

CUS417/23.4

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MCGILL CATALOGUE FUND

In a statement by Dr. Abbott, January 19th, 1920, apparently W.O. issued a circular letter asking for donations, and between December 14, 1904 and June 19, 1905, something like over \$1,000 was raised, his contribution being \$200.

In September 1913 it was decided, with W.O.'s approval, to substitute the volume on the hemopoietic organs for that on the circulatory system which was to come later and be the Magnum Opus of the whole, hence the first issue is Vol. IV, No. 1, in order of the catalogue. The first volume on the circulatory system was planned to contain <sup>(1)</sup> "material on diseases of the myocardium, pericardium, acute endocarditis, and chronic valvular disease", the basis of his Gulstolium (?) Collection and Lectures. (2) The diseases of the heart; and (3) the diseases of arteries and veins, which was to contain W.O.'s collection of aneurysms. Then Vol. II on the respiratory system, and Vol. III on the digestive system. In all there were to be nine volumes. It is proposed that they be published by the Osler Memorial Committee now, the entire catalogue estimated at \$26,000.

Dr. Abbott has made a strong appeal, January 23, 1920, to the Sir William Osler Memorial Committee regarding these matters. The Museum contains the entire pathological collection made by W. O., during his term as pathologist at the Montreal General Hospital. These specimens have all been catalogued with full records pertaining to them under his personal supervision, and nearly all are the subject of published ar-

articles and form the basis of much of his later work. The articles bearing upon the specimens, by himself and by others, have been collated with W.O.'s help from the early journals, and are filed among the Museum records. His amazing autopsy books written in long-hand are also preserved in the Museum and at the M.G.H.

W.O. raised the funds for the initial volume, directed its publication, and repeatedly urged the publication of a catalogue of the entire Museum.

This whole story of the pathological work, with questions of a Museum Collection influenced doubtless by his sojourn abroad; the utilization of the material for innumerable publications in all of his later writings; the support given to Dr. Abbott in her effort to catalogue the material; the issuance in the first year of the war of a single volume which unhappily did not cover the group of specimens in which he was chiefly interested; makes a consecutive story of some significance and importance which runs through his whole medical life.

The contributors to the Fund in 1904 were:

Mrs. J. H. Molson	Sir J. G. Roddick
Mr. C. R. Hosmer	Mr. R. B. Angus
Sir Wm. MacDonald	Mr. James Ross
Mr. Robt. Reford	Sir E. Clouston
Sir R. G. Reid	Sir William Osler

There is a large sheaf of correspondence between the University Press, Oxford, and Miss Abbott, regarding the publication of the McGill Museum Catalogue, which runs from April 1907 to July 27th, 1915, in which year the number appeared. In all of this W.O. appears constantly, and Horace Hart the Controller says:

"Sir William has gone over a bound copy and has approved of it generally."

"I have seen Sir William Osler and have put the illustrations through; and Sir William will return his copies of the illustrations which he has passed; and when Sir William approved my revised estimate I will proceed with the work and send the proofs to you."

"We have already arranged with Sir William as to the number of copies that should be placed on sale in England."

And from W. O. himself:

"I have looked over my copy of the proof with the greatest interest. It will be a unique catalogue - simply splendid - and the greatest possible credit to the Museum. From an educational standpoint it will be most helpful".

This is merely typical of countless episodes of this kind, and though it may have aroused his interest particularly, since many of his old specimens were under study it is, too, an example of his helpful ways in encouraging good pieces of work in others.

Maude Abbott's paper before the Association of Museums, New York 1920 ought to tell more about these particular specimens as exemplifying the

character of work he was doing while a pathologist in Montreal.