

(Dr. H. V. Ogden - from Dr. Malloch)

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford.

December 10, 1919.

Dear Dr. Ogden:

Sir William this afternoon asked me to write to you and tell you about his illness which, in his phraseology, has been "the closest to a knock-out yet". I have heard your name so often in Hamilton and Brockville since I was a small boy that I feel very much at home in sending this off to you.

Sir William early in October was held up by the strike on his way down from Scotland, and had to motor all the way from Newcastle and caught cold en route. He had some pneumonia at the right base for two weeks, after which his temperature fell to normal, but the paroxysms of coughing with nummular mucco-purulent sputum continued. From the very first he was depressed as he had looked forward to a good autumn's work, and especially to finishing up the new edition of the Textbook, and after six weeks' holiday in Jersey he was in the pink of condition and all his old sprightliness was with him again.

He was in bed until the 5th of November when he sat up for a day in a chair, but went back to bed with sharp pleuritic pain on the right side and fever which lasted for a day or two. Paroxysms of coughing still continued with the same old sputum. About November 15th, B. influenzae were found in the sputum where pneumococci had been before. This bacillus of Pfeiffer, you may remember, was an old acquaintance in his Baltimore days. He seemed to be slowly getting better, and his spirit was returning, but on November 30th his temperature went up again to about 101°, and his pulse - generally so slow - became more rapid. There were signs of a flare-up at the right base again and a fresh and extensive pleural friction. This made him very anxious, and he imagined all sorts of things. Signs of fluid were not at all definite, but I am glad to say that Sir Thomas Horder did an exploratory puncture on December 5th and got off about 14 ozs. of slightly turbid fluid which evidently lay between the right lobes behind. It contained some B. influenzae and leucocytes, but nothing else. Sir William was delighted and it seemed to help him to bring up more of the large nummular masses of sputum. Evidently the chief trouble is in the lungs, however. His pulse was pretty rocky on the 6th and 7th, but that is better again, and his temperature though jogging up and down, now touches normal in the afternoons. Today he is in better spirits. We hope that this improvement will be continued.

You will be glad to hear all this and to know he is thinking a great deal of his old friends. He asks me to write a good long account of it to you. I came down from London on Thursday where I am doing some work. Usually I am here only for the week-ends but I shall stay on to be of what help I can to them both. Lady Osler has had an anxious time of it but is just as wonderful and as strong as you would expect her to be.

By the way, Sir William hopes that you got the little copy of Lander all right. Both send their love to you all. I remain

Yours very sincerely,

Archibald Malloch.