses, etc. When you so kindly took me to the Library, we found that you had none earlier than 1670 I think. I have had the Hunterian set photographed, and they should reach you with this letter. Please hand them over to the Librarian. If you have to be in England this summer we shall be delighted to see you. . . *

April
1911

*This letter appears on the first page of the first number of Harvard Library Notes for June, 1920, with the following comment:

The earliest "Theses" of which the college possesses an original copy, is that of 1687, Dr. Osler's recollection of 1670 being due no doubt to the fact that there is a copy of the sheet for that year at the Massachusetts Historical Society. The Society has also the "Theses" of 1643. These three were the earliest known until Dr. Osler added 1646, 1647, August 9, 1653, August 10, 1653, and 1678. . . ~~They and the other college publications of similar character were described at length by Mr. Lane in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, for October 1914.~~

On the subject which continues to agitate the Johns Hopkins faculty

He writes to H. M. Thomas on *April 18th*
J. Ballou :

Dear Harry T: So glad of your nice long letter. I have not seen 'the Professor;' when over here he keeps in seclusion in a very funny way. I should like to know at first hand how things are moving. Personally, I feel that to cut off the heads of departments from practice is a Utopian scheme, admirable on paper; but the very men who would be most in favour of it would be the first to get the professors to break their rules. . . . You couldn't tie up a group of four or five men, and not permit the public to utilize their special knowledge. Under such conditions a Professor would not remain more than five or six years. It is an experiment I would like very much to see tried, but not at the Johns Hopkins first. It might have been different if we had started so, but I do not believe that there is any possibility of success at present. . . . Revere and Mrs. Osler are off fishing in Wales. He has *gorn* very much, and is thriving in everything except in Latin and Greek, which is rather a calamity. . . .

21

May
1911

"I have had a very busy month since I got back," he writes on May the 3rd; "on the road a great deal and very much in London;" and perhaps as a result of this ^{consultation} he may have 'sanctified a fee' for he ^{concludes:} ~~says~~, "I made a great haul last week, a splendid collection of Sir William Petty's Letters during twenty years in Ireland. A case-book of Sir Theodore Mayerne's; and a fourteenth-century MS. of Albertus Magnus; all from the Phillips sale (but I am ruined!) I hope to hear about that Vesalius letter, as one or other of us should get it. ^{sent in a letter to C.P. Howard} I wish I could get out to McGill for the opening but June is an impossible month - full of examinations. Revere goes back to school today. He did not get much fishing these holidays. He & Grace went to Tenby for deep-sea fishing but it was too rough. I am rewriting sections of the Text-book and hope to get it ready for the press by the end of the year. Notes, please! Corrections! Suggestions ~~please!~~"

And in the midst of a long and detailed letter to McCrae who is helping him with this revision, now that the System of Medicine is off their hands, he adds:

May
1911

I hear you are having a great time in settling the question of all-time clinical men. I ~~am afraid it is a Utopian scheme. I do not see how you can ever keep the public away when once a man has a strong reputation.~~ It would be a great thing for you young chaps, as you would get all the consulting work and all the kudos, and in a big clinic like the J. H. the chances are that in 10 years the head of the department might be the smallest man of the whole group in the eyes of the community and the profession.

He must have been a little hurt by the intimations that the ^{clinical} teachers had been exploiting their university positions, for in a ~~foot-note~~ ^{postscript} to a letter of May 13th* after he had learned that the Trustees had decided in

*On this same day Osler had arranged for a meeting to help a worthy project which is explained in the following 'minutes' - all of which looks ahead two years to the London International Medical Congress. "A meeting of British pathologists interested in medical-museum work was held on May 13th, at 2:30 p.m. at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, for the purpose of receiving information upon the organization known as the International Association of Medical Museums, with a view to extending the membership and general usefulness of this body in Great Britain. Sir Jonathon Hutchinson occupied the chair, and Dr. Maude Abbott of Montreal, Secretary-Treasurer of the association gave a report upon its origin, aims and activities."

favour of the plan, he ^{says} adds: "There seems to be a general impression that we clinical men make large fortunes in a few years. I did not take away from B. a dollar made in practice! It all got into circulation again! I got away with a little less than my ^{next Bourn} ~~work~~ brought me - & with what I paid for the house."

May
1911

Such ^{appended by hand} His postscripts added to very brief letters ^{taken down} laboriously dictated to ^{by} illuminate most of his correspondence at the time for 13 March 1911 ^{at this time: they}
his ^{incomplete} emanuensis are ^{of his} the best part of his letters. (To one of his young

Baltimore friends, he adds: "Do come and take a rest. You must need it sad-

ly. Break away - and soon. The open arms very open! Lovely weather,

[The niece of the grand daughter on a removal]

many people coming and going. Nona Gwyn & Otilie Wright are here getting

ready for presentation at court next week - very busy days." ^{Such things as that have}
^{Summer term for the benefit of the Anderson Society probationers does not stop in university circulars stop they}
^{on life in the tropics for Eurofacers} ^{doubtless over to the busy days.}

But for real news one must have recourse to Mrs. Osler's daily letters to

her mother. On May 16th she writes:

. . Of course their ~~best~~ dresses are a bother to get fitted - London is in such a muddle. To add to the effort word has come that I am to go to Court the same night the 25th of May. I can't get out of it now so must go ahead - and never should have done it had it not been for you. I know you will be interested but just now it is a tremendous effort as I seem to think only of you. - I have had a very interesting time today. . . I received a card for the unveiling of the Queen Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace - I was very lucky as tickets were being begged for & very scarce. The German Emperor & Empress came over for it - it was a glorious day & superb sight. You will see the pictures in the Illustrated. ~~It was stupid being alone & I did not sit near any one I knew.~~ It was superb - all men were in Court dress or uniforms - & Ambassadors in Court dress - ladies

24

May
1911

in morning dress - just street things. The Royalties were numerous & it was a brilliant sight. The King looks very small but is gracious in manner and full of interest in everything. I was really delighted to have such a chance. I send my card and the Hymn which everyone sang. The card came from Lord Strathcona and had Annie's name on it - poor soul she has been dead over a year - but it was meant for me - he makes most foolish mistakes but is 92. When this reaches you we will be in town. The girls are going to a theatre party on the 24th and we will stay for the Court on the 25th. Unfortunately Willie will not see us dressed as he has to be in Swansea ~~on~~ ~~the 25th.~~

The only record of the Swansea visit to which this letter refers, appears in this note to The Lancet from its 'correspondent in Wales':

At the Swansea General Hospital on May 25th Professor W. Osler^{the}, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University, unveiled a brass tablet which has been placed there as a memorial to his late uncle. The inscription was as follows: "To the memory of Edward Osler, M.R.C.S., F.L.S., House Surgeon of this Hospital in 1825. Born at Falmouth, Jan. 30th, 1798; died at Truro March 7, 1863." Professor Osler, in the course of an interesting address, gave some reminiscences of the life of his uncle, who was editor of the Royal Cornwall Gazette from 1840 until his death. He was also a well-known hymn writer.

While this memorial was being unveiled the following to Mrs. Revere was being written on the edge of a bed at Brown's Hotel:

May
1911

Dearest Mother, Behold three females - one aged, fat, old, grey-haired lady - and two beautiful young girls of different types - sitting on a bed waiting for dresses to arrive to go to Court. The dressmaker promised not to worry us but how can they help it when they have such a lot to do. It is a fearful waste of time too - away from Oxford which is more lovely this year than I have ever seen it and in a punt on the river ~~we~~ ^{we} can have so much more pleasure than dressed up like a jumping-Jack. I look like Katherine of Aragon, the girls like angels. ~~I suppose you are quite thrilled over the Irenia disaster - I am glad it happened to a Cunarder for they are always so self-satisfied. I have heard of no one I know being on board. . .~~

And this letter, finished twenty-four hours later, contains a long and amusing account of trains and feathers and veils, not fitted for this biography, though 'it was too bad Willie missed seeing the girls' - and his wife, it may be added, of whom the girls said 'I looked as if I owned the palace and was about to ask the King and Queen to spend a few days.'

At sixty, one must expect to see some of his friends fall out of the ranks, but Osler had been especially hard hit during the last year and this following letter of June 7th ^{mentions} ~~records~~ the loss of still another ^{of them} ~~^~~ - Dr. Charles

June
1911

M(?) Ellis of Elkton, Maryland, the man he was always holding up to his

young friends as the ideal example of a country doctor — *“Hippocraticus Rusticus”*
Weir Mitchell was want to call him.

Just back from town and have your letter of Monday with the sad news of Ellis' death. He was indeed one of the very best, and one of my oldest friends. ^I We had not been in Baltimore a week when he called upon me, bringing a letter from Weir Mitchell. I then saw him every week for several months in attendance upon McCoy who was a very special friend of his. He had more good clinical sense than any man I know. His life is full of encouragement, as it shows to what position of esteem the general practitioner can reach. No man in the profession in Maryland could have had a more charming position than ^{he} Ellis enjoyed. I had a very nice letter from him a few months ago. It is a sad loss to us all and to the profession and the State.

But these are pleasant things to receive and in the June 11 "beards" 1873 facts:

26^a
40
July
1911

My ^{purchases} ~~Müller~~ things [from the van den Corput sale, Amsterdam] came this week. The Laennec items* are A.1! two letters and a draft of his obituary

*Osler makes these items the subject of one of his "Men and Books" notes in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, March 1912, ii, 247.

notice of Bayle. One of the letters refers (1810) to an unusual astronomical phenomenon observed in Baltimore which had been referred to him. I must send it to the Faculty Library. A 1588 Leyden diploma & a 17th century Russian [one] & a good many books including ed. princeps of Mondino. . . *Payne books*
Still being fine - they may have to be sold unless Warburg raises his figure.
Such a rush these days everyone on the move. Müller comes soon from Munich [to give evidence before the Royal Commission on University Education].

Lizzie Linzee, Mrs. McCagg, the 3 Weld girls are here (partly at Randolph).

Dock comes next week and the exams. begin. Huth letters sold this week.

I hope to get a Locke item. I shall be ruined, and if Payne's books are

sold at auction, shall go into liquidation, ~~the next week~~. I had a long letter from Welch this week - great searchings of heart about the new proposals.

We must have a good talk about them. Ruinous to offer the clinical men only

\$7500. They had much better all migrate. I have a young friend who has

just got a whole time Pittsburgh billet at \$20,000 - in charge of big works,

not a whit more important than the J.H.H. shop; After all what is a man's

value in the community? That is the question for the Trustees to decide.

The Hospital will make double the salary, even in medicine, out of the private patients attracted to the individual men. . .

Let us know when you reach London.

~~The unusual from this and other letters of the unusual one would not have supposed that anything unusual could be intended. He appears to be chiefly concerned with the 26-2 illuminated diplomas; Dr. Pomes' library; sends some 17th century illuminated June diplomas to the Office library and on Monday the 19th inst. "Dinner you could 1921 have been here Saturday night. Show the Colophon Club - a sort of union circle of the Bibliographic Society - at Christ Church - a very interesting group of men." ~~But~~ But group of men, nearly all the important museum and other library men in~~

London" and it may be presumed they were regaled largely with Richard Burton and his books.

On the same Monday, the 19th, in London, from the four corners of the earth, princes and princesses, envoys and ambassadors, were arriving ^{in London} for the coronation of King George, and the following morning there appeared in the papers a long list of coronation honours - one marquess (Lord Crewe), four new earls (the Lord Chancellor Sir Robert Reid, Rosebery, Brassey and Curzon), four viscounts, nine barons, nineteen privy-councillors, twenty baronets (Osler included), fifty-five knights, and so on, and so on.

