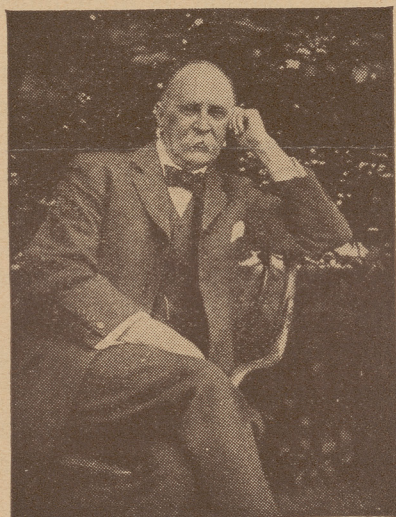


THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER

By HARVEY CUSHING, M. D.

"The secret of a wonderful life is unfolded in these pages."



SIR WILLIAM OSLER
Age 63

Two volumes. Large 8vo. 1442 pages. With two photogravure frontispieces, thirty-three halftone plates, and six collotypes. The binding is blue cloth with gilt lettering. Price in a box, \$12.50 net.

TO MEDICAL STUDENTS IN THE HOPE THAT SOMETHING OF OSLER'S SPIRIT MAY BE CONVEYED TO THOSE OF A GENERATION THAT HAS NOT KNOWN HIM; AND PARTICULARLY TO THOSE IN AMERICA, LEST IT BE FORGOTTEN WHO IT WAS THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO WORK AT THE BEDSIDE IN THE WARDS.

REVIEWS

New York Herald Tribune: "If wishing could do it, I would wish The Life of William Osler into the hands of every man, woman and child who reads the six best-selling novels. It is an immense and wonderful book."

New York Sun: "There are many biographies that merit the designation 'great' and to this list must be added Harvey Cushing's Life of Sir William Osler."

The Independent: "Dr. Harvey Cushing has written a monumental biography."

The World: "The lay reader can finish these volumes with a feeling that they are not a page too long, and that his interest has never flagged."

REVIEWS

New York Times: "All physicians, medical students, and those who intend to study medicine should read it. Habitual readers of biographies should be delighted with its charm and simplicity."

Boston Transcript: "The whole work must be read for anything like real appreciation."

Southern Medical Journal: "Cushing's Life of Sir William Osler will rank high among American biographies in general and not merely among those medical."

Atlantic Monthly: "Dr. Cushing has done his work exceedingly well in a way to appeal to a layman as well as to a medical public. The illustrations are numerous, well chosen, and revealing."

REVIEWS

"It is very remarkable reading, for Dr. Cushing had a very remarkable subject. To read about Osler is to feel for the time being that the most important thing in the world is the practice of medicine and the next most important is the collection of books. Everything Sir William touched became fascinating. The book about him is big, as said, but no part of it is dull. It has been put together with affection and understanding. Labor has not been grudged to it, nor will time be grudged to the reading of it. Dr. Cushing really has brought Osler to life for us, and so doing has let loose a great stimulant in the world and really done a service to mankind." E. S. MARTIN, *Life*.



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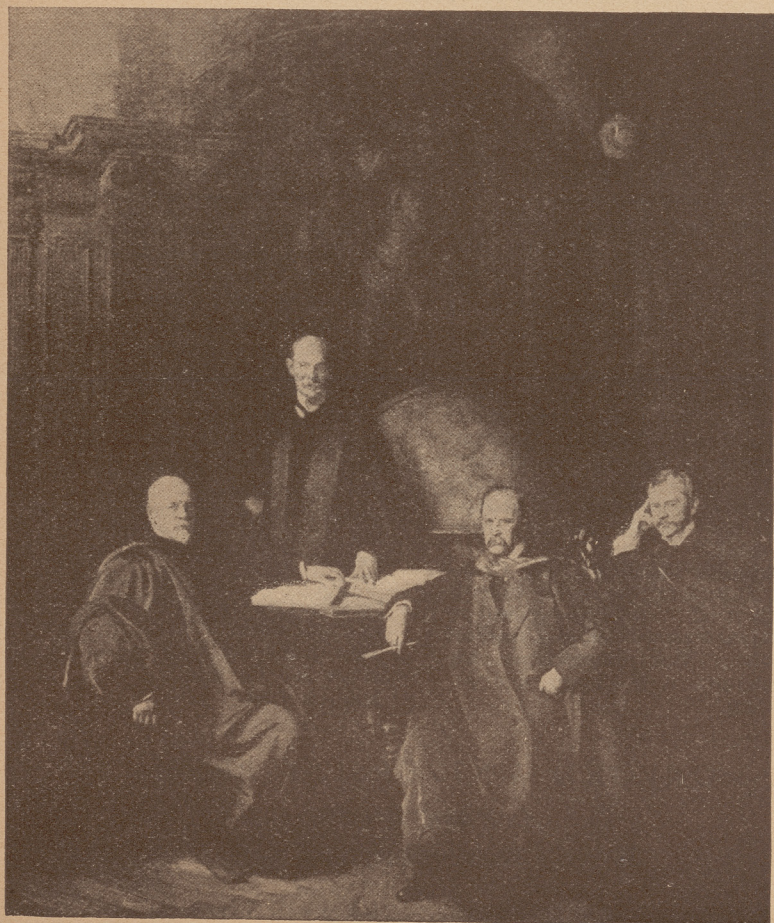
THE Life of Sir William Osler by his friend and disciple, Harvey Cushing, is a big book. But the subject is multifarious. Osler's life is a part of the history of three countries—Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. His profound influence pervaded the whole of the English-speaking world. His name was a talisman wherever medicine was taught, studied, or practised. The variety of his interests, and his enormous powers of work, made his life a kaleidoscope of public activity; and the materials for his history, in his own letters and writings, and in the letters and recollections of his friends, are immense. His biographer's greatest difficulty has been so to select from this mass that the salient features of Osler's life and character shall stand out.

