

William Osler.

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A good mind, wide sympathy and interest, industry, thorough training, and the broadening and stimulating influence of varied environment united to make William Osler the most prominent physician of his time. Born a dozen miles east of Detroit, July 12, 1849, he took his academic course in Trinity College, Toronto, graduating in 1868 and four years later received his medical degree at McGill University, Montreal. Two years he spent in Vienna, Berlin, and especially London, and returned to Montreal in 1874 to be Professor of Institutes of Medicine in his alma mater. Here, he taught physiology for ten years, and studied pathologic anatomy in the post-mortem room.

In 1884 he came to Philadelphia to succeed William Pepper as Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Here he extended his acquaintance with the leaders in the medical profession of America; and, probably under the influence of Weir Mitchell, and from his studies in the Orthopedic Hospital, wrote his first important work on the "Cerebral Palsies of Children" in 1889. The same year he left Philadelphia, to become Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, and Physician in Chief to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Here was done his great work in the teaching of medicine, and the international reputation it brought him led to his call to the Regius Professorship of Medicine in the University of Oxford.

His facetious quotation of Trollope's suggestions that men ought to be chloroformed at sixty (he was then fifty-six), seized on by the press, was given world-wide publicity, which was so disagreeable that for years afterward any allusion to it was very irritating to him. But, it made his name familiar to millions.

who had never heard of the solid work he had done in the advancement and teaching of medicine. When, in 1911, he was included in the list of those knighted by King George for distinguished service to the Empire, he became one of the group including Allbutt, Gowers, Johnathan Hutchinson, Anderson Critchett, and Lord Lister, that help to keep the English titles of nobility still a real honor in the world, and a source of political strength to the British Empire.

His great books were the "Principles and Practice of Medicine", first Edition in 1902, and the "System of Medicine", seven volumes, 1907-1910, which he helped to write and edit. But we must not forget his more strictly literary and humanistic writings, such as "Aequanimitas" and "An Alabama Student and Other Essays": nor his devotion to the advance of the profession through the organization and extension of medical libraries.

It was as a teacher, writer, editor, compiler, and organizer, that Osler rendered his great services to the medical profession. His broad view of the function of the physician and his high ethical ideals made his influence everywhere as wholesome as it was effective. His death, December 29th, was due to pneumonia and empyema, reported to have followed influenza. It will be a matter of deep regret to all familiar with his writings; and more keenly felt by those who had enjoyed his personal friendship.

Edward Jackson.