On this eventful morning Sir William writes to Miss Marcia Noyes, the Librarian of the Maryland 'Faculty':

June 20th

Dear Miss Noyes I am so delighted to hear of the Ellis bequest. I knew years ago of his intention. He was a good soul. I hope you will get the money soon. I will hear from Dr. Jacobs who comes to England tomorrow. ~~I have~~ ^{will have} I have got a little treasure for you in the shape of a Laennec letter - in which he refers to Baltimore. How is Miss Nichols. I have not heard from her for months. I wish she could get some good berth. They have been putting a baronetcy on me - much to the embarrassment of my democratic simpli-

June
1911

city, but it does not seem to make any difference in my internal sensations.
I do hope you will get a good holiday - You need it I am sure - & deserve
it - I am sure. Ever yours sincerely

W^m Osler

But it is hardly fair to dismiss the honour in this casual fashion,
for though the announcement was not expected until after the coronation,
they had known it was coming for several days - since the 11th in point of
fact. ~~Osler had always pooch-pooched at the idea of receiving a title, hating~~

~~anything that savoured of title-hunting, and when any allusion was made to~~

~~any such possibility, as it ^{recently had been by in a letter from} once was by his old friend Archibald Malleoch of~~

~~Hamilton, he ^{reminded him referred to} referred to the case of Dr. Hughlings Jackson 'the latchet of~~

~~whose shoe I am unworthy to unloose.'~~ On the afternoon, of June 11th, with

13 Norham Gardens as usual full of people, W. O. ^{had} walked in with the mail in

his hand and tossed a letter from 10 Downing Street marked 'Confidential'.

to his wife, When they had an opportunity for a moment alone, she said:

"What excuse are you going to give for declining it; you always have said

you would," ^{and} he replied; "I think I'll have to accept, ~~as~~ the people at home

will be so pleased - there's only one Canadian baronet." ~~Osler had~~ ^{Osler had} ~~declined~~ ^{dismissing}

~~anything that savoured of title-hunting Osler had always pooch-pooched at the idea~~

28-9
June
1911

They of course kept it secret but they engaged a house in town ^{was enjoyed} from
some friends for the week's ceremonies. ^{and on} On the 19th Mrs. Osler with a
friend was in town ^{to make} for some preliminary arrangements which must have been
difficult to ^{with} make for London was covered with scaffolding and ~~these were~~
days when 40,000 women ^{marching} marched from the Embankment to Albert Hall to hold a
demonstration in favour of women's suffrage. In the evening she was called
to the telephone and a voice said: "The devil: the fat's in the fire: this
baronetcy thing is out! William [the chauffeur] says so." She bought an
evening paper, where, sure enough, it was, and hurrying back to Oxford she
met a brigade of telegraph-boys emerging from 13 Norham Gardens.

^{In some ways it}
it is a measure of the affection in which a man is held - the number of
messages he receives ^{at} ~~on~~ such ^{a time,} an occasion. On only one other occasion was 13
Norham Gardens equally swamped by messages from all over the world, ^{- these} ~~these~~
^{were to be} ~~were to be~~ messages expressing grief and condolence - no less an evidence of ~~the~~
^{place he held in other hearts.}
the affection and love in which he was held. Ordinary mortals may receive
signal honours, may suffer bereavement, and their friends applaud ^{or} ~~and~~ grieve,
but not many of them take the trouble to ^{do what} ~~send a message,~~ as everyone seemed

June
1911

impelled to do when anything befell William Osler. They came in successive waves - the telegrams, the cables, the English letters, the trans-Atlantic letters - till the household was swamped. People felt that it was a well-deserved honour and they wanted him to know that they felt so. Then, too, his real English friends appreciated how people from America still clung to him and as one of them, Sir Thomas Barlow, President of the Royal College of Physicians, wrote: "You have been all along a peacemaker and a binder-together of the different interests of medicine both at home and abroad, and if for no other reason this distinction would have been fitting and suitable, but I cannot help feeling that in a sort of way it makes you truly belong to us all here more than before and I trust most fervently that your life may be long spared and that you may go on doing exactly the good work which you have already done." It was months before his acknowledgements could even be partly completed, and he was exceptionally punctilious about this sort of thing. But he begins with his family.

31

June
1911

13, Norham Gardens.
21st [June]

Dear Chattie You must have had such a shock yesterday morning when you saw Bill's name in the Coronation honour list. We had word about ten days ago from Mr. Asquith, but nothing could be said. I did not know when it was to come out - I thought not till after the coronation, but yesterday before I was out of bed the telegrams began to rain in and there has been a perfect stream - more than 100 from England & 49 cables, U.S. & Canada; two from India. Letters galore. Grace was in town with Miss McCagg. Nona and Otilie had been up at a dance till late so we did not let them know until later. I have had rather more than my share, but these court honours mean so much here. And when in the swim we must take what comes. These things have never bothered me, & we have so much & have been so happy, that we really did not need it as much as some poor fellow who has done more, but who has not caught the public eye. I am glad for the family. I wish Father & Mother had been alive & poor B.B. & Nellie. It is wonderful how a bad boy [who could chop off his sister's finger] may fool his fellows if he once gets to work. Ask Bill Lyons how he accounts for it! The girls are greatly excited. They are having such a good time - seeing the world! Nona looks so well. Her presentation picture is so good & as for Grace - it was her regal appearance that settled George R. Love to Charley & the girls Your affec bro.

"Sir Billy" !!!!!

Whether he had little interest in the coronation pageant or whether it

June
1921

was because of the illness of E. A. Abbey* or for some other reason, he re-

*J. William White had been hurriedly summoned from America and Abbey was to be operated upon in a day or two by Sir Berkeley Moynihan.

mained in Oxford while the rest of the household had repaired to London

for the festivities; and there continues with his acknowledgements. Thus

on the 21st to H. B. Jacobs *who had come to London partly for the Coronation & partly for the Payne sale*

We knew it about ten days ago, but nothing could be said. I think George R. was so impressed with G. R. O. and the two girls that he sent word to Mr. Asquith at once. Such a torrent of cables & telegrams! Really one's friends are awfully good. This thing cannot make us any happier, and as we were very contented before, I hope it will not disturb our Aequanimitas. Of course, my people will be enchanted. Everyone here is most kind & the whole town has called. G. and the girls are up in town for the fun, I am having a peaceful time at home! I shall ask Phipps for the extra £1000. I do hope the Payne executors will not raise the figure. The collection is wonderfully rich. I shall be heart broken if we do not get it - purse-broken too, as there are three or four items I must bid for - tho I believe these baronetcy fees are ruinous & may take all my spare cash.

And on the next day to W. S. Thayer:

June
1911

What do you think of this baronet business for an ordinary Democrat like myself? I suppose it is best to accept the conditions in which one lives, and take what comes and be thankful. I have had a good deal more than my share. We were very happy and contented, and it was quite unexpected. . . . What a time you have had over this Rockefeller suggestion. I have written Welch. I have had no details from anyone - only someone mentioned \$7500 as the prospective salaries; at \$20,000 it would be worth while, scarcely at less. It is a doubtful matter. What would the school have been if the clinical men had not been active in the local and national societies. Would whole time men have the same influence in the profession at large - I doubt it. And in the U. S. could a good man keep himself from the public? If they paid proper salaries I would like to see the experiment tried. I hear that you have declined Jefferson. I told Keen to try. What are you doing this summer? I wish we could see you here. Love to Sister Susan. G.R.O. and the boy are well - both at the Coronation. . . .

So he did not attend the 'Royal Progress' and the other coronation festivities in London finally for reasons hinted at in a letter of the 30th to Mr. Cline which says:

embroideries - I hope we may be equally so in the future. Revere seems a bit overwhelmed but it may be a good thing for him in the long run as he is evidently not going to do much with 'book learning.' I am swamped with letters and telegrams and now that the trans-Atlantic letters begin to come in it seems hopeless." ^{One of them,} ~~They~~ ^a came from such remote spots as the Grand Casca-

pedia, P. Q., Canada: *may be justified:*

July
1911

Tell your son that I killed a 45 pound salmon last week, and two days before three, 40, 39, 29 lbs. Of less importance is it that you are a Bart. What is that to me, for whom you are long ago high in the peerage of friendship. A lessening number of survivors, four, only four. Time has terribly dealt with that splendid peerage, Lowell, Holmes, Alex. Agassiz, Brooks, and last Ch. Norton and Aldrich, and I am the last of nine children and one sister. Therefore please to take care of the new Baronet. . . . Keep an eye on any Harvey things for me and quit writing me those half-page scraps of letters. I have seven queries to put at you about Harvey. I spare you. Could I learn at the Herald^[ry] Office when Wm. H. got arms? I hear you cuss. Well! goodbye. Yrs, WEIR MITCHELL.

~~Though he did not get to town to attend the 'Royal Progress' and the~~
But think that
 other coronation festivities, *perhaps came here to London*
 subsequent engagements took him there as is evident from a note of July 2nd to ^{N.B.} Jacobs who was *sojourning there:* ~~staying in London.~~ *P.* "So sorry not to have been able to stay today and see you but I had to motor from town this morning with a bevy of boys with whom I was dining last night. We have just had 15 of them to tea - such nice fellows - a club. Three of them went on a pilgrimage to the U.S. hospitals this winter. I will come to see you Tuesday - will let you know the hour. The Payne library yet unsettled. I shall be heart broken to miss it. I am putting the case before Mr. Phipps tomorrow."

And so he did, but Mr. Phipps for the moment felt that he had done enough for the Johns Hopkins and was more interested in other things. *In*

July
1911

In the following letter of July 9th is given something more about the sale which was so exercising him.

Has Welch told you there is a chance that we may get Payne's library? Marburg will go to \$10,000. Much depends on what price the valuator put on his Herbals. There is much of first class importance & not many duplicates in the Warrington collection. Mrs. P. will give us the first offer. P. had given away a few treasures before his death - to the college the original Linacres which were not in its shelves. He had left me the Restitutio Christianismi reprint, Nürnberg 1790, which I have been after for years & wh. must be extremely rare.* There are some good MSS. & a choice lot of 16 & 17 cen-

*In this volume Dr. Payne had written: "~~Extremely rare.~~" This is a reprint made in Nuremberg of the original of 1553 of which most copies were burnt along with the author. One remains in the Bibl. Nationale, Paris. One at Vienna. It is not known from which copy this reprint was made but probably it was from that at Vienna. Very scarce and difficult to obtain. This copy came from Mark Rollison's library. J.F.P.)

And Osler continues, ^{with a note} apparently dictating ^{ed} from a French thesis to Revere, for it is in Revere's handwriting: "In 1553 Servetus had 1000 of the Christianismi Restitutio printed secretly at Vienne in France, and published the book anonymously, only putting at the end his initials M.S.V. The Paris copy belonged to Colladon, one of the Inquisitors, who condemned Servetus to be burnt alive in Geneva, Oct. 25, 1553. It has Colladon's notes in it, and some of its leaves are charred, as if an attempt had been made to burn it. It reached Richard Mead's hands in some way that is not known. Mead gave it to de Boze; when de Boze died it was bought by M. le Président de Cotte, who at once sold it to M. Gagnat. M. Gagnat sold it for 3810 livres to the Duc de la Vallière, who sold it in 1783 for 4120 livres to the Comte d'Artois for the King of France, who placed it in the National Library at Paris, where it now is."

tury English pamphlets. Both the English & the Latin editions of the sweating sickness - the former impossible to get now. S-G Library copy the only one in U. S. I do hope we can get it. If not there will be a fine scramble

July
1911

at Sothebys! I have had some luck lately - several beauties! but next year I must go slow. I have spent too much this year on books.

I hope the angels are well. Hugs & kisses all round. Tell Pius he must come over soon in an aeroplane.* Bodley's Librarian merely dis-

*The 'European Aviation Circuit' had just been completed, Védérines the Frenchman arriving first at Hendon, the terminal point.

appeared - he could not die! but has bobbed up serenely. I wish you could be at our meetings - more fun than a circus. Beastly election on.**

**A political truce had been declared during the coronation week, but this over, they were at it again, hammer and tongs, over the Parliament Bill. An election was necessary to fill some seats made vacant in the House by some of the Coronation Honours.

