

1028/64/8

Joints Med Scheme notes

CUS417/64. P

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Re Sir William Osler -

Dr Alexander Taylor - M.B. 1871.

Godrich Oct.

Was in his second year in the Toronto School of Medicine when Osler was in his first. He knew him well and took a great interest in him.

Osler was very studious attended lectures faithfully and was very attentive. He spent much time over the microscope looking mostly at "Bovell's cells". He and Bovell appeared more like intimate friends than pupil and teacher. Dr Richardson took a great interest in him and considered him one of the best students. Frequently when "grinding" he would turn to Osler when others were unable to answer his questions.

Dr Hodder also took a great interest in him and they frequently went to and from the Hospital together.

Osler was fond of fun and sports (of which there was not much variety), inclined to be social and agreeable, and was a general favourite.

His most intimate student friends were apparently Dick Zimmerman and Fred Wright but really all the students were his friends.

Dr R.H. Robinson M.B. 1873.

532 Palmarston Blvd Tor

He agrees with Taylor. He saw Osler much with Bovell. On one occasion Robinson felt ill and consulted Bovell at the Medical Building. The latter told him to go to his boarding house and go to bed and remain there until he called on him next day. He forgot him until the third day when he took Osler with him to look for his patient on Grosvenor Street - the number had been forgotten. Meantime Robinson had recovered and was out walking when he saw Bovell standing in distress and Osler running from door to door enquiring for him.

He saw Osler frequently with Zimmerman and Wright and occasionally with Crozier. He also noticed that Dr Richardson frequently turned to Osler when grinding. Osler for a time took a great interest in H.H. Wright's lectures and Robinson thinks got some inclination towards Medicine in that way.

(I am doubtful as to these lectures having any special influence, though I admired H.H. Wright - A.M.D.)

Personal Notes A.H.W.

I entered the Toronto School of Medicine the session following Osler's departure and his intimate friends soon became mine. I got the impression that no one objected to his going to McGill.

The following summer I met Osler for the first time, introduced by Zimmerman in Toronto. The latter was very fond of Osler and had a high opinion of his capacity, etc. From being so much in what I may call Osler's atmosphere as a student I can appreciate all that his classmates tell me and choose fairly well the important points - especially
1. His fondness for the microscope, etc.
2. His fondness for all sorts of work in the dissecting room.

At McGill he naturally dived first into the post-mortem room and as Shepherd told us at New York in 1905: "Never apparently troubling himself about examinations was distinguished for original work and did not confine himself to book knowledge".

His habits and customs at McGill were simply a continuation of those in Toronto.

What an example Osler was of the inadequacy of examinations as a test of a man's knowledge.

In connection with those days I have often thought of two things: ^{At Jorah} ~~in~~ ^{for} Osler ~~was~~ ^{very} wonderful and so far as I ~~have~~ learned universal. At McGill some of his classmates had no great respect for him though none disliked him. One of his year told me that he was not practical, and might have been plucked if he had not written some sort of a freak essay that happened to please Howard. I smiled inwardly and silently because I knew what Howard was and how much he thought of Osler.

Sorry - Simply wanted to give you the notes wh. I tried to give you before I left Tor but we failed to connect. Is this true any way - if so can I do any more in the same direction? (Yours of 13th just rec^d). Ask anything you. I can understand a good deal probably even if you use but few words

June 17

[Handwritten signature]

*Remembered
an excellent student
Knew him for many
attended to him,
Dr.*

Dr Albert Macdonald M.B. 1872.

12 Bedford Road Tor.

Dr Macdonald agrees with Taylor but in addition to the microscope he took great interest in his work in the dissecting room. Macdonald was prosector for Richardson for two years and noticed that Osler spent more time in the dissecting room than any other student frequently bringing his lunch with him in order to get some extra time for dissecting. He did much of this work alone i.e. not with a demonstrator but working out problems of his own in his own way. For instance he remembered ^{him} once pointing out the trichina spiralis in muscle. Macdonald did not remember what kind of muscle it was or where it came from. He thinks that Osler's habits of research began with his work on Bovell's microscope and in Richardson's dissecting room.

One of the sports indulged in to a very limited extent was boxing, the champion being big long John Standish who could box all day. He had the strength of a giant with a kindly gentle heart and took care never to hurt anyone. The students were amused one day to see little Osler tackle the giant and quite surprised to find that the little one was almost the only one of the crowd that could strike Standish.

John Standish M.B. 1870.

Tor.

Dr Standish knew Osler well and liked him much, although "he was very mischievous" but at the same time very popular. He saw him working much with the microscope, but knew nothing ^{special as} to his fondness for it. When asked about the boxing he laughed and said he remembered it but had nothing special to say about it.

Standish commenced his medical course in 1860 but was compelled to drop out for some years and returned to complete his course probably in the same year that Osler entered College. Standish is now about eighty years of age. He is in poor health and has done no work for a year past. His mental faculties are apparently clear or fairly so but there is some loss of memory. He is living with a son and son's wife at 25 Mechanics ave. Toronto. They are in rather poor circumstances and there is no telephone in the house.