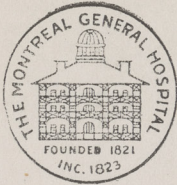


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May 23rd 1878 copy



THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

20 DORCHESTER STREET, EAST

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
HOSPITAL
NOT TO INDIVIDUALS

Am

Montreal 12th May 1920

H. Cushing, Esq., M.D.
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.
BOSTON. MASS.

W

Dear Dr. Cushing,

Your letter of May 3rd reached me safely, and I have been making enquiries wherever possible in order that I might answer your questions about Sir Wm. Osler.

The exact date of his appointment, as near as I can give it from the Minutes, was the 23rd of May 1878. This appointment was as a full Attending Physician of the Hospital. It is interesting to note that he did not go through the stepping stone of an Outdoor Physician. At that meeting the Chairman read a petition from the students attending the Hospital in favour of Dr. Osler as a candidate, deprecating the idea that he was not very acceptable to them.

Another paragraph from the Minutes is as follows:-

"The following gentlemen having been duly nominated and seconded - Drs. Thomas Simpson, F.W. Campbell, Wm. Osler and Wm. Gardiner - as candidates for the vacant post of Attending Physician, the Governors recorded their votes one by one, and having counted the votes Mr. F.W. Thomas announced that Dr. Wm. Osler had received a considerable majority of the votes, and the Chairman declared him to have been duly elected Attending Physician".

It would appear from this Minute that he had been placed ahead of some of those who might well have been called his seniors.

I can find no record of him having been placed in charge

of/

H. Cushing, Esq., M.D.

of the smallpox ward, and as near as I can give, the facts are as follows:-

For three months one of the Attending Staff took over the care of the smallpox patients, and it is thought that Dr. Osler was delegated for this duty about the year 1876. It is interesting to note that while in attendance on these wards, he contracted smallpox himself.

There was no position of Pathologist in those days; it was called - "Professor of the Institute of Medicine", which comprised physiology and pathology, which position Dr. Osler held, and it naturally followed that post mortems and other pathological work was done by him at that time.

If you will write to Dr. Maude Abbott, McGill University, she will be able to answer your last paragraph, for although she is not in the city at the present time, Dr. Shepherd tells me that she has in the museum at McGill, these pathological records referred to by you.

In the annual report of the Hospital of 1885, the following paragraph appears:-

"Vacancy has occurred in the Staff of the Attending Physicians, owing to the appointment of Dr. Osler to the Professorship of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. The Governors desire to congratulate Dr. Osler upon this well merited distinction, and regard it as highly complimentary to this Institution in which he for several years cultivated those talents for clinical instruction and scientific investigation, which has given him a high reputation outside his native land."

With kindest regards,
Yours very truly,

A. H. Raymond
SUPERINTENDENT.