Plague on both their houses! The country is safe - never so prosperous if they would only shoot the newspaper editors.

There lived in Reading, the county town of Berkshire half-way to London from Oxford, a doctor with a hobby, a man after Osler's own heart, Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry. Though now a modernized town famed for ^{Such things as its} ~~Huntley & Palmer's~~ biscuits and ^{its} ~~for Sutton & Son's~~ seeds, it has an ancient history. Early in

July
1911

the twelfth century the ~~the~~ Henry I ^{there} founded a Benedictine Abbey which remained one of the wealthiest in England until, at the dissolution of the monasteries it was despoiled and looted by the VIIIth Henry just five centuries later, the last Abbot a faithful Papist having been hung, drawn and quartered before his own gateway. Dr. Hurry had made the ruins of this abbey his specialty and being a little shy about this particular fact he was greatly encouraged by reading what Osler had said at his ^{Belfast} ~~Netting-~~ham address in 1909 to the effect that no man is safe without a hobby.

In consequence, he had ventured to send to the Regius "The History of Reading Abbey", one of his five different volumes on the subject of the abbey and its abbots. ¶ This may suffice to explain how it came about that Osler on July 10th ^{Osler came to} ~~unveiled~~ the memorials to 'the first and last abbot

of Reading' presented to the Borough as a coronation gift by Dr. Hurry. -

the memorials ^{one on each side of} consisting of two sculptured blue-stone slabs affixed ~~to~~ the ^{ruined entrance to} ~~ruins of~~ the chapter house of the old abbey. A procession headed by the

town beadies and sergeants-at-mace started from the Town Hall, ^{followed by} ~~and~~ the mayor, the

July
1911

Town Council and other town officials, the Archdeacon of Berks and many others including, one may be sure, the little daughter of Dr. Hurry, as well as the new baronet, ^{and all proceeded} ~~and walked~~ to the Forbury Gardens. There, it is said, 'Sir William stepped forward, unveiled the memorials, and delivered the following address:'

Let me first offer congratulations to this old town in the possession of a romance that appeals to all lovers of antiquity. In your modern prosperity the outside world may lightly forget the glorious history of foundations, now alas, in ruins, which once made Reading the rival of Glastonbury, St. Albans and Osney. Their noble remains you devoutly preserve, and through the pious inspirations of one of your townsmen, Dr. Hurry, we enshrine to-day the memory of the first and last of the long line of men who for four hundred years ruled the destinies of one of the most famous abbeys of England. You see here in stone symbolized the beginning and the end of a great epoch of a vast movement to the strength of which our wonderful cathedrals and many superb ruins bear enduring testimony. Marvellous, indeed, was the faith that found expression in such works! Small wonder that the thirteenth has been called the greatest of the centuries, since in it the larger number of these magnificent foundations took their rise. Little could the first Hugh even amid the vicissitudes of a long and stormy life, have dreamt of the tragedy that awaited his splendid home and far-off successor - a tragedy that stirs us to the quick in the pages of the Abbé Gasquet, or in the brief memorial printed for this occasion. But like an earthquake, the upheaval to

July
1911

which this ruin testifies was the outcome of natural causes, though not always easy to trace in the tangled skein of history. We pity the fate of Abbot Hugh Faringdon, and you may call down curses on the head of King Henry, but they were both mere pawns in the great game which man has for ever to play with the enslavers of his spirit. The one lost a beautiful abbey and his life, the other in losing a reputation saved a nation, and struck off forever from this land the galling fetters of foreign ecclesiastical domination. Much as we deplore the savagery, the injustice, the brutalities associated with the Reformation, into the other balance must be thrown its two great victories - the appeal to reason, and the birth of the spirit of nationality - precious gifts, worth a costly sacrifice. Still at work, the forces which four centuries ago were relentless enough to wreck this abbey and to butcher its head, have slowly but surely so moulded man anew that he looks on life with new eyes. Even those who regret most acutely the changing of the old order rejoice in a new spirit abroad in the world that has given the individual, whether child, man or woman, a value never before possessed. The recognition of the right to live and to be happy and healthy in this beautiful world is its fruit. But this and much more is the work of the past, of which we are the inheritors, and it is from this past we may draw our keenest inspiration and our surest ensamples. And the lesson lies not in what a man has believed but in how he has behaved. Who cares a fig whether Abbot Hugh Faringdon assented or not to the King's supremacy? The lesson for us is in his blameless life and brave death - in them we find what the poet calls 'the touch divine of noble natures gone.' Consciously or unconsciously, everyone looking on this last scene in which the last abbot stands at the foot of the gallows with a rope round his neck, will in his

July
1911

heart make an obeissance to the man who stuck to his principles even unto death - and in so doing will gain strength for life's daily battle. That we live in a better and happier world is the outcome of the struggle of these of our ancestors who loved the light rather than darkness. To reverence their memory is best inspiration for our work. We need their help, and it is just through such memorials as Dr. Hurry has here erected, that their benign influence may touch us. As always, Kipling gets to the marrow of the thing in his splendid poem, "Our Fathers of Old": -

If it be certain, as Galen says
 And sage Hippocrates holds as much -
 That those afflicted by doubts and dismays
 Are mightily helped by a dead man's touch
 Then be good to us, stars above!
 Then be good to us, herbs below!
 We are afflicted by what we can prove;
 We are distracted by what we know -
 So - ah, so!
 Down from your heaven or up from your mould,
 Send us the hearts of our fathers of old.

The copy of "Rewards and Fairies" therefore, came in handy and was quickly put to use, and another characterisitic thing is that in the photograph taken after the address Osler ^{carelessly} has insisted that the wife and little daughter of Dr. Hurry support him ^{on the platform} among the beadles, ^{the} and sergeants-at-mace, and the mayors, and so on.

^{Two} ^{later, on} The next days his birthday, came the sale at Sotheby's of "Dr. ^{Joseph} ~~John~~ Frank Payne's Early Medical Works" and at the end of the sales catalogue kept in his library occurs this note in script:

*Made from Joseph's collection
of Med. Works 1910*

July
1911

W. A. Marburg of Baltimore authorized me to bid to \$3000 for this Library for the Johns Hopkins Medical School. I tried hard before the sale to get an upshot price from Mrs. Payne and the auctioneer but I had nothing more than the statement about \$3000. I went to the sale with Henry B. Jacobs and George Dock. The Library was put up en bloc. Quaritch was bidding for us. It started at \$2000 - went up to \$2500 and then \$3000, and before I could consult with Q. it was knocked down at \$3,300 (or 500 I forget which). The whole transaction did not take a minute. I would have gone to \$3,500 as it would have been easy to make up the balance from the sale of duplicates. W^m OSLER. [Later] The Library went to the Wellcome Historical Museum, London.

His disappointment in not securing this valuable collection for the ^{Hopkins} J.H.H.

must have been lightened the next day by the addition of a precious volume for his own collection: "A Declamacion in the prayse and comedation of the most hygh and excellent Science of Phi^lsyke made by the ryght famous clerke docteur Erasmus of Rotherdam and newly translated out of Latyn into Englyshe. London, by Robert Redman, n.d." And on the fly-leaf he has written: "Given me by Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs, July 1911, again a curious coincidence, just as occurred in connection with my 1st edition of Burton which she gave me. Quaritch had sent a list of some old English books which had come in, among them was this of Erasmus, which I did not know had appeared in English. It was too high

July
1911

priced, I thought ~~(it)~~. A few days later it was sent with Mrs. H.B.J.'s regards. This books is not in the Bodl. nor in B. M. but is in the Britnell Court Library so Gordon Duff tells me. W. O."

Meanwhile the acknowledgements continue - sometimes merely on a visiting-card as to his old Toronto friend Adam Wright: "Many thanks Dear Adam for your kind letter. Greetings to your good girls - all - and the boy." I still take the same sized hat." Even letters to his children-friends as this to 'Marjorie-Muriel-Maude':

Dear Muriel Where are you this summer - most ubiquitous of children? & where is your saintly mother? Having a good holiday I hope from You. Are you coming to England & when? You were an angel to write that nice letter. Sad it has been unanswered so long, but you will be sorry for me when I tell you that I have had nearly 1000 letters & telegrams to answer! With much love, Yours affectionately,

Wm Osler.

And this to another of his special ^{whom} pets he always called Monica for reasons of his own - the daughter of one of his Oxford colleagues who had just become engaged:

242

Oxley

He was very fond of and admiring of the Scotch; and always said they
were the backbone of Canada, ^{remarked;} ~~he often said that they~~ also that "they"
"The Scots are all right in their three

vital parts - heads, hearts and haggis." But he was fond of playing

pranks upon them, and ^{his some Monica} ~~the daughter of one of his Oxford colleagues~~ recalls

that when she first met him in Oxford he said: "You are a well brought up

Scotch girl - where does the Book of Hezekiah occur in the Bible?"

What is more, she was so brought up, but was much distressed at her in-

ability to answer the query. ^{She also recalls his saying:} ~~And she told her mother that he remarked~~

one day, when he caught her in the pose of obviously trying to make a

good impression: "First cousin of Saphira, cease your many inventions."

The Eldonali

July
1911

Tuesday

Dear Monica Did I answer your sweet letter? The Boss says I did not and I am so bewildered and belettered and becabled and bebirthdayed that I have lost count. I thot (which is Scotch) you a darling which you are, and Harry knows that I know that he knows that you are - so there!

Yours, W. O.

and next day

~~The elaborate final report of The Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, which~~ *was*
~~had been in session off and on since the London Congress of 1901 (when the~~
 Duke found the Professor of Medicine from the Johns Hopkins so 'jokey') *had been*
holding sessions in an endeavor, ~~ing~~ to determine whether the bacilli of bovine and human tuberculosis were *one and*
 the same, had finally issued its *elaborate* report at this time. But the crusade
 against the disease *meantime* had *undeterred* been going on, with the episode of Koch's pronounce-
 ment long since forgotten, as has been seen; ~~and~~ *By* a coincidence, on this
 July 14th, appeared in The Times an article *announcing* stating that "The Executive Com-
 mittee of the Welsh Memorial to King Edward, which has collected £200,000 to
 be devoted to a campaign against consumption in Wales, has obtained from Sir
 Clifford Allbutt, Sir Lauder Brunton, Dr. A. Latham, and Sir William Osler a
 statement on the value of the sanatorium treatment of the disease." *This state-*
~~ment set forth in untechnical language the part that sanatoriums may be ex-~~
~~posed set forth in several concise paragraphs, clearly~~

July
1911

great,

~~pected to play in any organized campaign against consumption. The signatories~~
~~of the statement divide their comments into four classes, of which the follow-~~
~~ing is a summary,~~ *etc etc "* ~~and there followed several concise paragraphs clearly~~
understandable to any lay reader, ~~of~~ the way in which pulmonary consumption
affects different classes of patients and what is the best thing to be done
~~for~~ *each of* them. The fact that Osler's name ^{was} is the last of the signatories sug-
gests that he may have been the author, though to be sure the names are
given alphabetically: ~~but~~ this is less important than the fact that a group
of the leading Welshmen instead of erecting a bronze figure on a horse to
commemorate the reign of Edward VII, decided upon this unusual form of a mem-
orial instead. ~~The public were becoming aroused and all of this, indeed,~~ *indeed in Wales* *The public at last were taking notice which may have*
~~had an important reaction upon~~ *induced* another leading Welshman, ~~for~~ *it may have induced* Mr. Lloyd George ~~to~~
~~provided,~~ *for the setting* *to set aside the* as part of the National Insurance Act, ~~for a sum~~ of a million pounds
for the maintenance of existing sanatoriums, and a million and a half for
the erection of others in districts where they were ~~desirable.~~ *needed.*

