

Noteworthy Biographies

The Life of Sir William Osler. By Harvey Cushing. Oxford University Press. Vol. I: 685 pp. Vol. II: 728 pp. III: ~~728 pp.~~ *Osler's Career*

Osler, who was himself a great-great-grandson of Paul Revere, the Revolutionary hero.

Some surprise has been expressed that at this day a work of more than 1400 pages should be devoted to the career of a contemporary man of science, however eminent in his profession. The man in the street fails to associate the name of Sir William Osler with any special discovery of recognized importance in the field of medicine, as he does associate the names of Sir Joseph Lister and William Harvey and other eminent workers of the past. But Dr. Cushing's biography of Osler was not written merely to record his professional achievements, significant as they were. It was intended to present a picture of a striking personality, which we cannot help believing would have been surpassingly attractive to his contemporaries even if he had never chosen medicine as a career. Osler had rare scholastic and literary gifts which endeared him to thousands beyond the bounds of his profession. In our own country there have been few parallel instances. The names of Oliver Wendell Holmes and S. Weir Mitchell are perhaps the only ones that will readily occur to most of us. Born in Canada, in an environment not especially promising, young Osler made a rapid advance in his profession, first at Montreal, then at Philadelphia and at Baltimore, where he had a most important part in building up the medical department of the Johns Hopkins University, and, in his later years, at Oxford. These periods of his life are all graphically represented through his own letters, as selected and arranged by Dr. Cushing. During the Great War Dr. Osler was sadly bereaved by the death of his son, Edward Revere

OSLER