

CVS417/57.120

SAMUEL C. HARVEY, M. D.
330 CEDAR STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

May 27, 1925.

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Cushing:-

It was very kind of you to send and very pleasant to receive the vicarious commendation by proxy. You have not only raised my feelings considerably in a strategic manner, but have endeared yourself greatly with the important member of the family. Thanks very much for this very kindly thing.

I have been reading your life of Osler with very great interest and have been gaining an immense amount of inspiration from it. It is superfluous for me to say that it is splendidly done. The method, it seems to me, is ideal in writing a biography where there is sufficient material at hand, or where one is sufficiently industrious in raising it. I did not realize previously the thorough manner in which Osler was trained on the scientific side for his generation. Like most of the younger men I had more or less assumed that because he was not particularly conversant with chemistry, and had done no work in bacteriology, that his scientific background was in a sense inadequate. Of course, he could not get what was not developed at the time and during which time he was preparing and getting a scientific background. I am sure that you have had any number of commendations and deserve all of them, not only for this record of Osler's life but also for the way in which you have carried on his inspiration and handed it down to your students.

Tilney has suggested that I take up some experimental work on the cerebellum in order to present a paper at the meeting to be held a year and a half from now. I would be interested in doing it merely from the standpoint of learning something about the cerebellum. Do you think it is advisable to place myself under his direction in working out such a problem?

Everts Graham has also written me concerning his new system of surgery which Saunders is getting out next year. He wishes me to write the section on general and external infections of surgical interest. Do you think it is worth while doing that sort of thing. I know that when a man has reached a certain amount of maturity that it is rather a waste of time but is it not worth while to do it once at any rate? Of course, the recompense does not even pay for the secretorial work so that it is a matter as to how much one's reputation is enhanced by it.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

SCH/MP

Sam Harvey