The National Association for the Prevention of Consumption opened its
annual convention at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on the 19th. The sessions
began with a congratulatory telegram from the King expressing his sympa-

July
1911

thies with the association's work; Mr. John Burns opened the first Conference, and many subsequent papers were given - all of which indicates what an immense impetus the crusade had already acquired. Osler ^{not only presided} ~~had been~~ called upon to ~~preside~~ at the afternoon session, ^{but} and the following morning gave ^{Some} ~~an~~ introductory ^{remarks:} address and was ⁱⁿ quoted ^{by} The Times ~~the next morning~~ as having said:

. . . that the public, thanks to this association and to the press, were becoming more and more alive to the necessity of dealing with this insidious disease in its early stages. Doctors also needed education. Like the best of men, they had many sins, and one was carelessness in examination. How many doctors in cases of cough made a practice of always carefully stripping and examining the chest? This carelessness was especially prevalent in that most vicious type of practice which was about to be foisted on us; contract practice as a rule was bad practice. Pleading for common-sense treatment, he said that two years ago a young woman from 'over the herring pond' was brought to him, and as the tuberculous signs were of the slightest he simply prescribed open air, golf, and ^a generally rational life. The mother, however, did not like this 'Go, wash in Jordan,' and these two years had been spent on the Continent under tuberculin treatment. The patient had stood it wonderfully: she could not have been better if she had not had the treatment. The great majority of people in that room probably

July
1911

had somewhere a little focus of the disease, but were saved by the natural capacity of healing. Probably not 10 per cent of the tuberculous, even under the new regulations, could be treated in sanatoriums, so our energies should be most largely devoted to elaborating and perfecting home treatment. The tuberculosis dispensary should not be independent of the general hospital, where a special tuberculosis department could be easily arranged. For one thing, the essential laboratory facilities were greatest at a hospital. He dreaded the growth of a group of men whose whole knowledge and life were in the tuberculosis dispensary; they necessarily became narrow. Even the general physician tended to get into a narrow rut. If anyone wanted to be encouraged, and to feel that the world was getting better, let him visit a sanatorium; and if he was not satisfied of its value he ought to have tuberculosis himself. One thing still lacking was a specific which would destroy the germ without damaging its host, though tuberculin, when properly used in suitable cases, had undoubted efficacy. . .

A common sense talk evidently turned to the ears of his lay hearers; and no less so were the remarks
On the following day [Saturday the 22nd?] he was called upon to give

the following day, 22 July 1911

his testimony before Lord Haldane's Commission on University Education, ^{when} and,

as the Minutes of Evidence show*, ^{he} dwelt upon the development of university

*Appendix to the Third Report of the Commissioners. Minutes of Evidence. From Nov. 1910 to July 1911. London, Stationers' Office, 1911, p. 342-54.

education in medical schools, and particularly by way of illustration, upon

July
1911

the organization of the medical clinic as it had come to be developed at

the Johns Hopkins.

These letters on the cards for Oxford on

Back in Oxford Monday the 24th he writes to Dr. [now Sir] Andrew

Macphail of Montreal who ^{has just undertaken to edit a new journal, the official organ of} ~~is Editor of the Journal of the Canada~~ Medical

Association, and who has written more than once for some 'thunder' and

~~who was to be gratified the next year, as will be seen:~~

Dear Macphail: I do hope by this time your poor eye is all right again. I was very distressed to hear of the accident. What a terrible ordeal it must have been for you! I hope to have something ready for the Journal before long. I have been horribly negligent, but the fact is I have been head over ears in work of one sort or another, and do not seem able to get through much. Do drop me a postcard saying how you are. If you come over please come to us for a while. . . .

There was little chance that Macphail would ^{any} just mean for us ~~Macphail will be seen, in to receive/copy in abundance a year hence.~~ Another letter of this same day And on the same day in a letter to H. M. Thomas, ^{Orlen} he says, "We are having a very

busy time, so many people coming and going. It was nice to see the Thayers, and to see Sister Susan looking so well. Dana was here on Saturday, Jim Putnam and Lichfield of Pittsburgh come today. I am off to the British Medical Association at Birmingham this evening."

July
1911

~~At the 79th~~
~~The nineteenth annual meeting of the B. M. A. held at Birmingham, and~~

(at Birmingham)

one of the sessions of the Section on State Medicine was entirely given over to a discussion on the administrative control of tuberculosis - on the old questions - compulsory notification, sanatoriums, dispensaries, tuberculin and so on - and Osler there made again a brief plea for the association of

the tuberculosis dispensary with the general hospital and with the county

due to his to many set feet enjoyment out of these large large Saltunps
 infirmary. ~~He was also down for the more formal discussion of papers in~~

of his professional behavior and away other things
~~other sections, such as that by Hale-White on "Fever without Physical Signs"~~

~~Drs. George Deck and Campbell Howard were both at the meeting with him and~~

as usual
~~probably attended the annual luncheon of the Continental Anglo-American~~

Medical Society which ~~came~~ *had come* to regard ~~Osler~~ *him* as a sort of extra or honorary

President. ~~That evening he writes Jacobs:~~ "We have had a splendid meeting" *she writes*

"so many nice fellows. Campbell Howard came & we prowled about all day &

have seen many men; many interesting things." Among the *'nice fellows' - a guest* guests of the As-

sociation ~~that year~~ was Professor Russell H. Chittenden of Yale with whom

Osler must have had some words regarding another matter which accounts for

July
1911

the following letter ^{dictated} written after his return to Oxford.

13, Norham Gardens,
July 28, 1911.

Dear Chittenden:- I wrote Hadley as follows: - "The Silliman Lectureship is a great temptation, but I really do not feel that I have anything of sufficient interest to give you. My work has been so entirely technical, dealing with the more practical problems of medical education, that I do not feel that I could make you any really new contribution, such as is worthy of the name of Silliman. A course on the New Medicine and its relation to the Profession and the Public could be made of interest, and of value, but I really do not feel that they would quite come under the provisions of the Foundation."

This is really very much along the lines you suggest. I could before long prepare a short outline of the headings. It would be a great pleasure to me to stay ten days at Yale, see the work of the University, and I could probably bring out material for two or three extra lectures that would interest some of the men in the Academic Department. Discuss the matter with Hadley and let me know. I should prefer to come in the month of October. They have just postponed the International Tuberculosis Congress until the 23rd of April. It is in Rome, and I must ^{attend} ~~be at it~~. . .

Some two weeks before, he must have received, at about the same time from two American universities, invitations to give a series of important

July
1911

lectures. One of them dated July 1st, came from David Starr Jordan of Stanford University, California, asking him 'to give a course of three lectures under the West Foundation on the general subject of Immortality, Human Conduct and Human Destiny'; and the other from Arthur ^TJ. Hadley of Yale in regard to the Silliman Lectures. In his letter President Hadley had said:

. . .The number of lectures is not fixed by the terms of the gift; but it is contemplated that the course should be of sufficient length - say from eight to twelve lectures - to form the basis of a volume which shall be published at the expense of the University. This means, of course, that we are prepared to assume the cost of any number of illustrative plates which may be incident to the understanding of the text. The volumes thus issued form a connected series; and the size of the fund is such that we have made them of high merit and value. The copyright of the lectures, by the terms of the foundation, belongs to the University; but in case the author desires to reserve the right to republish these lectures as part of a connected edition of his works, the University will give him every facility for doing so and will not let its copyright stand in the way. . .

The size of the foundation is such that we have tried each year to obtain, and I think we have succeeded in obtaining, a series of really important lectures by some scientific man who was engaged in progressive investigation and could give us something really new. Our lecturers have been

July
1911

Messrs. J. J. Thomson, Sherrington, Rutherford, Nernst, Penck, Campbell
and Arrhenius; ^{and for} Our ~~lecturer~~ next October is to be Professor Max Verworn.

I ~~think we can fairly say that we have succeeded each year in making our~~
~~volume of Silliman Lectures a place for the first publication of important~~
~~scientific results. . . .~~ In establishing the foundation, the deviser
provided that 'the general tendency' of each of the courses should 'be
such as will illustrate the presence and wisdom of God in the natural and
moral world.' But he was wise enough to add that it was not necessary
that the religious element should be emphasized, inasmuch as he believed
that any orderly statement concerning the works of the Creator revealed
his presence and wisdom. We thus have our hands free to employ the income
of the fund for any course of lectures which is not positively and avowedly
materialistic in its conception.

I feel that if you can come to us we shall be able to give you a
pleasant time and that you will meet outside the lecture room even more than
inside it a number of students who will derive inspiration from your work
and your talk. I think that J. J. Thomson, when he was here as Silliman
Lecturer, did more work in promoting the study of mathematical physics by
his casual conversations over his beer or his whiskey-and-soda at the Grad-
uates Club than he did in his more formal utterances. I very much want our
younger men to have the chance to know you and I hope that if you accept
our invitation, you will be able to make a reasonably continuous stay here

It was undoubtedly a great temptation and Osler, as an indication that he
wavered, had written across the top of this letter "Ans, 21st July '11 The

July
1911

New Medicine" - and one somehow looks for "James Bovell M D M R C P", for Osler's master would in all probability have given a course on 'the presence and wisdom of God in the natural and moral world' more satisfactory to the devisor of the Lectureship than would Bovell's favourite pupil.

How this all turned out will be seen.

Meanwhile something of what is engaging him at Oxford is indicated by
[*Calla Lord Blythe*]
this letter from Lord Blyth, one of the Trustees of the Endowment Fund,
written August 2nd.

Dear Sir William, Many thanks for yours of the 1st inst. I do not think that there is enough money voted to provide for the revision of the [Bodleian] Catalogue; about £1000 a year is required. I do not think it would be possible to appeal with success for additional money in Oxford if the resolution proposed by the Chancellor is confirmed. People will say that the Trustees have plenty of unallocated money in hand to do the work. - The question of printing, I admit, is not urgent. I think the Trustees will have done well to insist on a proper estimate being prefaced for carrying on the work of Catalogue revision, and a responsible Head being put in charge. Mr. Gibson, I am told, has done his work admirably, but when he is working on the Catalogue revision, another Assistant is required for the Library. Yours sincerely,

Blythe.

Aug.
1911

Money is necessary to get things done and Osler usually was a successful beggar; but no more so than his heroic friend in Saranac who writes him from Paul Smith's, New York, on August 3rd.

My dear Dr. Osler, When that very nice letter you wrote from Egypt came I was on my 'beam ends' again and since I have righted myself somewhat time has passed more rapidly than I thought.. Let me first congratulate you on the great honour your country has so deservedly bestowed upon you. We Doctors long ago placed you on a pinnacle but it is a joy to see that England and England's King appreciate you as well as your professional brethren. I enjoyed your letter and it really is 'the irony of fate' that all the efforts of the most powerful Egyptian King to preserve his body from the gaze of posterity should have only resulted in its daily exhibition to gaping crowds. 'Sic transit' etc!

There is little news with me. I am still on my porch and in my reclining chair most of the time when I am not in bed but the old machine keeps on working still. Saranac and the work there still continue to grow and I still can help it exist and grow. Good as Laurie [Brown] and Baldwin are at doing the work, they never get any money and money we must have and here is where I still come in. This year besides the greater part of the support of the institution, I have personally begged so far a new X-ray plant (\$2000), \$2,500 for a fund towards the support of the scientific and medical work at the Sanitarium so that Laurie can have a paid bacteriologist and join his bedside observations to good laboratory experiments and records; and last

Aug.
1911

week I got \$10,000 for a nurses' cottage where we will train special nurses to care at a reasonable cost for the poor devils who need them and whose name is legion! Yesterday I got \$1,200 to build three iron and stone gates at the three entrances for which so far we have never been able to afford any gates. I am sending you three Kodaks I took of the Trudeau family, to recall us to your mind because the one of me is decidedly cheerful for a man who often reads in the papers his own obituary! Congratulations and love from us all. Most sincerely,

E. L. Trudeau.

Peaceful occupations these - raising money for charitable objects; but it was a peaceful time.

