

(Dr. Cushing - from Dr. Malloch)

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford.

(Typewritten)

December 10, 1919.

Dear Dr. Cushing:

As you may imagine, it has been an anxious time here, but certainly during the past couple of days Sir William has improved considerably and we hope that this will continue.

Perhaps you know that from about November 5, when he had sharp pleuritic pain and fever for a couple of days, he continued on in the same way with paroxysms of coughing and much nummular sputum. They found Pfeiffer's bacillus about 3 weeks ago. On Nov. 30 his temperature shot up to 101°: that was on Sunday and I felt pretty anxious, and I went up to town again on Monday. Lady Osler used to telephone every day to me, and he was feverish all that week. I came down on Thursday and was very glad on Friday when Sir Thomas Horder got off about 14 ozs. of slightly turbid fluid (some *B. influenzae* and leucocytes - nothing more).

Evidently it lay between the two lobes behind on the right side, and could not be definitely diagnosed before puncture. Drawing this off seems to have enabled Sir William to bring up more sputum, but it seems evident that the main trouble is in the lung. On Saturday his pulse (usually about 66 for the past two months) was up to 110 and a bit rocky, so digitalis was commenced. He has shown steady improvement in the last few days, and now his temperature remains at normal and his pulse is a little better: respirations were up to 30 or 32 but never laboured. The sputum has no odour. His temperature is on the whole gradually coming down. The cough has lessened, and there is not so much sputum. He gets morphia at night, sleeps well, and it has no bad effects.

Of course he saw only one outcome for it last week, and the way he had Lady Osler and myself looking up papers was quite pathetic. He is thinking of all his old friends, and he has us writing off cards to people every day. He is a little more cheerful now, and says that if he pulls through all right, he will write up the case from the patient's standpoint. Lady Osler has had a trying two months of it, but is wonderfully strong: the nurses are splendid. I hope to write still better news later on.

Dr. Collier and Dr. Gibson come to see him every day, and I am a sort of house physician. Many thanks for your letter of November 20; I just thought I would tell them at Queen Square about that mother-of-pearl tumour - that was splendid. They have practically no one working at their material there.

Many thanks for your promise to send those papers of yours. The Regius knows I am writing and sends his love.

Affectionately yours,

Archibald Malloch