

CUS417/2.59

Canadian Hospital

General Jones

1914

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Who could inspire confidence and give courage like Sir William Osler? In the midst of great worries and troubles connected with the first problem, from a military medical point of view, confronting the Canadian contingent in 1914, accentuated by the attitude of the British authorities whose views upon the genesis of the so-called outbreak of Cerebro-spinal meningitis were somewhat peculiar, Osler came as a comforting spirit.

To see him sitting on a stool in the laboratory at Bulford, talking to his old students and friends - advising, cheering, encouraging, without effort, but with deep effect, to picture him thus is the epitome of all his relations with the Canadian Medical Service.

As each hospital was established in England Osler became its advisory medical head. Cliveden particularly so. He gave much time to this hospital almost as an attending physician.

Orpington somewhat the same. When the Officers Hospital opened in London he became its chief consultant. His services were always available for intimate and personal consultations, and the cable message sent by the Canadian Medical authorities:

"Has been seen by Osler considers doing well," brought comfort and a sense of security to many an anxious parent or wife.

When the troubles wrought on the Canadian Medical Service began Sir William took a very strong view on the matter, and when they culminated in the removal of the Director of Medical Services he resigned his consultative appointments and at once communicated the fact to Sir Robert Borden and took steps to see that the Canadian public was made aware that he had so done.

He considered that the so-called committee's report was most unjust, and that the methods by which the report had been prepared were such as could not be commended by any right thinking person. He urged in a very strong manner on the authorities that no action should be taken until a proper investigation was held. His sense of justice as well as his knowledge of the Canadian Medical Service would not allow him to be silent, for he felt that a grave injustice was being done not only to the Canadian Medical Service but to the medical profession of Canada of which he was justly proud.

After the report of the investigating committee and the reinstatement of General Jones, Sir William withdrew his resignation and once more took up his voluntary work in connection with the Canadian sick and wounded.