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*Ans - see correspondence*

222 Colfax Avenue West,  
Denver, Colorado.,  
December 4, 1920.

Dr. Harvey Cushing,  
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital,  
Huntington Ave. & Francis St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Cushing,

In answer to yours of a few days ago regarding the Latin and Greek grammar, I can help you very little. You will remember, of course, that Osler was some three years my senior, so we had no classes in common, and the school in our day was in a developmental condition and definite courses had not very clearly crystallized. As to my own personal experience, I distinctly remember, on arriving there in September 1866, I was given a review in Latin grammar, in which, through not being familiar with the text book there used, I absolutely failed and was rather severely disciplined. I have an idea, - but am not at all clear, - that the book from which I took this test was the first part of a series of text books which were called Principia Latina. Not long afterwards, however, I was given an altogether different Latin grammar, but this was probably one that Osler never saw. It was a book in which the text and all were in Latin. I cannot remember the title, - also in Latin. I would know the book at once if I saw it, as I remember, on one occasion, I had to recite from it all of the rules of syntax, giving one example for each rule. This, of course, left a very distinct recollection, and many of these examples I can still remember but without any distinct idea as to what rule each applied. You must remember that it is a great many years since I had any association with the school or any of my associates there.

Among my reliquiae, I find my schoolboy diary for 1868, - a few words for each day, - but I find nothing for the previous years. It is written in a horrible scrawl, with all the defects belonging to that age very much exaggerated. Indeed, I have not to this day learned to write legibly or intelligibly. This was the year in which the school moved from Weston to Port Hope, and while Osler was a student in Toronto. I find no reference to him in it.

I do not remember anything special about the course in Greek. To show you how absolutely deceptive memory is, I simply cannot remember that there were any other prefects in the fall of 1866 than Osler and Hull. There must, of course, have been some appointed after the school got into a good running course. I lived, as I probably told you before, at the school house and had really very little to do away from school with the residents of the parsonage, where Osler and the boys that had previously been at school lived.

Dr. Harvey Cushing-----2

I suppose you have corresponded with Dr. Arthur Jupes Johnson, of Toronto. He should be able to give you more information of the details of those days than anyone that I know of. By the way, a favorite axiom often used by Osler in the Montreal days was that there is nothing so deceptive as the human memory. The axiom is in some way associated with Huxley, but I do not remember exactly where Osler learned it.

I am sorry that I have not been able to be of more assistance to you in your work. I have not succeeded in finding the pathological reports for which you asked me, but I have not been thorough in my search, for, as perhaps you know, I am at present a semi-invalid and have very little energy left when I have done the little professional work that I feel myself obliged to do. I will send you, under separate cover, a few notes that were really gathered at the time that I wrote my Osler reminiscences last winter. I am afraid the note respecting character might be a little offensive to Osler's extremely orthodox friends, and hence it may not be wise to use it; you may do as you like. The anecdote was originally in the addresses which I gave, but I omitted it in the paper because I thought it was growing too voluminous. However, the anecdote seems to me to be a strong illustration of one of Osler's typical characteristics. As I told you before, as far as I am able I will be glad to be of any assistance I can, so do not hesitate to call upon me.

By the way, I have found a few of Osler's short and typical notes, written near the end; I suppose you have thousands like them. One short typewritten acknowledgment of my letter of sympathy at the time of his boy's death shows me more than anything else has done, from its cold, formal brevity, the depth of the wound from which he was suffering.

I wish I were able to call upon you at Boston, for I could probably help you more through a short conversation than I can by any number of formal answers to your questions. How soon do you expect to have the book ready for the press?

With all good wishes and hopes of success, I remain,

Yours very truly,

(Dictated but not read)

Edmond J. A. Rogers  
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