

Accidents Act, usually called Lord Campbell's Act, which provided that the representatives of the deceased had only the same right of action that the deceased had possessed. Thus, modern surgical methods and modern desires had raised new problems demanding the thoughtful attention of lawyers and surgeons, although happily in practice they rarely demanded solution.

### DIAGNOSIS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow, the President, Professor ARCHIBALD YOUNG, in the chair, Dr. IAN STRUTHERS STEWART of Nordrach-on-Dee spoke on "Some points in the diagnosis and prognosis of pulmonary tuberculosis."

Dr. Stewart referred briefly to the pathology in relation to the infection and subsequent spread of the disease. The infection at first attacks the lymphatic system; in the less acute cases the route may be through the tonsil to the cervical, mediastinal, bronchial glands, and thence by way of the peribronchial lymphatics of the larger bronchi to the lung, the subpleural lymphatics, and the visceral pleura. The inflammatory changes which take place in the bronchial wall as a result of the infection of the peribronchial lymphatics may be followed by caseation, ulceration into the lumen of the bronchus, and infection of the lung, or by blocking of the lumen with subsequent collapse of the lung area supplied—a condition which favours the further spread of the disease. Referring to the comparative frequency of the early signs and symptoms, Dr. Stewart gave the following percentages of frequency in 200 consecutive cases: cough 60 per cent., lassitude 48 per cent., pyrexia 42 per cent., haemoptysis 27.5 per cent., pleurisy 24.5 per cent., loss of weight 12 per cent., loss of voice 8 per cent., night sweating 7 per cent., dyspepsia 3.5 per cent., neurasthenia 1 per cent. Dividing these into toxæmic and localizing symptoms emphasized the fact that the toxæmic symptoms—namely, lassitude, pyrexia, loss of weight, night sweating, indigestion, and neurasthenia—might appear before any physical signs could be detected. The importance of accurate observation of the temperature was urged, and several illustrative charts were shown. The speaker went on to correlate the signs and symptoms with the pathological changes. When the infection was spreading through the lung it might be that the only signs present were loss of expansion—more obvious above the nipple or in the axilla—with some faintness of breath sounds on one side. Narrowing of Krönig's area of resonance over one or both apices might be found, or diminished tidal expansion at one or other base. Dullness was not usually demonstrable at this stage, but a few fine crepitations, audible only after coughing, under or above the clavicle or external to the nipple, or in the interscapular region, ought to be viewed with suspicion. As the swelling of the bronchial wall increased the breath sounds became harsh, and this harshness was more easily detected in inspiration. With the bronchopneumonia dullness appeared, often detected more easily high up in the axilla. Bronchovesicular breathing now appeared, becoming more bronchial as the consolidation increased. To detect the earliest evidence of pulmonary tubercle both percussion and auscultation must be used in conjunction with systematic inspection and palpation.

THE annual general meeting of the International Society of Medical Hydrology took place in Paris on April 20th and 21st, and was attended by the representatives of eight countries. Dr. Gustave Monod (France) was elected president for the year, in succession to Dr. Fortescue Fox (England). On the motion of Dr. VAN BREEMEN (Holland) a committee was appointed to report upon the incidence of chronic rheumatic diseases in Northern Europe and upon their treatment by physical methods. The following subjects were discussed in Professor Carnot's laboratory at the Faculté de Médecine: (1) Insulin treatment in relation to medicinal waters, introduced by Drs. CHABANIER (France), POULTON (England), and EPSTEIN (New York); (2) the spa treatment of rheumatism of traumatic origin, introduced by Drs. SCHMIDT (Czecho-Slovakia) and VINCENT COATES (England). Demonstrations and lectures were given by Dr. LÉPAPE and Professor DESGREZ.

## Reviews.

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### SIR WILLIAM OSLER'S LIFE.

THE eagerly expected *Life of Sir William Osler*,<sup>1</sup> by his distinguished pupil, Professor Harvey Cushing, now of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, has appeared within four and a half years of the beloved physician's death, and has obviously been a labour of love carried out with affectionate care. The story of one whose admitted motto was "Write me down as one who loves his fellow men" has been written in fragments by many hands, and his "Counsels and Ideals" have been collected by Dr. C. N. B. Carnac, but here it is sympathetically told as a well balanced whole. Early in 1920 there was a widespread wish for such an account of the manifold activities of the late Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, and by Lady Osler's wish this task was undertaken by Professor Harvey Cushing, who has cheerfully and unsparingly devoted the intervening years to this pious trust. Helped by letters to and from many sources and by Sir William's private pocket-books, for he was an inveterate note-taker, the *Life* is skilfully allowed to tell itself, and the recorder stands modestly back in the shade, as it were, allowing very little light to fall on his association, close as it was; thus the reader is left to speculate about the identity of the "someone" who, when "the Chief" finally left Baltimore in May, 1905, "unscrewed and took away the unpretentious Dr. Osler doorplate." It is rather a striking coincidence that perhaps the most successful medical biography, that of Lord Lister by Sir Rickman Godlee, who has just passed beyond these voices, and now the life of a physician and scholar, are both the products of surgeons' skilled pens.