On the day this letter was being written in the ~~peaceful~~ Adirondacks, Mr. Taft witnessed the signing of an arbitration treaty with England; another was being signed in Paris; Mr. Carnegie was making a peace-speech in Liverpool and Lord Haldane the Secretary of State for War, before the Summer Extension Course in Oxford, was delivering an address: "Great Britain and Germany: a Study in Ethnology," in which he sought to trace the growth and meaning of what seemed to him the German habit of mind and to point out the difficulties in the way of a mutual understanding and how they might be diminished. ~~It~~ ^{having} was a philosophical address - rather strong meat for babes.. Meanwhile Mr. Lloyd George's ^{incoherent} ~~in~~ insurance bill was before Parliament; the vote of censure

Aug.
1911

regarding the misuse of the royal prerogatives was still vexing the country and
 the dock labourers were on strike. ^{But} Probably, ~~however~~, neither the political
 upheaval ^{which led to the} "plague on both their houses" nor the social unrest lessened the
 crowd at Lord's ^{for} to see the annual Rugby-Marlborough cricket match, nor the fes-
 tivities at Cowes, ^{in these few days.}

The month, from August 11th to September 6th, ^{the Osters} was passed at Llandullas, a tiny village
 in North Wales, ^{taking with them} where he carries a large bundle of the congratulatory letters
^{still to be acknowledged, from there} he wishes to answer and whence he soon sends an undated letter to H. M.

Thomas, saying:

We are off here at a lovely spot where we have taken a house for six weeks - close to the sea. Ike got back from camp at Salisbury Plain where he had a very happy time. He is 1 1/2 inches taller than I am and looks well. He is no student and never will be. Study is not to his mind, but I am not worrying. He is a good lad and will do well. I was sorry not to see Mary before I left, but I had to go to Paris for two days and had only a day at home before leaving, but your sister wrote that she was better. . . . So glad you have had a good summer at the old place. I remember it on the occasion of my first visit to the Blue Ridge - before I went to Baltimore. Delightful letter from Trudeau with photograph has just come. He is holding his own.

Aug.
1911

On the 15th this to his old pupil, W. G. MacCallum, now Welch's successor in Baltimore:

Dear Mac It was very nice to hear from you. These ^{titles?} ~~letters~~ do not seem to make any difference in ones feelings or in the circumference of my head. I had hoped perhaps we might see you here this summer. Campbell Howard told me of his visit to you. He has 'achieved a maid that paragon/perfection' to use Iago's expression - or was it Cassio's? Otilie Wright, daughter of the late Dr. H. P. W. of Ottawa. She has been with us on and off for the past two years and is one of the darlings of my heart, so you can understand how happy we are about it. I am so glad to hear that you are happy in New York. I knew it would not take long to make good! Mrs. Osler sends love.

There follows an undated letter from Ogwin Lake, North Wales, to Mrs. Robert Brewster - a letter really intended for her baby girl with whom evidently a new game had been started during a brief visit he had just had with them in Paris:

I hope this may catch you in time to take my good wishes for the voyage home. Revere & I are here fishing for three days, deep in the heart of the Welsh mountains, a lovely spot. R. is off all day in the boat, while I prowl about the rocks & talk to the mountain sheep. He is the most patient fisherman - like all his mother's family. Tell Sylvia that I had a great

Aug.
1911

surprise a few minutes ago. I am writing on a big rock half way up the mountain & just beneath me is a lovely green patch on which a mother sheep and a half grown lamb were having their dinner. I saw something on the back of the lamb, very busy plucking the nice soft wool & rolling it on a reel. It was Flopsy, Mopsy, Dopsy - she changes her name a little every day - I gave a whistle which she knows very well, and she looked, and jumped nearly an inch when she saw me. She said that all her babies clothes were made of Welsh wool from lambs, and they collect it every year and weave it into the softest cloth in the winter. She was so glad to see me, and in a jiffy was in my pocket looking for chocolate. Was it not lucky that I had some? She has never been in America & I told her it would be very nice to go out with Sylvia. I think she will, so look out for her on the steamer. Send me a p.c. when you get home. ~~I envy you the autumn at Avalon & look forward to a nice visit next year. Let me know if those books came. R. B. will be much interested in several of them - nice short volumes of great interest. We are reading the French books with great pleasure.~~ We have had such peaceful days under the lovely beech trees. Grace is so happy here. She loves to get away from people. You will see her in October I hope. I know she will be charmed with Mt. Kisco. . . . [P.S.] Tell Sylvia that this sprig of heather I took from Mopsy Flopsy Dopsy's button hole. She had on the dearest blue suit - serge, very tightly fitting & looked so sweet.

On the 25th from Llanddulas he writes to Francis J. Shepherd of Montreal:

Dear Shepherd I do not believe I ever wrote thanking you for your kind letter you wrote about my Bty. I tried to put up a Knighthood job for you on the occasion of the opening ceremonies* but it was blocked on the

Aug.
1911

Magnificent

*This refers to the ceremonies of June 5th when the new McGill medical building to replace that destroyed by fire had been officially opened. The buildings which contain the superb library and beautiful museum in which Osler's old specimens are treasured, were made possible through another magnificent gift ^{from} by Strathcona. Lord Grey the Governor General of Canada presided. Osler had been strongly urged to be present and to make the chief address, but his trip to Egypt did not justify his being away, especially during examination week, as he explained.

ground that the French & the Toronto people would feel hurt. I will show you the correspondence some day. We are here in a lovely valley - so fresh & green when the whole country to the south is parched. 53 consecutive days of sunshine in the Thames valley - unheard of before. . . I wish I could look in upon you all at Como. I had a very funny dream about you the other night. The boy is off fishing in the lakes near by. Grace is well. ~~Campbell Howard succumbed here in about ten days to a blackeyed charmer - H. P. Wright's daughter who has been with us for the past two summers, a splendid girl.~~

And on the same day to Howard A. Kelly of Baltimore:

Dear Howard A. I have only recently had sufficient leisure to go into the question of whole time clinical men. I am sending an open letter to Remsen on the subject - which will go to all the Trustees & members of the Med. School It is a great pity Flexners Report was issued - full of errors & misconceptions - & I am stating it frankly. You will have the letter about Sept. 20th. I hope you have had a good summer. We are off here in a peaceful Welsh valley after a very strenuous season. The less one has to do the less one does - but we have now so many outside interests that time flies. . . .

Sept.
1911

The letter to President Remsen was printed by Horace Hart at the University Press and contains a foot-note saying, "This is a family letter, strictly confidential, and not for publication." It is sent only to the President and the Trustees of the University, the President and Trustees of the Hospital, to Mr. Abraham Flexner, to Dr. Hurd, Dr. Winford Smith and Dr. Norton of the Hospital, and to the Professors in the Medical School. Other copies are not to be had."

It is an amazing letter - perhaps too intimate to publish in full until the still troubled waters he speaks of shall have temporarily quieted down to await the next beneficial agitation - for benefits are almost certain to come though the rocking of the boat from the storm may cause discomforts.

Dear Remsen, [he began], the subject of whole-time clinical teachers, on which I send you the promised note, is one of great importance, not only to Universities, but to the profession and to the public at large. It is a big question, with two sides. I have tried to see both, as I have lived both, and as much, perhaps, as anyone, can appreciate both. Let me thank you, first, for Mr. Flexner's Report. As an Angel of Bethesda he has done much good in troubling our fish-pond, as well as the general pool. The Report as a whole shows the advantage of approaching a problem with an unbiased mind, but there are many mistakes from which a man who knows the profession from the outside only could not possibly escape. . . .

Sept.
1911

Amulbat

[And after a heart-searching review of what he thought a hospital clinician should be and do, he ended with] These are some of the reasons why I am opposed to the plan as likely to spell ruin to the type of school I have always felt the Hospital should be and which we tried to make it - a place of refuge for the sick poor of the city - a place where the best that is known is taught to a group of the best students - a place where men are encouraged to base the art upon the science of medicine - a fountain to which teachers in every subject would come for inspiration - a place with a hearty welcome to every practitioner who seeks help - a consulting centre for the whole country in cases of obscurity. *Amulbat* And it may be said, all these are possible with whole-time clinical professors. I doubt it. The ideals would change, and I fear lest the broad open spirit which has characterized the school should narrow, as teacher and student chased each other down the fascinating road of research, forgetful of those wider interests to which a great hospital must minister. ~~—————~~

Under the date also of September 1st he wrote this much-treasured letter to the Librarian and staff of the Surgeon General's Library in Washington:

Dear Friends: Among the 1000 telegrams and letters which I received not one touched my heart more closely than that which you all so kindly sent. Not a little of any success I may have had is due to the enormous stimulus which the publications of your department have had in my work. You who are part of the machine that pulls the profession along little realize the amount or importance of your labours. I daresay the next generation will be able to

1911
Oct. 62

The letter to President Remsen was printed by Horace Hart at the University Press and contains a foot-note saying, "This is a family letter, strictly confidential, and not for publication". It is an amazing letter - perhaps too intimate to publish in full until the still troubled waters he speaks of shall have temporarily quieted down to await the next beneficial agitation - for benefits are almost certain to come, though the rocking of the boat from the storm may cause discomforts.

Dear Remsen, [he began], the subject of whole-time clinical teachers, on which I send you the promised note, is one of great importance, not only to universities, but to the profession and to the public at large. It is a big question, with two sides. I have tried to see both, as I have lived both, and as much, perhaps, as anyone, can appreciate both. Let me thank you, first, for Mr. Flexner's Report. As an Angel of Bethesda he has done much good in troubling our fish-pond, as well as the general pool. The Report as a whole shows the advantage of approaching a problem with an unbiased mind, but there are many mistakes from which a man who knows the profession from the outside only could not possibly escape. . .

[And after a heart-searching review of what he thought a hospital clinician should be and do, he ended with] These are some of the reasons why I am opposed to the plan as likely to spell ruin to the type of school I have always felt the Hospital should be and which we tried to make it -

a place with a hearty welcome to every practitioner who seeks help - a consulting centre for the whole country in cases of obscurity. I doubt it. The ideals would change, and I fear lest the broad open spirit which has characterized the school should narrow, as teacher and student chased each other down the fascinating road of research, forgetful of those wider interests to which a great hospital must minister.

Under the date also of September 1st he wrote this much-treasured letter to the Librarian and staff of the Surgeon General's Library in Washington:

Dear Friends: Among the 1000 telegrams and letters which I received not one touched my heart more closely than that which you all so kindly sent. Not a little of any success I may have had is due to the enormous stimulus which the publications of your department have had in my work. You who are part of the machine that pulls the profession along little realize the amount or importance of your labours. I daresay the next generation will be able to appreciate better what you have done. I can honestly say that no one of this generation has had a more grateful sense of his obligations than your sincere friend and well wisher, W^m OSLER.

To Lewellys F. Barker in Baltimore.

Llanddulas, N. Wales,
2nd [September]

Dear Barker I do hope you will be able to get away today. I should be so sorry to miss you. Yours with enclosure has just come. I wish I had had it earlier as I have just sent off to the press the revise of a letter which I am sending to Remsen on Whole-time Clin. Professors. He sent me a letter a month or two ago, & with it

Sept.
1911

appreciate better what you have done. I can honestly say that no one of this generation has had a more grateful sense of his obligations than your sincere friend and well wisher, W^m OSLER.

To Lewellys F. Barker in Baltimore.

