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THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER. By Harvey Cushing. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Two vols. 37s. 6d. net.

For some thirty years medical students all over the world have been familiar with the name of Osler. As with many teachers, the general public was introduced to him by his death. Even to the vast majority of the medical profession he existed as no more than the author of the stout and trusted "Text-book of Medicine" which carried his name from China to Peru as well as into every medical school where English is spoken or read. Yet he was a man of such singular charm and of so much human virtue that it is well that Professor Cushing's "life" should be given to the world and the memory of a great personality be perpetuated. It is a singularly successful biography because it is nearly all Osler. He was an enormously prolific letter-writer, and by happy fortune it has been possible to collect a very great number of his letters to all sorts of people on all sorts of occasions. Osler thus draws his own portrait, and though the method leads to bulk which may be unnecessary, and to an expenditure of time in perusal which is certainly large, there is no question of the clarity or detail or truth of the final picture of the man. We see him in all his many-sided activities—as a physician, a teacher, a colleague, a friend. It may be that personal contact enables one to supply a background which lends substance to the portrait, but to the writer this biography comes nearer to actual realisation than any that he remembers. And while the memoir is dedicated to medical students in particular, and will certainly get most of its readers from those who are or have been medical students, yet Osler was so much the friend of all the world that we can hope that a proportion of the readers of biography may be tempted to discover this record of a man who was

beloved wherever he went, who bore authority with modesty, responsibility with a gay spirit that nothing could quench, and who throughout his life was the devoted servant of humanity.

W.