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Cutting from the

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Address of Journal

"Life of Sir William Osler." By Harvey Cushing. 37s 6d net. (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.)

It was by Lady Osler's wish at the time of her husband's death four and a half years ago that one of his pupils and now a distinguished American surgeon, Professor Harvey Cushing, undertook the voluminous biography of over 1400 pages which has just been published. Osler's was no ordinary life, and merited a full exposition and interpretation. This has been here given to us at the hand of one whose pen seems to be as facile as his surgical implements. The general reader may still desiderate a brief summary of this notable physician's life and aims, but it is well that Dr Cushing has taken time for his magnum opus, and has thus given to the world a complete biography, from which surely no significant fact has been omitted. The first volume is devoted to Osler's early days and to his work in Toronto and at the M'Gill University, Montreal, and then in the United States at Philadelphia and the John Hopkins University at Baltimore. His attainment in all these spheres were not limited to medicine, and it will surprise many readers to discover how active was his mind and how penetrating his genius in the wider fields of science. We owe much in this biography to his inveterate habit of note-taking. The second volume deals in equal detail with his life at Oxford as Regius Professor of Medicine, which set the seal to his international fame. Within our limits of review it is simply impossible to summarise in the baldest way the work of this great physician, or even to name his characteristics as a writer and orator. We must be content to recommend this biography to all who are interested in humanity, and especially to the medical student and young practitioner, who ought to put it beside his Lister, his Turner, his Pasteur, his Florence Nightingale, his Horsley. All these are not only personal biographies of the great, but they fully reflect the history of their times.