Llanddulas, N. Wales,
2nd [September]

Dear Barker I do hope you will be able to get away today. I should be so sorry to miss you. Yours with enclosure has just come. I wish I had had it earlier as I have just sent off to the press the revise of a letter which I am sending to Remsen on Whole time Clin. Professors. He sent me a letter a month or two ago, & with it Flexner's Report. Kelly had sent his copy some time ago but it came when I was very occupied & I had not a chance to read it until a few weeks ago. It never should have been permitted to go out in its present form. You will see what I say & think of it. I am sending the letter to all the Trustees & the teachers of the school, as I believe most of them have had an opportunity of reading Flexner's Report tho not for circulation. Your address will do good & it puts the clinical problem in its proper light - and it must be solved by clinical men not by the pure laboratory people who know nothing of it - as F's Report clearly shows. . . . We are all well, enjoying the peace of this lovely spot, after a horrid racket. A baronetcy is a worrying honour - but fortunately it does not make any changes in one's sensations or in the general outlook on life .

Love to Miss Humpton. I have fortunately lost my plantigrade secretary - I did not kill her tell Miss H., though often tempted. Revere 1 1/2 taller than his daddy - a sweet lad, but no student. . . . I shall not be out this year. I am trying to revise the text book - very hard - It should

Sept.
1911

be rewritten. Miss Humpton could do it! I am getting McCrae to help. We expect them next week. By the way, since I last wrote we had a delightful visit from the Müllers. M. as you will see by my letter is strongly opposed to the whole time scheme - His evidence at the Lond. Univ. Commissn. was most interesting. It will be published before long - I will send you a copy. . .

To Frederick C. Shattuck of Boston.

Llanddulas 4th [Sept]

Dear Fred S. Your nice letter should have been answered long ago but among the 1000 received I kept special ones to attend to at my leisure. We had a busy season - so much to do and so many people coming & going & then the coronation honour came in the midst of it, very unexpectedly, as I have not bothered my head about these things. When I came over first Broad-bent very kindly said he could arrange anything I wished if Strathcona & Laurier gave a sign, but I told him to let matters rest as it would look as if I came ~~over~~ in search of a title. These honours are very unequally distributed. Some of the most deserving men never receive any recognition - Hughlings-Jackson for example and imagine chucking at 80 a knighthood to Jonathon Hutchinson!

We are very well. My quarry is quiet for the time. The boy is taller than his father - no student, but an ardent fisherman. He is this minute beguiling trout in a lovely stream that flows thro the valley. Curiously enough I dreamed of you last night - but you had grown a beard. George was not in it with you & was greatly disgusted. You let out the secret that he had paid you \$5000 a year for over 30 years not to grow a beard as it would

Sept
1911

rival his. You looked patriarchal and very well - really for the first time in your life handsomer than George. Love to the boy - it is nice to see his good work. Greetings to you all in which the Revere girl joins.

Ever yours,

W^m Osler

So, "in a quiet Welsh valley away from all visitors, living the simple life," as he writes, "getting used to saying Lady Osler and trying to finish the enormous correspondence that has poured in," a pleasant four weeks was passed.

To Mr. Henry Phipps.

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford.
7th [September]

Dear Mr. Phipps We returned today from N. Wales where we have had a delightful rest. Many thanks for the cutting descriptive of the new ^{psychopathic clinic} hospital. What a unique building! I hope next year when I come out, to see it nearly finished. How glad you will be! Your J.H.H. Dispensary is doing splendid work. I suppose Dr. Haman^m has sent you the No. of the Bulletin with the last report - such good work. I am trying hard to get the County here organized - our dispensary is doing well at the Radcliffe Infirmary. We have had nearly 600 cases in 9 mos. How long shall you be in London? I should like to call & have a chat. Have you any extra copies of the Pasteur Life? . . .

~~And a few days later he writes: "I will write a personal note to the stu-~~

64

Sept.
1911

dents of each medical school in the United States and Canada & send with the
volumes - just to call their attention to their main features. I am sure they
will do much good." And he ^{encloses} ~~underses~~ this draft: "To the students of the
----- Medical School. At Mr. Henry Phipps' suggestion I have recently edited
the translation of Pasteur's Life, and I send with his compliments a copy to
the Library in the hope that in reading it you may learn three lessons - the
great gift of science to humanity, the value of friendship and good fellowship,
and the incalculable importance of the home as a school of character. Sincere-
ly yours, W^m OSLER."

A new secretary has been engaged and with his correspondence no longer
in arrears he manages ^{at last} to get off an article for Dr. Macphail's Journal, on

*"Transient Aphasia and Paralysis in States of High Blood Pressure and Arteriosclerosis." Canada Medical Association Journal, Oct. 1911. An appropriate place for its publication, since his attention was first called to the condition by the illness of his old friend and colleague George Ross, Macphail's predecessor in the editorship of the leading Canadian journal. Cf. Chapter VII, p. 13.

a clinical matter imperfectly understood but one of which he had had many
examples in his wide experience during the twenty years since Dr. George
Peabody had first called attention to it. His Text-book revision, mean-

Sept.
1911

while was occupying his spare moments and there were, besides, two addresses ^(indeed three)

to prepare for the next month.* ^{The first} ~~One~~ of them was given October 4th at the

^{Centenary}
 [*At the Jubilee of the University of Christiania Osler was
 given an honorary M. D. at about this time.
^{in absentia}

opening of the new Pathological Institute of the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow,

^{which} which Dr. John H. Teacher ~~of Edinburgh~~ had just been ^{appointed} ~~called~~ as Director.

The one-time Pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital, and the man who

had spent so many hours in the old dead-house at Blockley, dwelt in this

address on what should be the ^{properties to bind} ~~relation between~~ the infirmary and the uni-

versity ^{to} ~~and~~ the pathological laboratory - "the place where the teaching is

done, where ideas are nurtured, where men dream dreams, and thoughts are

materialized into researches upon the one great problem that confronts the

profession in each generation - the nature of disease." ~~"The secret of~~

~~the success of the Johns Hopkins Hospital lay in the dominating influence~~

~~of the pathological department."~~

Only in one way lies redemption for the director of any institute or laboratory, he must have associates who know more about certain subjects than he does himself. An Admirable Crichton in these days is a quack, and in the art of delegation, in the subdivision of labour, in specialization among his subordinates, the director will find safety. The patient demon-

Oct.
1911

strator who spends two hours with a group of students at a section has a place of equal importance with the man who is chasing the secret of anaphylaxis. In the hurly-burly of today, when the competition is so keen, and there are so many seeking the bubble reputation at the eye-piece and the test-tube, it is well for young men to remember that no bubble is so iridescent or floats longer than that blown by the successful teacher. A man who is not fond of students and who does not suffer their foibles gladly, misses the greatest zest in life; and the teacher who wraps himself in the cloak of his researches, and lives apart from the bright spirits of the coming generation, is very apt to find his garment the shirt of Nessus. Encourage the students to help in the teaching, and arrange the time of sections not for your own convenience, but for the students and staff. I had a practice of making the clinical clerk tell the story of the case, not read an abstract, but speak it out and tell its difficulties and the diagnosis, right or wrong. It was good for us all, the teacher and the taught, and we met on the same levels as seekers for truth. . . .

And, lastly, [he said], this institute exists for the benefit of the public. There is not a patient in the wards who will not be helped by the work done here. Nowadays laboratory methods of treatment and diagnosis are more and more in vogue. This will be the routine of service, but the larger public that pays the piper has the right to call the tune; and the demand which they make, and with just right, is that the resources of the institute should be requisitioned in the fight which science is making against unnecessary disease and untimely death. From laboratories have come not alone the war cries of modern medicine, but the chief weapons against

Oct.
1911

the acute infections. The incentive, the intense conviction of the necessity of the fight, and of its hopefulness, has come from the men who realized that the general infections, whether endemic in cities or widespread epidemics, were preventable could we but get a knowledge of their causes, could we but know their nature. Even before this knowledge was complete we had recognized the association of disease with dirt, and of fevers with overcrowding and with poverty. And Glasgow was early in the field. The sanitary story of your city in the last half-century is one of which you may be justly proud. Under the intelligent direction of Professor Gairdner, Dr. Russell, and of your present efficient health officer, Dr. Chalmers, from the worst or one of the worst, you have become the best or one of the very best. To wipe out typhus, to have made typhoid a last ditcher, to have cut in half the mortality from tuberculosis, are among the peace victories in which you citizens have shared. Given to pessimism, the Briton loves to look on the dark side of things. There is no such medicine for the malady as a study of the health records of our great towns - a story of marvellous progress, better housing, better feeding, better drinking, better health, and, as a consequence, better citizens.

And he closed with the boyhood recollection heretofore quoted of the tapping of the spring maples for sugar in the Canadian back-woods - a happy figure of speech as ^{he} ~~it~~ turned ^{it to fit} ~~out in regard to~~ the old Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

His host in Glasgow was A. Maitland Ramsay, a charter member of that

Oct.
1911

'Mid-Atlantic' society of the summer of 1904, ^{who had arranged} and the next evening a meeting of the Southern Glasgow Medical Society ^{to be held} ^{the next evening} was held in Osler's honour, ~~and~~

Before this body he read in the Faculty Hall a timely and important paper on 'High Blood Pressure,* or what in more modern parlance is referred to

*"High Blood Pressure: its Associations, Advantages and Disadvantages." British Medical Journal, Nov. 2, 1912.

as 'hypertension,' a symptom ~~ex~~ which physicians have harped ^{upon overmuch} ~~unnecessarily~~

since the introduction of an instrument of some precision which has made

the estimation of blood pressure reasonably exact. Many people, in consequence,

have become unduly frightened on being told that they have 'hypertension,' and it was this that Osler's paper was intended to ^{offset. It recalls} ~~affect, just~~

~~as~~ his paper of some years before in which he said that the presence of a

small amount of albumin in the urine was conducive to longevity rather

than the reverse - a comforting and oft-quoted remark to many an anxious

soul. At the outset he drew upon his reading of Heroditus and his trip

on the S.S. "Seti" for an allegory, saying: "A man's life may be said to

be a gift of his blood pressure, just as Egypt is a gift of the Nile" -

Oct.
1911

and there followed a long comparison between the human irrigation scheme and the forces which keep Egypt watered and drained in order to prevent 'dropsy of the soil.'

In the course of his common-sense remarks he gave, ~~many illustrations~~ from his own experience with patients suffering from hypertension, ^{illustrations to show how a} ~~to il-~~
~~lustrate how much better people were when they could be made to take a~~
^{would benefit them provided at the same time that they}
 philosophical view of the situation ~~and~~ could be made to 'reduce their speed from the 24 knots of a Lusitania to the 10 knots of an ocean tramp.' And he closed by saying that the clinical picture he had given was a fair presentation of the subject [and still is] - 'necessarily a bit sombre, but brightened when possible.'

. . . And I believe [he said at the end] Candide to be wrong - life at the best is not a bad bargain. Even the victim of high tension may find it useful and enjoyable if, following the rest of the moral, he will cultivate his garden - weeding the irrigation channels, and keeping free the drainage.

