

Feb. 24th, Rome.

(1909).

Dear Jacobs:-

So glad to hear of your plans but I am afraid we shall not meet.

I sail from Naples on the 21st of April and shall either take the boat (Canopic)

at Genoa, or go to N. for a week before hand. Mrs. Osler will go back

to Oxford about April 10th as Revere gets his holidays. It is quite possi-

ble that you may get to the North of Italy before I go South, but I

doubt it. . . We may meet later if we decide to stay over. I am delighted

to hear of Wm. Marburg's gift - how good of him! He is a generous soul.

That will help a great deal. Did my brother, E.B. Osler, give anything?

or was he asked? He might like to do a little, and a letter from the

Committee, stating the case would be no harm. He has rather a big job

on hand at present - building and endowing a home for aged women in memory

of my mother in our old home, Dundas. We are working hard here but there

is so much to see. I have just begun to get involved with the doctors -

Machiafava, Celli & the Bastignelli. The Hospital is Al but they need

new buildings for the school. I am to see the malaria work with Celli

next week - the Campagna is gradually getting healthy. Enormous reduc-

tion - deaths from the disease in 20 years - 24000 in 1887, 4000 in 1907!

The weather has been fine but the days are cold & Rome is the dirtiest place

I have ever seen - dust everywhere. It must be awful in summer. We had

a great day yesterday at Frascati and the Alban Mountains. Countess

Androzzi took us into her old villa - nephews of the 17th century popes,

the builders! Wonderful views. Cicero had a choice spot here for a

country seat. We have seen something of the Garretts. Mrs. John is an

old friend & patient. She is very attractive & is already a great favorite

& it is nice that she knows Rome. We are going together on Saturday to

the Island to say our prayers to Aesculapius - whose serpent in stone, at

(over)

one end, is all that remains of this famous temple. . . I do hope John
Garrett may get the Ambassadorship - just the man for the place. Taft may give
it to him. Mrs. McCagg, one of T.'s greatest friends, is here and is greatly
taken with J.G. She told Mrs. Osler that she had written Taft a strong
letter about them. They would be most acceptable. I have found a few
good books, but the sheps are not first class with the exception of Lang Bros.
I hoped to find incunabula at every corner.

Love to Mrs. Jacobs,

Sincerely yours,

Wm. Osler.

~~He did not go with the~~ His reference to Professor ~~Chace~~ Celli and the Roman
Campagna - that had had of malaria which probably had more to do with "The Fall"
than Gibbon could ever have surmised - recalls his own active role in
the studies of the disease, begun at St. Bartholomew Hospital in 1887. He became so
impressed by the results of the Malariæ here obtained that he wrote the small paper
from the Sent a very accurate of the lesson in practical hygiene to the
Some paragraphs from which derive inclusion here:
Malariæ in Italy: a lesson in practical hygiene. London
New Series March 15 1909

two more