

THE WISTAR INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY AND BIOLOGY

PHILADELPHIA

June 26, 1920.

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Cushing:-

1719 Walnut St., Phila.

Dr. F. X. Dercum^{is}, I believe, President of the Anthropometric Society. He may be able to give you some direct information. There is very little on record so far as I am aware concerning this organization. On page 176 of a paper by Spitzka, the title of which I enclose on a separate card, the following statement occurs

"The American Anthropometric Society was established in 1889 at a meeting which took place at the residence of -----
The founders were Harrison Allen, Francis Xavier Dercum, Joseph Leidy, William Pepper and Edward Charles Spitzka. The chief object of the society was the preservation of the brains of its members."

This, as you see, does not contain Osler's name. If I recall rightly, I came on invitation from Worcester in the spring of 1890 to a meeting of the Anthropometric Society which was held at the Art Club in Philadelphia, and at which I recall that Harrison Allen, Dercum and Dr. Osler were present. The subject for discussion was "How the brains should be treated," and whether they should be farmed out to those interested, as units or in part. I remember offering to take up the problem of the architecture of the cerebral cortex, but was told by one of my learned colleagues that in view of the fact that so little was known of the cortex, it would not be wise to study it in these brains.

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I remember Dr. Osler spoke at this meeting, but if I recall rightly, it was along the general line of the indications of character in the form of the brain.

I find that we have in a document which is known as the Deed of Trust of The Wistar Institute, an address under the title "The leaven of science," given by Osler at the opening of the present building of the Institute. On the chance that this may not have come your way, I am having the Institute send you a copy of the deed of trust which you can keep.

I will keep on the alert for any stray information concerning the relations of Dr. Osler to these matters, and let you have what I can pick up. With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Henry H. Donaldson