Oct.
1911

^{Third promised}
The ~~other~~ address was not delivered for ~~the~~ reasons given in his account-

book, where is noted: Oct. 11 - "Heavy cold 2 days. Followed exposure on Sun-

day p.m." Oct. 13 - "Missed address Reading Path. Soc." Oct. 14. "Grace

sailed Montreal." Lady Osler had ^{been called ~~home~~ to America} ~~been suddenly called home~~ for what proved

to be the last days of her aged and devoted mother; ~~and~~ ^{the week before} ~~the~~

^{moreover the} 'granddaughter once removed' and the niece had ^{ended their long sojourn, which ~~led~~ ^{led} them to} ~~departed; and no wonder he~~

writes on the 13th: "We are desolated, left alone & now A. G. goes off to-

morrow but I have a deuce of a lot of work on hand. I'm getting thro the

text-book at a good rate. We go to press early in January." ^{On the} ~~The~~ same day

^{wrote to} he writes A. C. Klebs: "I wish I could be at Vienne on Sunday, but it is im-

possible. Please send me a good newspaper account and a photograph of the [Serrtus]

monument. Yes, I would like so much to subscribe to the Arloing Memorial, put

me down for 100 francs. . . I still feel you played us a low trick in not

coming here. We had a delightful summer in Wales. . . Keep an eye open

for any old Medical books of the 15th and 16th century. Do you know my friend

Conrad Gesner - one of the greatest of the Switzers? I have many but want all

of his works. Wonderful man!" // And in a later note he says: "Thanks for

* S. Arloing 1846-1911 Directeur de l'École nationale vétérinaire de Lyon

~~for us~~ ^{His} Arloing's early interests were well recalled in connection with this contribution to a bronze plaque for

*Arloing's
at long last
called to
higher plane
had at last*

Boile

Oct.
1911

your cuttings about Servetus, over whom they seem to have poured a good deal of oleo-margarine. The difficulty is that the liberals use him as a stick with which to beat the clericals."

His 'heavy cold' had prevented him from attending meetings not only at Reading but also at the Royal Society of Medicine where, having been made President of the Clinical Section, he was booked to appear the second Friday in each month for the coming ^{year.} ~~year.~~ ^{He had also been} ~~a position which found him otherwise regularly in attendance.~~ He was also about this time elected one of the seventy members of

the Samuel Pepys Club, and though the club ^{met infrequently} ~~met only three times~~ each year it

^{may get through the year no less punctilious in attending than he was} added another to the ~~functions he felt impelled - indeed was delighted to at-~~ ^{in meeting his community obligations or} ~~tend.~~ That he continued with his regular Tuesday afternoon clinics ^{at the Radcliffe Infirmary -} ~~is evident~~ from the fact that he ^{by the way} ~~occasionally writes them up,~~ ^{written} as was the case with his ^{for example} ~~clinic of October 24th*.~~ ^{the case with one or}

to be published in some medical journal at home or abroad

*"Chronic Infectious Endocarditis, &c." Interstate Medical Journal, St. Louis, February 1912.

^{'A device for fat of course a hand' not to mention his text book revision.}
~~abroad.~~

One section of Osler's library is given over to what he used jokingly to refer to as the "Hell, Heaven and Death" series, which contained books, old and new, on spiritualism (with which he had scant patience); on crystal-gazing; dreams and ghosts; on immortality, longevity, premature burial, preëxistence,

Oct.
1911

resurrection, 'self-murder', euthanasia, embalming, cremation, and similar subjects. Among them, for example, is that amazing anonymous volume, "Words in Pain," written by an unhappy woman with an incurable malady 'but with a soul cheered and sustained by its own inward light', - a series of letters to her doctor - almost too sad to read, and when at the last she finally took fate in her own hands, on the envelope of her last note ^{the} was quoted from "Adonais":

Awake him not, surely he takes his fill
Of deep and liquid rest, forgetful of all ill.

All this may serve as a sufficient introduction to the following letter which was published in The Spectator for November 4th under the title "Maeterlinck on Death," and which recalls what he had written many years before on "Euthanasia" for Ross's journal in June of 1888:

To the Editor of the Spectator.

Christ Church, Oxford.

Sir, - A student for many years of the art and of the act of dying, I read with eagerness Maeterlinck's recent Essay, only, I must confess, to be disappointed. A brilliant example of the type of literature characterized by Hamlet in his famous reply to Polonius, there is an unpleasant flavour, a cadaverous mustiness about the Essay which even the words cannot cover; and in spite of the plea for burning burials, one smells everywhere 'the mould above the rose.' To those of your readers who feel after the reading, as I did, the chill of the charnel-house, let me urge an hour in the warm sunshine of the Phaedo.

Nov.
1911

But I write for another purpose - to protest against the pictures which are given of the act of dying, "The Tortures of the Last Illness," "The Uselessly Prolonged Torments," "The Unbearable Memories of the Chamber of Pain," "The Pangs of Death," "The Awful Struggle," "The Sharpest Peak of Human Pain," and "Horror." The truth is, an immense majority of all die as they are born - oblivious. A few, very few, suffer severely in the body, fewer still in the mind. Almost all Shelley's description fits:

Mild is the slow necessity of death;
The tranquil spirit fails beneath its grasp.
Without a groan, almost without a fear,
Resigned in peace to the necessity,
Calm as a voyager to some distant land
And full of wonder, full of hope as he.

No death need be physically painful. M. Maeterlinck has been most unfortunate to be able to say, speaking of doctors, 'who has not at a bedside twenty times wished and not once dared to throw himself at their feet and implore mercy'; but this is the same type of hysterical statement as 'all doctors consider it their first duty to protract as long as possible even the most ^{excruciating} convulsions of most hopeless agony.' There is no circumstance contraindicating the practice of Thomas Fuller's good physician: 'when he can keep life no longer in, he makes a fair and easy passage for it to go out.'

Nowadays, when the voice of Fate calls, the majority of men may repeat the last words of Socrates: 'I owe a cock to Asclepius' - a debt of thankfulness, as was his, for a fair and easy passage. I am, Sir, &c.,

William Osler.

Nov.

1911

the copy of
On the fly-leaf of Maeterlinck's book Osler has written: "See Avicenna

'Traité sur la délivrance de la crainte de la mort' 1889" and in-

serted in the volume is the letter from a physician in a remote corner of

the world:

Kokstad, East Griqualand,
Cape of Good Hope.
December 5, 1911.

Dear Sir, When the Spectator of Nov. 4 arrived here, containing your interesting letter with its comments on Maeterlinck's Death, I had just been re-reading for the first time for 15 years the Odes of Horace. It has often struck me that so few poets of the higher ranks have attempted to translate the Odes. I suppose that, being Masters of their craft, they know that a translation is at its best a failure - and your quotation of Shelley's lines, beginning "Mild is the slow necessity of Death" I read in the Spectator just after reading Ode III - in fact I had laid down my Horace to open the paper; and fresh in my mind were the lines (29-33)

Post ignem aetheria domo
subductum macies et nova febrium
terris incubuit cohors,
semotique prius tarda necessitas
letii corripuit gradum. . .

Shelley, as skilful an artificer in English as Horace in Latin, translated the words 'tarda necessitas letii' literally.

I suppose it is the coincidence of reading your letter and also these lines that has compelled me to write you. Living as I^{do} among black - and also so far as the classics are concerned, white - savages, contributes to

Nov.
1911

the impulse; and also the consciousness that the 'Osler' of my student days has become part of my mental equipment, and its presence by me is a never failing friend in times of need. Especially for the last reason, I feel myself without presumption entitled to take what in a stranger might be regarded as the uncalled for liberty of addressing you. Yours faithfully,

J. Duncan.

But the story of the individual books in his library must be left for the published catalogue of the Bibliotheca Osleriana though it is hard for his biographer, as it was for him, to keep away from the subject, as the following letter of November 29th to H. B. Jacobs shows:

We have had great excitement here over the Huth sale, the prices were shocking and all previous records broken, as the average for a thousand volumes, excluding the Shakespeares which were sold separately, was £50. I got the only book I wanted, for a song, Astruc's study of Genesis, from which dates all modern Biblical criticism. He was the famous Montpellier and Paris physician of the first half of the eighteenth century, and a great figure in his day but he is as dead as a door nail now except among theologians. Nobody apparently knew of the extraordinary rarity of this book which was published anonymously and has not been in the auctions of either London or Paris for fifteen years. Quaritch secured it for me for 17/6. Welch will know about it as he is an old friend of Astruc's. I got one or two other less important things; and am waiting now for the second part of the Hoe catalogue, there may be something in that. I wish

Dec.
1911

the Trustees would do something for Miss Bonner who deserves a good pension. She has done splendid work at the Hospital, particularly in the early days, when she was a bond of peace. I am writing to Smith about it.

It is quite probable that his letter to The Spectator remonstrating upon Maeterlinck's views regarding the act of dying may have called to mind the fact that years before (June 1888) after reading Munk's "Euthanasia" - a related subject - he had sent for Ross's journal in Montreal a review in which the same ^{favorite} lines from ~~the (2)~~ Shelley had been quoted. If this is so, his promise earlier in the year to Andrew Macphail that he should have some 'copy' for the new Canadian journal, may have come to his remembrance and have led him to send off the first of the series of brief papers entitled "Men and Books" which appeared in monthly installments during the coming eighteen months. ~~This is not unlikely, inasmuch as one of the three articles for the January issue contains an obituary notice of Sir Samuel Wilks whose death had just occurred, together with some reminiscences of a visit made in company with George Ross to Wilks's clinic in Guy's Hospital.~~

~~It may be recalled /~~
One may recall that in the editorial rooms of the Medical News in Phila-

Dec.
1911

delphia, when in the 80's they were hard put for some copy, Osler always had something worth while which could quickly be whipped into shape for publication; and so with these notes for Macphail, he appear^d to have an inexhaustible supply. That he was willing to see them buried in a Canadian journal was not entirely without sentiment on his part, for they correspond to the series of "Ephemerides" sent from Baltimore in 1896-7 to help out the pages of the Montreal Medical Journal which his old friends Roddick and Blackader, with others, were editing, as well as to the ^{earlier} "Notes and Comments" sent in 1888 to George Ross when he was struggling single-handed with the editorship of the predecessor of these journals in which so many of Osler's early McGill papers had been published. And so, with his single seventeen-shilling purchase from the Huth sale to rejoice over, he soon sends off to Macphail this account of "Jean Astruc and the Higher Criticism."

It is strange how the memory of a man may float to posterity on what he would have himself regarded as the most trifling of his works. Ask in succession a score of doctors, "Who was Astruc?" and the expression aroused indicates that at least in our profession he is 'clean forgotten as the

Dec.
1911

dead man out of mind;' and yet librarians and dealers in second-hand books know only too well what a prolific writer he was in the first half of the eighteenth century. But ask any theologian, any man interested in the history of the Bible, the same question, and his face at once brightens, - or darkens, - as he replies, "Oh, Jean Astruc, he was the father of modern biblical criticism." And so it is that the man whom we have forgotten, who cut such a figure in the profession at Montpellier and Paris, the enumeration of whose tomes extends through three pages in ^{Bayle's} ~~the~~ "Biographie Médicale", is remembered today by a small octave volume, published anonymously in Brussels, 1753, with the title, "Conjectures sur les Memoires Originaux dont il paroît que Moÿse s'est servi pour composer le Livre de la Genese. Avec des Remarques, qui appuient ou qui éclaircissent ces Conjectures."

Interested in Astruc for some years, having had occasion to refer to his splendid work on the history of syphilis and to his history of the Montpellier faculty, and incidentally knowing his position as the founder of the criticism of the Pentateuch, I had long tried to get the above-named volume, which I had never seen advertised in any catalogue. It turned up the other day at Sotheby's in the Huth collection. I sent a bid to Quaritch with the admonition 'not to lose it'; and as the book is of great rarity I expected to pay a reasonably high price; but, illustrating the hazard of the auction room, no one seemed to know of it and it fell to me for a few shillings. . . .

