

1028/57/351

CVS417/57.354

E. W. BLIGH

Medical and Scientific Literature

BLIGH & Co.,
29, Hallam Street,
Portland Place,
London, W. 1.

Sept. 16. 1917

Prof. A. R. Cushing

Dear Sir.

I thank you for your post-card, but
am so sorry that both of the books you ask for are sold.

I give a note below of an
Erasmus Darwin pamphlet which might possibly be
of use to you. I have not had a copy of this
before.

I wonder if I might just take
this opportunity of making an observation on the
account of Sir William Osler's purchase of the
Withering MSS. from me which is given on (I
think) p. 616 of vol. 2 of Dr. Harvey Cushing's
"Life". As far as I know ~~you~~ probably
nobody but yourself in this country knows
that these papers were bought from me, & I
should like therefore to say that not one
word of the ~~old~~ account given is matter of
fact. I think Sir William must in the
course of years have confused this transaction

with some other. He bought the MSS. in 1915 or
wrote the account in 1918. you may
remember that I catalogued many of these papers
first: one item in fact you bought: & I was
perfectly aware of their financial value.

Some time afterwards another
lot came to me (including the Diploma), & I
then, by correspondence, offered the new lot, with
the unsold remainder of the old, to Sir William
for some sum which came to about £26. He
thought that rather too much & I suggested
£20, which was the price he paid. I
certainly never appeared on the doorstep with a
bag expecting a visionary wealth of five pounds!

Dr. Francis has very kindly
proposed having the passage omitted whenever the
book is reprinted.

yours faithfully,
E.W. Blight.

Dowson (John, M.D., M.R.C.P.) Erasmus Darwin: Philosopher, Poet,
and Physician. A Lecture... With many additions.
8vo., 61 pp. wrappers. London. 1861. 3/- post-free.