He has succeeded. *It is impossible to read fifty pages of the book without realizing that Osler was indeed a very great man.* The story, which begins in the wilds of Upper Canada, passes through Toronto, Montreal, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and ends—though with much crossing and recrossing the Atlantic—in Oxford and London, is pre-eminently a medical story. It is a good deal diversified with literature and bibliography, lightened by the kindness and humour which sprang out of many friendships, and everywhere warmed by a passionate devotion to suffering humanity and to the cause of work and knowledge. It is none the less a professional life, and its atmosphere is that of the hospital and the laboratory. At the same time *it is not technical*, and it may be read by a layman with almost the same interest and absorption which it will communicate to members of the Faculty. The layman will perhaps be even more struck than the professional by the picture which the 'Life' gives of the profession as a whole, and of its huge expenditure of talent, money, and goodwill against the brute forces of disease, and ignorance and dirt.

Of this great effort Osler was the missionary. His great Text-book—in itself a sufficient life-work for a hard-worked practitioner—revolutionized not only the teaching but also, in a great measure, the practice of medicine. Wherever he went he communicated

energy and enthusiasm as from an inexhaustible spring. He lifted his finger, and thousands of dollars flowed into the treasuries of medical research. When he left a medical school at which he had laboured the effect was consternation. 'We are likely to lose Osler, and what in the world shall we do?' asked Provost Pepper of Philadelphia. 'But what are we to do here?' wrote a colleague at Johns Hopkins, when he left Baltimore.

Every page of the Biography illustrates and enforces Osler's rule of life—'to do the day's work well and not to bother about to-morrow.' His genius lay in his extraordinary power of observing this rule and—without apparent effort—of causing others to observe it. This was the secret of the wonderful life which is unfolded in these pages.



THE SARGENT PORTRAIT

The Life of SIR WILLIAM OSLER

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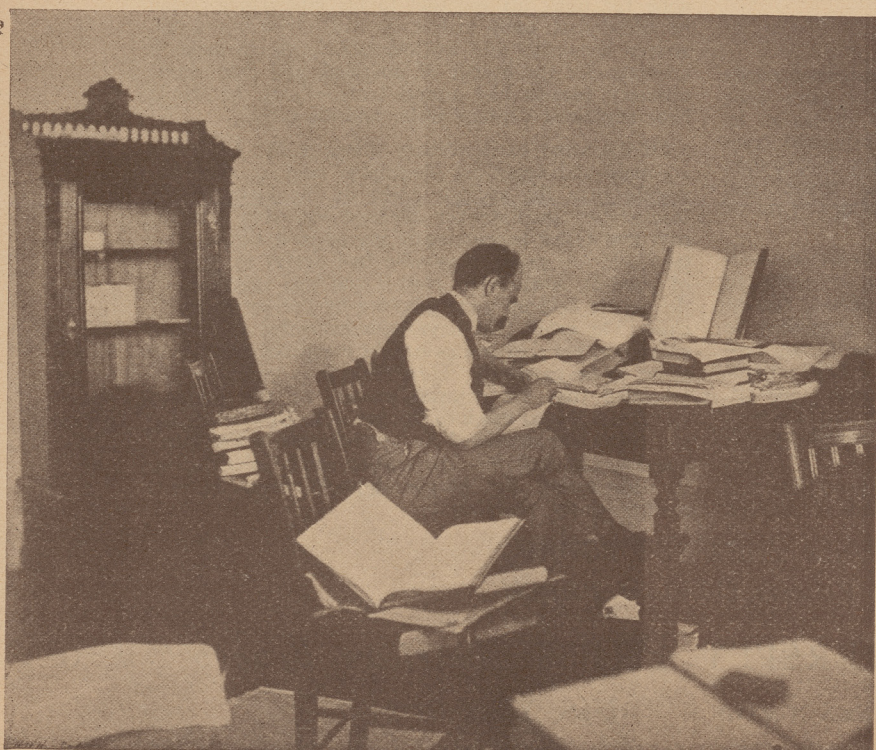