The story of Astruc's medical life is fully given in Bayle's "Biographie Médicale". His position in modern theology may be gleaned from an eight-page article in the recent "Real Encyklopädie für Protestantische Theologie." In Genkel's "Encyklopädie" Baentsch says, "from the appearance of this book dates the fruitful criticism of the Pentateuch. That in the fol-

Dec.
1911

~~lowing century its problems have been solved is owing to Astruc, the significance of whose work is assured for all time. The year 1753 in which the book appeared is a milestone in the history of the science of the Old Testament.~~ . . . But Astruc's notable discovery was the recognition that in Genesis there are two separate accounts of the Creation and of the early days of the world, the one extending as far as verse 3 of Chapter II, in which the Creator is spoken of as Elohim, the other extending from verse 4 of Chapter II to the end of Chapter IV, in which the Creator is called Jehovah. These accounts differ in important details, particularly in the fact that in the Javistic account no mention is made of the sin of Adam, which plays so important a rôle in Pauline Christianity. . . . The work is a small octavo volume, extending to 525 pages, fully one-half of which is taken up with a critical consideration of his views. Small wonder that in 1753 the distinguished physician to the king, and professor in the Paris Faculty, published such a work anonymously, and in Brussels.

Dec.
1911

In a letter earlier in the year Osler had hinted that ~~he had contributed~~^{his contribution}
more than he could well afford to the building fund of the Royal Society of
Medicine, a fund, alas, still far below the cost of the handsome building
now nearing its completion. For this disagreeable task Sir John MacAlister
enlists his aid and to him Osler writes on December 4th:

Dear MacAlister: Yes, of course, to anything you write I would sub-
scribe, only I do not know how the members would feel having a letter
sent out by so comparatively a new comer as myself. Are there any men
you think I could tackle privately? There is a good deal of wealth tied
up here and there in the profession. Has anyone attacked ~~Tomes?~~^{T...?} Savage
might help in that matter. I would take advice about sending out a let-
ter from me, some people might think it peculiar, still no matter!

MacAlister received a telegram on the 8th saying: "All right. Osler" and there
follows a deal of correspondence about this distasteful job which, neverthe-
less, had to be done.

Dec.
1911

Please send me a dozen of the books and of my letter. I have written to T--- and to old B--- of Preston whom I know very well, and to the man who is supposed to keep the purse of the Drapers' Company, and will try to stir up one or two others. I do not despair of getting something out of Strathcona. We shall come through all right in the end. Also send a descriptive booklet to J--- M--- Esq., The Carlton Hotel, and put inside with my compliments. It would be worth while to look up carefully the descendants of some of the old worthies connected with the Medical Chirurgical or other societies. Who is enjoying R--- B---'s unearned increment, of which the old man left a very big slice? The heirs might like to fit up a room at a cost of \$1000. Family vanity is a powerful lever which Mitchell has used to great advantage in Philadelphia.

And later:

I had a letter this morning from Principle Boyd of Hertford College who says that he will help in an application to the Drapers, of which Society he is a very influential member. Through his influence they built the Radcliffe here and the new electrical laboratories. I will ask him to arrange an interview between the Warden, Morris and ourselves.

Meanwhile the Text-book is getting on and he writes McCrae December 15th:

Dear Mac: I had hoped to send the Infectious Diseases section this week but the pasting in and re-copying has been a longer business than I thought it would be. It should go by the Wednesday steamer, or a good part of it. You will not have much difficulty in slipping in your portions.

Dec.
1911

*S.S. new
Send a copy of this
to P. M. Chase and
not what introductions
refer*

I have decided not to put in the Introductions for the following reason:
I have long had in contemplation An introduction to Medicine for medical students, a brief account of disease, - its study, classifications, type, growth of our knowledge, etc. If I wrote introductions it would virtually cover an important part of the ground and Appleton & Co. would not like me to use this material. We shall have enough with the book in its present form. . . .

There were other occupations too, for he writes J. H. Pratt on the 15th: "We are beginning to get things in line for the International Congress in 1913. I am President of the Medical Section, and shall look for the active support of the Inter-urbans." And the ~~second~~ ^{same} day he ~~sent this Christmas~~ ^{to Mrs. Brewster} letter to Mrs. Brewster with ~~which~~ ^{which} the year may close ^{to} ~~with~~ ^{lay out}.

Dear Mabel Xmas greetings! I hope this may reach you in time but it is a slow steamer this week. I am so sorry Grace did not see you but she could not stay over in New York. I motored to Southampton to meet her, and picked up Revere at Winchester -she was surprised to find us on the dock. I hope Sylvias big Bible "All Hail" has come. I am sure she will be interested in the pictures. I have sent you a nice little edition of the Phaedo for your bedside library. The translation is not so good as Jowett. I am very busy - Have just finished the examinations, today,

Dec.
1911

and am working at a new edition of my text-book which should go to press next month. I have had no time for much outside reading but I am finishing Bergson on Laughter. Curious that the only two special works of any moment on this very emotional problem should be by Frenchmen - one in 1560 by an old Montpellier physician Joubert, & the other by B. I would give a great deal to look in upon you at the childrens hour & have a good laugh & romp with Sylvia. I ~~enclose cheque for \$25 for present for L---~~. ~~Give her my love.~~ My Xmas greetings to Uncle Ned and his family. Tell him I do not despair yet of seeing him in my rooms at Christ Church. By the way do you know (R. B. will surely) dear old Prof. Lounsbury at Yale? I have just been reading his early days of Browning - delightful and so true. . . .

Which looks as though he must have begun, in preparation for his Silliman Lectures, to orient himself on the members of the Yale Faculty. But Bergson on Laughter evidently interested him ~~even~~ more, and he must have read pen in hand, for a month later ^{a copy} ~~this~~ note was published in Macphail's journal,* ^{dealing}

*"Men and Books." Canadian Medical Association Journal, Feb. 1912, ii, 152.

was the subject - a note will end with this paragraph:

V. TWO FRENCHMEN ON LAUGHTER. Like song that sweetens toil, laughter brightens the road of life, and to be born with a sense of the comic, is a precious heritage. So much do we differ in the possession of this faculty, that a twentieth-century explanation would seek for differences in quantity or quality of some internal secretion which stimulates the phrenic centres. Or one may prefer the view of Aristotle, who described the diaphragm(phrenes)

Dec.
1911

as a membrane which when overheated by tickling, so 'disturbs mental action as to occasion movements that are independent of the will.' In any case, the close connection believed to exist between the mind and the diaphragm is still suggested to us by the anatomical term 'phrenic nerves.' We owe to Aristotle the first study of the physiology of laughter, and the recognition of it as a faculty peculiar to man.

Having always held with that philosopher who regarded a day wasted in which he had not had a good laugh, I eagerly read Bergson's "Laughter, an Essay on the Meaning of the Comic" (MacMillan & Co). What a delightful gift to be able to make smooth the rough places of psychology! With not a dry page, full of thought so clearly expressed and so happily illustrated, and not too long, the book is a model of clear representation. And yet, to take the end first, philosopher-like, he reaches a lame and impotent conclusion at which my Democritean soul rebels; for the final comparison of laughter is with the froth of which a child picks up on a sandy beach a handful, sparkling like gaiety itself, but to the taste the substance scanty and the after-taste bitter!

Indifference, absence of feeling, Bergson says, is the natural environment of laughter, which always has a social signification. The trivial mishap that raises a laugh is associated with a mechanical inelasticity - a lack, through failure of mind or of muscle, of adaptability, and the living pliability of a human being. The eccentric in action, at whom we laugh, lacks in character that tension and elasticity which social life brings into play, and upon which its success depends. 'The rigidity is the comic and laughter is its corrective.' And it is the same with gestures, attitudes and movements of the body, which are comic 'in exact pro-

Dec.
1911

portion as the body reminds us of a machine.' So too, the ludicrous in words comes out when an absent idea is fitted into a well-established phrase, as when a lazy lout says, "I don't like working between meals," which has nothing amusing in itself, but only in connection with the commonplace phrase, 'one should not eat between meals.' Protecting itself by laughter, society demands that each member shall be attentive to his social surroundings - he must fit himself to the environment. A comic in character is one who 'automatically goes about his own way without troubling to get himself in touch with the rest of his fellows, and it is by laughter we reprove his absentmindedness and waken him out of his dreams.' These hurriedly noted points, taken almost at random, may serve to indicate the rich treat in store for any one who wishes to follow the workings of one of the ablest minds of our generation. The title suggests Punch or Life in the hands of a vivisector, but instead we find humanity in the retort of a chemist of the soul, and the analysis is presented in formulae of easy comprehension by the plain man.

How scanty the literature on laughter is shown by a glance at the index catalogue of the Surgeon General's Library. Excluding a few theses and, in Series II, reference to papers on spasmodic and uncontrollable laughter, there is mention of three or four monographs, one of which is the only elaborate treatise ever written on the subject - "Traité du Ris, par M. Laur. Joubert, Paris, 1579" - a work noted by Brunet as 'recherché à cause du Dialogue sur la Cacographie.' Such a contrast to Bergson! We are in another world, with other thoughts, strange terms, and an anatomy and physiology still dominated by Galen. A treatise weighty with authorities, and interspersed with illustrations drawn from Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, and Latin authors, it has as Brunet remarks, a curious value, apart from

Dec.
1911

the subject-matter, as Joubert was one of the earliest advocates of phonetic spelling, in which style the work is printed, and there is an appendix, "Dialogue sur la Cacographie Française." Laughter is discussed in three sections, in the first of which the material is analyzed, and it is interesting to find the same basic elements as given by Bergson, absence of feeling and some mishap or unseemliness - 'laideur et faute de pitié' - as when an old fellow plays in the street like a child, or when a gaily dressed beau tumbles in the mud. There are many shrewd comments on the comic in words and in situations. He has great difficulty in placing the risible faculty, but after a long disquisition on the brain and mind it is finally localized in the heart itself. The mind first perceives the ridiculous and it is communicated at once to the heart by the nerves, as by vessels, - 'the swift thought,' in Shelley's phrase, 'winging itself to laughter.' The intimate relation of the diaphragm with the heart explains why this structure is the organ of laughter, and one reason why man alone among animals possesses this faculty is the wide extent of the attachment of the human pericardium to the diaphragm.

Various chapters treat of the movements of the face and mouth, the scintillation of the eyes, the tears, the redness of the face, the shaking of the shoulders and of the body, the pain in the abdomen and loss of the sphinctre control. In the second book he considers the definitions given by authors, and the different species of laughter, and the reasons why men laugh when the diaphragm is wounded. His own definition may be quoted, and it illustrates the phonetic spelling. 'Le Ris est un mouvement, fait de l'esprit épandu, et inégale agitation due coeur qui épanit la bouche ou les laivres, secouant le diaphragme et les parties pectorales, avec impetuosité et son autrerompu par lequel et exprimée une affection de chose laide, in-

Dec.
1911

digne de pitié.' Whether man is the only creature which laughs; on the men who have neither wept nor laughed; on the influence of the spleen; why one melancholic laughs and another cries; whether a baby smiles before the fortieth day; why great laughers grow fat; on those who have died laughing - are among the subjects considered in Book III.

Joubert, who lived in the palmy days of the Montpellier school, and succeeded his old teacher, the famous Rondelet, wrote many works, among which the most celebrated were the treatises on gun-shot wounds and on vulgar errors. From the latter it is not unlikely Sir Thomas Browne had the suggestion for his work on the same subject.

I cavilled at Bergson's conclusion, - that like sea-froth the substance of laughter is scanty and the after-taste bitter. It is not always so. Joubert is right. There is a form that springs from the heart, heard every day in the merry voice of childhood, the expression of a laughter-loving spirit that defies analysis by the philosopher, which has nothing rigid or mechanical in it, and is totally without social significance. Bubbling spontaneously from the artless heart of child or man, without egoism and full of feeling, laughter is the music of life. After his magical survey of the world in the "Anatomy of Melancholy," Burton could not well decide, fleat Heraclitus an rideat Democritus, whether to weep with the one or laugh with the other, and at the end of the day this is often the mental attitude of the doctor; but once with ears attuned to the music of which I speak, he is ever on the side of the great Abderite, and there is the happy possibility that, like Lionel in, I think, one of Shelley's poems, he may keep himself young with laughter.