

Dr. William Osler

Consultation Hours

CUS417/95.13

No. 1 W. Franklin Street

2.30 - 4.30 P.M.

Baltimore

Jan. 30th, 1899

Dear Dr. Shepherd:-

I have gone over Galt very thoroughly, and can find no trace of any organic disease. The gastric juice is practically normal, no hyperacidity, and there is no lactic acid. There is no trace of any tumor mass in the mass in the abdomen. His radials are perhaps a little sclerotic, but the heart is not enlarged, the aortic second not accentuated. If anything, perhaps the heart sounds, for a great big fellow as he is, are a little feeble. When I examined him first he was breathing quite rapidly, but this may have been from a little nervousness, though he says he has had some shortness of breath. He says, too, that Walshe when he was a boy cut off all exercise, saying that he had trouble with his heart. With the exception of the first, the attacks which he has had are very suggestive of angina, more particularly of the form in which the chief pain is below the diaphragm. The short attacks early in January, too, in which he says the pressure was upwards, entirely in the chest front, and the sides very sore, as if held in a vice, are suspicious. The breathing was very difficult and the pain extended considerably above the heart.

In the first attack in July he seems to have had a good deal of swelling as well as pain in the abdomen, and the temperature was up. There are very remarkable cases of angina pectoris, in which the attacks are completely sub-diaphragmatic, and they have been mistaken for gastralgia and for ulcer of the stomach. The neurotic factor in his case is evidently very pronounced.

The negative condition on examination, particularly of the abdomen, and the fact that he has been a very excessive smoker, rather favor this view. At any rate, taking this as a working basis, I have urged him to stop tobacco absolutely for a year, to go on with his regulated diet, to live a pretty quiet



life, attending to his business, though, and have ordered him fifteen grains of iodide twice a day, which Muchard thinks has such an important influence in these tobacco cases.

I will write to Mewburn about him, particularly about the character of the first attack. I think had the pains been due to an ulcer or any serious trouble in the abdomen there would have been pretty marked signs after seven months. One, too, may lay a good deal of stress on the negative character of the stomach juices, as nearly always in the forms of gastralgia in nervous fellows there is marked superacidity.

Sincerely yours,

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

I have cheered him up & given him a good prognosis - which is often helpful. I have not used the word angina but said it was a neuralgia of the pneumo-gastric nerve!