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THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER

By HARVEY CUSHING

CANADA, 1849-1884

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DEDICATED 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

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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 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. It is a good deal diversified with literature and bibliography, lightened by the kindliness 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.