

Berne, June 15. 1925

Opfingenstrasse 18

My dear Croking

One day after your kind and, like always, flattering letter reached me I receive your splendid gift, "Sir William Osler." I am most grateful to you for it, not alone as coming from you and for sake of the spirit, in which the work is given to me, but also because of my interest in the biographies of our great medical masters. If I come across a really good book on the history of medical science I sorely know a greater pleasure for my leisure hours! The grandeur of our science rests for the greater part on the psychology, the ethical and intellectual character of great men. For an hour and a half I have read in your book, enraptured by the magnificent way you tell a story of a great man and a great period. I shall not leave a line unread. I envy the American and Anglo-Saxon professors for having in our materialistic times by your biography a stimulus, given by a great life masterly depicted. You will not alone rank among our great surgeons, but also among our great historians.

I also thank you for your fine and thoughtful address, "Experimentum periculosum. Iudicium difficile" - you have spoken golden words on medical art and science.

Lastly my deepest thanks for the honour you have bestowed on me, by contributing

to the Asher-funds, on the occasion of my
60th birthday. The "Asher-fund" is to aid
towards scientific research in the "Hollisium".

The recollections of the time, the happy time
you passed with us in Blome, and of yourself
remain with me in youthful freshness. I hope
our personal touch will again occur, as it
has fortunately already some times.

With deepest gratitude

Love yours sincerely

Leon Asher.