

1028/82/1

CW5417/82.1

Written for me at S.P.H. Oct.  
Sept. 1921

H.C.

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One thing in Osler that impressed  
me as a student intern was his  
hopefulness in prognosis -

As if it were yesterday I recall  
his coming to Blockley later than  
usual one morning - It was within  
a few days of the death of Gross - I  
greeted him with the usual morning  
question "How is Dr. Gross" - His answer  
was characteristic "How you left  
him, he is desperately ill but I never  
give up hope as long as any  
life remains" - He followed this  
with "That is a good motto 'as long  
as there is life there is hope, remember  
that young man" -

"That is worth remembering" was an  
expression Osler used frequently with his  
interns when he wished to impress  
something upon their minds - I used to  
think that he was sometimes thinking aloud

When he used this expression - Certainly no man  
I have known personally or in history with  
the possible exception of Roosevelt - had that  
rare gift of picking out from <sup>the</sup> mass of  
material the things worth remembering  
more highly developed than Oster -

This gift and his ability to make every  
minute count in life were common  
themes of discussion amongst us.

His rational use of drugs was  
much too far advanced for Staid Phila-

Could you imagine a naturally  
conservative city - to whom The eloquent  
Wood was extolling the value of drugs &  
the equally eloquent Pepper recommending  
a dozen different drugs in the treatment  
of individual diseases, shovelled into  
insensibility - by having a young Prof.  
of medicine, recently come into this land &  
go through his words with his intern &  
finding nothing definite - The matter with  
his patient say to the intern "Did we  
give that last patient Compound Sulfate  
of Cinchona or Comp. Sulf. of Quinine" -

Whatever the intern <sup>was his treatment</sup> was "give this  
patient the other one" In reality - Oster  
was a very wise Therapeutist as we

3/ Antennas realized - He used drugs not  
empirically but scientifically and always  
in his teaching he laid great stress upon  
the general management  
of disease & careful observation of signs  
& symptoms, good hygiene, <sup>diet</sup> & good nursing -  
This intelligent use of drugs made a  
profound impression upon his numerous  
students especially when they became  
his internes - Upon the Jefferson  
students - as a class he made much  
less impression because they had  
been under the destructive influence of  
Solomon Solis-Cohen who has the rare  
capacity - to watch variations in physiological  
function following the use of all the drugs  
that have appeared since the beginning of  
time - Curious enough Cohen has never  
lost this faith - I remember hearing Oster  
pay his respects to this same Cohen at the  
first meeting of the Assoc. of American  
Physicians that he attended after he had  
gone to England - Cohen had read a  
paper on the treatment of some rare disease  
of the vaso motor system - He had combated  
it perfectly with drugs - Oster rose in the  
discussion & said something to this effect -  
Since Dr. Cohen has so gracefully & effectively

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"I lifted this disease, the exact nature and origin of which none of the rest of us know definitely, from the field of therapeutic problems I need not touch upon the aspect of his paper".

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In teaching students - There were several things that Osler laid special stress upon & I doubt if his students ever forgot them - One was the value of a complete history & the importance of a thorough knowledge of pathology in the diagnosis & treatment of disease - I remember him standing by the bedside saying to his students - "These are the physical signs we have obtained now what is the pathological picture that underlies them - Learn to look through those signs to the morbid processes that produce them" -

I think Osler's happiest hours in Phila. were spent in the Blossley "Bad home" - It gave him not only a rich field in which to acquire knowledge but a rare opportunity - To impart this knowledge in an intimate way to a group of interns that hung upon every word he uttered - The procedure in the autopsy room when I was interne was this - Osler with his own and any other interne that could get away <sup>from his ward</sup>

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repaired to the autopsy room about two  
P.M. There were three or four tables in the  
small room. The attendant would place  
a body on each table - Oster would take  
one, his resident another + one or two  
others <sup>residents</sup> - The remaining <sup>one or</sup> two - After the thorax  
& abdomen were opened Oster would  
view the organs in situ the residents  
following <sup>him</sup> from body to body - Then we would  
all return to the task of removing the organs &  
placing them on platters - Then Oster  
would examine the groups of organs in  
turn going over everyone of them in the  
minutest detail - His joy at finding  
something new or <sup>or</sup> unusual was graciously  
shared with and enjoyed by us - I can  
see him now with his head bent over the  
table suddenly exclaim "Holy-toity" boys  
look at this" - When I was a resident in  
Bloxley it was considered a distinct dis-  
grace if a resident failed to get an autopsy.

We travelled to the most remote districts of  
Phila. at great <sup>trouble</sup> inconvenience to appeal to the  
families of patients or secure the assistance  
of <sup>the</sup> friends - If the resident whose patient had  
died failed in his effort the case was invariably  
referred to my room-mate Dr. Caspar Haver

6/ Sharpless. who had an uncommon ability -  
in securing the necessary consent when all  
others failed - All this effort was  
for Osler - It mattered not whether the  
patient was his - Osler was going to  
make the autopsy & Osler wanted  
to make the autopsy - That was all  
sufficient -