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WRITING THE TEXT BOOK

The Life of A Great Physician

SIR WILLIAM OSLER

Reviewed by DR. JOSEPH COLLINS
in the *New York Sun*, May 2, 1925



SIR WILLIAM OSLER occupied a unique position; he was the most widely known and best beloved physician in the world. He made an indelible impression on the teachings and practice of medicine in three countries—Canada, the United States and England. He lived the number of years allotted by the psalmist to man, and each succeeding year of his life he added to his mental stature by taking thought, and to his emotional profundity by doing deeds of kindness.

He was the son of an Anglo-Saxon pioneer parson, Featherstone Lake Osler, and of Ellen Free Pickton, a Celt, who went from Cornwall to the province of Toronto in 1837. His spiritual parents were Hermes and Minerva, and he had three god-fathers—a parson, Arthur Johnson; a physician, James Bovell, and a professor, Robert Palmer Howard—and to them he dedicated the best and most widely read text book on the practice of medicine ever written.

He had a genius for friendship that exceeded anything I have ever known or hope to know; he had a capacity for quick and accurate observation which is not vouchsafed to one man in a thousand; he had a prehensile mind to which synthesis and logic appealed; he had a liking and capacity for work that resembled those of Theodore Roosevelt, and he loved his fellows. When they were ill he added great tenderness to his love. He was playful, prankful and guileless, with the face of a sphinx and the expression of an ascetic. To cap all, he had exhaustless humor and boundless generosity. He was a scholar without pedantry, a scientist without pretention, a wit without venom, a humanist without scorn. Small wonder that he was the man without an enemy.

A GREAT BIOGRAPHY

One of his most beloved friends and esteemed pupils has written his biography, and at the same time achieved one of the most difficult of all tasks: he has kept himself out of the book, and refrained from eulogizing the subject. There are many biographies of physicians that merit the designation "great," and to this list must be added Harvey Cushing's "Life of Sir William Osler."

Osler did three great things for medicine: he conceived and effected bedside teaching; he demonstrated the value of history as a pedagogical agency and of culture as a humanizing one, and he succeeded to make the medical world heed that cure meant prevention. He had but one fundamental dislike: chauvinism. One abiding disdain: nil admirari; one supreme contempt: pretence. He could not abide a faker, unless he were feeble minded; then pity facilitated tolerance.

On his seventieth birthday his former pupils and intimate colleagues of this country sent to Oxford

two memorial volumes, made up of the contributions to the science and art that he had fostered and developed. Replying to his fellow regius professor of medicine in Cambridge, who made the presentation, he said:

"Among multiple acknowledgment I can lift one hand to heaven that I was born of honest parents, that modesty, humility, patience and veracity lay in the same egg, and came into the world with me. To have had a happy home in which unselfishness reigned, parents whose self-sacrifice remains a blessed memory, brothers and sisters helpful far beyond the usual measure—all these make a picture delightful to look back upon. Then to have had the benediction of friendship follow one like a shadow, to have always had the sense of comradeship in work, without the petty pinpricks of jealousies and controversies, to be able to rehearse in the sessions of sweet, silent thought the experiences of long years without a single bitter memory—to have and to do all this fills the heart with gratitude. That three transplantations have been borne successfully is a witness to the brotherly care with which you have tended me. Loving our profession, and believing ardently in its future, I have been content to live in and for it. A moving ambition to become a good teacher and a sound clinician was fostered by opportunities of an exceptional character, and any success I may have attained must be attributed in large part to the unceasing kindness of colleagues and to a long series of devoted pupils whose success in life is my special pride."

There is the man, modest, grateful, appreciative. He attributes his material success to what others have done for him; his spiritual to his inheritance. Had he added that, early in life, he had a vision and had striven heroically and worked laboriously to make it concrete for the benefit of mankind, and that extraordinary success had attended his efforts, he would have explained William Osler and his career.

Of the many extraordinary things in Dr. Cushing's adequate and appealing biography, none is more arresting than the account given of the birth of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and the part that Osler unconsciously played in it through his textbook. A young man who had access to the ear of John D. Rockefeller read it and was appraised of the fertile field awaiting planting by preventive medicine. The crops that have been harvested have been enormous, but they are as naught compared with those about to be garnered. How little it is generally appreciated that the colossal success of the Panama Canal was due as much to Gorgas as to Bunau-Varilla, and that Osler mediated his appointment to the Commission, and still less the leading part Osler played in decapitating the gorgon typhoid fever in this country thirty years ago.

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