The book, which is pleasantly written, contains an immense amount of new information, especially about Osler's early days, when he was an athlete and a prefect at school, a keen scientific naturalist, and withal a very human boy; much of it will not only interest but surprise many who, like the reviewer, fancied that they knew a good deal about his doings. A striking feature is the number of unexpected changes and chances of his career that are brought out. He was born in 1849, the eighth of a family of nine, and was to have been named Walter Farquhar, but as his birthday was on July 12th the assembled Orangemen, when shown the new arrival in the arms of the Rev. F. L. Osler, of far-off Bond Head in Upper Canada, insisted that he should be dubbed "William the young Prince of Orange." Later William gave up the idea of caring for souls for the cure of bodies, and in 1872 was anxious to join the Indian Medical Service; soon afterwards he was inspired by Sir William Bowman's example to be an ophthalmic surgeon, hoping to be able to devote his spare time to science. But on Bowman's advice he first spent seventeen months in physiological work at University College under Burdon-Sanderson, whom by a curious turn of fortune's wheel he succeeded thirty-four years later in the Regius Chair of Medicine in Oxford, a possibility which, had it ever entered the heads of a professor of physiology and his pupil with ophthalmological ambitions, would have seemed highly improbable. While thus in London his kindly teacher, Dr. Palmer Howard, Dean of the Medical Faculty at McGill and now widely remembered from the dedication in Osler's textbook, wrote to him explaining the conditions which as the pupil said, "blighted his prospects" as an eye specialist in Montreal. A little later he was offered, perhaps as a consolation prize, a lectureship on botany, but this he had the strength of mind to refuse, and eventually he adopted Palmer Howard's earlier advice "to cultivate the whole field of medicine and surgery, paying special attention to physiology," by, as is well known, accepting the lectureship in Montreal upon "the Institutes of Medicine," as physiology was termed after the Edinburgh fashion. Another feature, not so unfamiliar as some of these incidents to his later-day friends—his

<sup>1</sup> *Life of Sir William Osler*. By Harvey Cushing. In two volumes. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1925. (Med. 8vo. Vol. I, pp. xiii + 685, 23 plates; Vol. II, pp. x + 788, 21 plates. 37s. 6d. net the 2 volumes.)



irrepressible fun, not to say practical joking—is described: for example, in his creation of Egerton Yorrick Davis, M.D., late U.S. Army Surgeon, of Fort Desolation in the Great Slave Lake District, and afterwards of Caughnawaga, a small hamlet on the St. Lawrence opposite Montreal, on whom he fathered fantastic stories, to whom he attributed even published letters, whose name he took when wishing to be unknown, and who indeed was to him as M'Conachie is to Sir James Barrie.

These two volumes are divided on a chronological and geographical basis into three periods, dealing respectively with his life in Canada (1849-1884), in the United States, first at Philadelphia as professor of clinical medicine in the University of Pennsylvania (1884-1889), then as physician-in-chief to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore (1889-1905), and lastly at Oxford (1905-1919). The Johns Hopkins appointment was practically in the gift of J. S. Billings, who, an illuminating footnote allows the reader to guess, was converted, by the opinion of Professor W. H. Welch, from a leaning towards the late "Sir Lauder Brunton or a German professor who had been at the German Hospital in London," and is probably not named as he is alive. More than half of the first volume is devoted to the stirring sixteen years at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where, to mention a later personal trait, he was beginning to be thoroughly steeped in medical history and "his infection with bibliomania was becoming chronic." The Osler most intimately known to his Johns Hopkins pupils was met at informal meetings on Saturday nights, when he would discuss the week's work and then give an appreciative talk, illustrated by early editions, on one or two of his favourite authors, perhaps Sydenham one week, Fuller or Milton the next, a practice he continued at Oxford. His unusual talent as an inspirer of youth was now for the first time appreciated to the full, and his success was far less due to his thorough familiarity with the subject-matter than to his knowledge of young men. What with teaching, practice, and his textbook, which first appeared in 1892 and was frequently revised with a remorseless hand, the days were very full and "he knew no idleness." But he had in a remarkable degree the power of economizing time; "no one could speak to Osler consecutively against his will," for he escaped by magic, but so graciously that those left could not feel any irritation. Though working at high pressure he wisely took holidays, often in England, and from 1894 was a frequent attendant at the Annual Meetings of the British Medical Association, and continued the custom after making his permanent home in this country; he became a member of the Central Council in July, 1905, and took a considerable part in the special clinical meeting in April, 1919, in London "under the Presidency of his brother Regius of Cambridge, for which reason Osler would have attended if for no other." He was also, as would be natural, chairman of the Oxford Division of the Association, and President of the Oxford and Reading Branch from 1919 until his death, but these are only two out of the numerous responsibilities he discharged. To the Baltimore period belongs the interesting photograph of Professors Howard A. Kelly, Osler, and W. S. Halsted, under one copy of which Osler characteristically wrote the appropriate legend: "The Fates: Howard A. Clotho, Wm. Lachesis, W. S. Atropos; the obstetrician holds the distaff; the physician spins the thread; the surgeon cuts it off."

