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Garrison in one of his letters speaks of Osler's summary dismissal of a student who had been badgering and boring him with his private family troubles, and Osler, finally disgusted as well as bored, told him he was neglecting his studies for futilities, whereupon the wounded animal lit into W. O. with unseemly violence. W.O. heard him out, rang the bell, and told Morris to show him to the door.

Garrison's comment on this is that W.O. had enough royalty or aristocracy in his composition to dismiss a fool from his presence when occasion required it, Though externally laddish and boyish like an American, endeavoring always to see the good in others, he nevertheless had the background of European culture and settled English custom which made him, as it made John S. Billings, occasionally draw his rapier and dispose of fools and bores. He would never permit anyone to speak ill of a colleague, and what adverse opinion he had to give was handed to the man himself, full in his face. He was not a plaster saint.