

Ledger - Oct. 4, 1905
DR. WELCH A "BLUEBEARD"

So Painted by Sargent, and Artist Is
Deaf to Protest

BALTIMORE, Oct. 3.—Dr. Howard A. Kelly has returned to this city after a visit to England, and brings a story of a tiff between Dr. William Henry Welch and John S. Sargent, the artist, over the color of Doctor Welch's beard.

Mr. Sargent is painting a group which includes Dr. William Osler, Doctor Welch and Doctor Kelly. The completed work is to be presented to the Johns Hopkins University by Miss Mary Garrett, daughter of the late John W. Garrett, long president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The departure of Doctor Osler from Baltimore, to become regius professor of medicine at Oxford University, suggested the gift, and Miss Garret conceived the idea of including on the same canvas the three famous medical experts who have contributed so largely to the worldwide fame of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Sittings were given in London during the summer, and all went well until Doctor Welch, to his dismay, found that the artist was depicting him as the possessor of a blue beard. Blue Beard and "Bluebeard" were too phonetically similar to suit the doctor, aside from the lack of accuracy, offensive to his scientific mind, inasmuch as his beard has no bizarre or spectacular aspects.

Doctor Welch ventured a mild protest, and then interposed emphatic objection as the ultramarine hue deepened.

"It looks blue to me, and blue it must be," was all the artist vouchsafed.

Doctor Welch's academic hood caused the trouble. It was lined with blue, and the reflection tinged the beard. Mr. Sargent remains inflexible, and the famous physician must be known to posterity as a blue beard, if not a "Bluebeard."

The artist was kinder to Doctor Osler. The first effort at depicting his face gave him a very savage mein. The doctor said he was willing to have it so, but Mr. Sargent painted over and introduced an expression as benevolent as the other had been repellent.

The painting will be exhibited in the Royal Academy next May, and may not reach the Johns Hopkins for a year.

Ledger - Oct. 6, 1905
THE JOHNS HOPKINS GROUP

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Will you kindly permit me to correct and supplement the statement which appeared in today's (Wednesday's) Public Ledger in regard to the portrait group of the four Johns Hopkins physicians and surgeons that has been painted by John S. Sargent this summer in London? Your notice states that the group contains the three doctors, Dr. William Osler,

William H. Welch and Dr. Howard A. Kelly, whereas Mr. Sargent has in reality painted a group of four, the famous chief surgeon of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and professor of surgery of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. William S. Halsted, being the fourth member. Your article also states that Doctor Osler's leaving Baltimore for Oxford University suggested the gift. On the contrary, Mr. Sargent promised while he was in America in 1903 to paint the group, while Doctor Osler's leaving Baltimore was not announced for more than a year later.

MARY L. GARRETT.

Baltimore, Md., October 4, 1905.