

CUS417/39.14

BOOKS, 1913.

Enclosed in the copy of Avicenna's 'ISHARAT' (Hints or Allusions) with commentaries by Razi is the following letter from Dr. Sa'eed:-

Hamadan,
Persia.

July 17, 1913.

To Sir William Osler,
Dear Sir,

Dr. Neligan wrote me that you liked the Kanoum of the Avicenna which I procured for you while I was in Teheran. Since my return to my old haunts I have been searching to find something worthy of you. I obtained at the house of an old physician and philosopher whose family had had great reputations as men of learning, an old MS which is remarkably well preserved, and the notes in it prove that it has been well studied by many. I hope you will graciously accept it from me, as a token of my indebtedness to your teachings in your Principles and Practice of Medicine, which has been my companion and help since 1895.

Dr. Neligan also mentioned your desire to have the Avicenna's poetical works. What remains of him in this line are scattered here and there, and I am trying to collect as much as possible. I came across an MS of his Arabic lines on Hygein (hygiene) and treatment, which I believe, judging by the learned Professor Browne's works, has not found its way yet into Europe - it is being copied for you.

The gentleman who owned the present volume of Ishârât pointed out to me a building not far from the Avicenna's grave saying, "a house was standing here which belonged to the Avicenna where he dwelt, it was standing in the lifetime of my grandfather."

I remain,
Dear Sir,
Ever your grateful servant,

M. SA'EED.

W.O.'s note at the top of this letter:-

Cowley at the Bodleian writes "The Avicenna logic is fairly described in the fly-leaf by the donor. There are several MSS of it in existence, but we have none in the Bodley". Oct. 3, 1913.

Notes in fly-leaf by Dr. Sa'eed :-

The book is Avicenna's "Isharat" (Hints or Allusions) with two Commentaries by the Fakhse Razi and Naisiru'd Din of Tts. on Reasoning and Logic Essences and Befallings Natural Science and Theology.

It was copied in the year A.H. 761 (1360) by one who carries back his ancestors to the one who studied directly under Avicenna himself in Hamadan the last home of the great Philosopher.

Inscription: Presented to Sir W. Osler to whose sound teachings the profession all the world over owes so much, by, M. Sa'eed .

July 1913.