The second volume is rather the larger of the two and has as its frontispiece an attractive and now sadly reminiscent photograph of "father and son," taken in June, 1905, by Dr. A. C. Klebs, an ardent bibliophile after Osler's heart. It deals with the years from 1905 until his untimely death on December 29th, 1919; the heading "The Oxford Period" is no doubt geographically correct, but "in England" or "in Great Britain" would in some respects be better, for, as the text amply shows, his influence rapidly became widespread, and he was much in London and elsewhere whenever there was any work being done or a good cause to be helped. That Professor Cushing should have devoted the whole of the second volume to this period proves the indefatigable nature of his piety, but it is undoubtedly difficult always to sound the right note, and there is a subject on which, after some hesitation on

account of unavoidable personal bias, I feel a few words should be said. There is some very frank and superior criticism of the Royal College of Physicians of London, the expediency of which, as it is Professor Cushing's opinion, it would be wasting words to discuss, but the following extract deserves consideration, for it concerns some matters of fact:

"It has been seen that Osler was made a Fellow in his Montreal days and subsequently gave the Goulstonian Lectures; and if the College did not receive him twenty years later with open arms, doubtless it was because enthusiasm over a newcomer would be foreign to its dignity. Moreover, no practising physician or surgeon can be transplanted to another community without provoking some misgivings on the part of those who dislike new ideas or who picture him as a possible rival. But Osler never heeded pin-pricks. He had lived for five years in Philadelphia with Pepper and kept on the friendliest terms, and would not have recognized jealousy had he met her, green eyes and all."

Now Osler arrived in Oxford in May, 1905, and was Harveian Orator, which Professor Harvey Cushing describes as "the blue-ribbon event of British Medicine," in 1906, Lumleian Lecturer in 1910, and in 1915 declined the invitation to deliver the FitzPatrick Lectures; there really does not appear to be any evidence of a cold reception in this; but the unpleasant touch in the quoted paragraph is the suggestion of jealousy and possible rivalry. This I never suspected or saw any evidence of, but, being uncertain of the personnel of the "old brigade" to whom reference is made, I have inquired from others, and the almost identical reply has been, in some surprise, "No one could be jealous of Osler." Surely Osler and many of his friends would have preferred silence on such a matter.

Optimistic in his wisdom, Osler often curbed the fancy and exaggeration of new ideas: thus he published a paper with the paradoxical title, "On the advantages of a trace of albumin and a few tube casts in the urine of certain men above 50 years of age" (1901), and again in 1912 wrote "On high blood pressure: its associations, advantages, and disadvantages." His *Aequanimitas*, containing the charming lay sermon on "Unity, Peace, and Concord," his farewell to the medical profession of America, should be added to the list of books for a medical student's bedside library, for we are, or should be, students all our days. The account of the Oxford period is no doubt long, but so full of incident that the interest is well maintained, and is a tribute to the skill with which the *Life* has been carried through. Though the professional work of Sir William is well recorded it is never obtruded, and the well drawn picture presents the man and his personal charm rather more prominently than the great physician and pioneer in medical education in its broadest aspects; and this is as his friends—and they are many—would have it.

Osler's activity in promoting public health measures is regarded by Professor Cushing as the greatest of his professional services; thus from his early days in Montreal he was much engaged in a crusade against enteric fever, combining this with campaigns against malaria and tuberculosis in Baltimore and in England with a whole-hearted energy in the fight against venereal disease. The diminution in the incidence of enteric fever in this country did not allow him to forget its importance in war, and in the autumn of 1914 he addressed the officers and men in the camps at Churn (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 1914, ii, 569) on "Bacilli and bullets," as an educational warning that in previous wars infection had always been a greater destroyer of life than the enemy, and later in the war he pleaded in most moving words for the adoption of means to prevent venereal infection of young men on leave from the front. But it might appear to some that Osler was pre-eminent as an educator of medical men, that, in fact, he so raised the standard of teaching and practice that the striking change in the character of medicine in America during the last forty years was largely due to his influence and inspiration at the Johns Hopkins Hospital; for such a stimulus acts on the medical profession with ever-widening effect and, like a rolling snowball, increases progressively. His innumerable activities and their ever-changing facets in the Oxford period are described with arresting skill, and form a suitable memorial, admirably illustrated by successful photographs, of a wonderful personality, the like of whom we shall not look upon again.

HUMPHRY ROLLESTON.