

From W.O. to Miss Price,
(County Care Committee,
Oxfordshire Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis,)

G. the Annual Refs' e Slors,

13, Norham Gardens,
Oxford.

July 25th, 1910.

Dear Miss Price,

Lady Wantage, whom I saw yesterday, is very sympathetic, and I am writing to-day to ask her for a specific subscription. I enclose you a note from Mason and one from Flemming.

Could you come in this evening about 9 o'clock; Dr. Mallam and I are to meet Stobie here. Yesterday at the staff meeting I nailed them down specifically to open the dispensary on Friday, October 7th. The Executive Committee were to be asked to arrange preliminaries with Stobie, and to guarantee to pay him his salary until we can get arrangements completed.

I enclose you my cheque.
Sincerely yours,

WM OSLER.

Oxfordshire Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.
County Care Committee.

From Miss Mabel F. M. Price to Dr. H.C.

16, St. Giles',
Oxford.

August 15, 1920.

Dear Dr. Cushing,

Forgive my long delay in sending you these few notes on the work Sir William Osler did for us in the campaign against consumption in Oxfordshire. I have been away at Dispensaries all week and am now in arrears with the correspondence they entail.

We (my family) left Oxford in 1900 to live for some years at Headington on the North outside the town where there is a population of nearly 2000 people, mainly Oxford working people. We started a small Charity Organisation Society Committee there and very soon came on the underlying cause of most of the sickness and distress there was. About 60-70 cases of consumption came to our notice, and we realised what a difficult and almost insoluble problem it presented. No means existed of getting the special forms of treatment and help they needed no measures of prevention were in force. It was a burning question, and soon after Sir William Osler came to Oxford I went down and laid the whole matter before him: only to find that he already knew all about it. He knew the question in all its aspects - social and medical - its difficulties, the prolonged nature of the illness, the patient living the ordinary life of the people, half disabled himself and a danger to others for many months of the year - to end at last, hidden away, to die slowly, often forgotten by the outside world. There was nothing sensational about it - the people had come to accept it as fate and took no precaution against it. Sir William instantly took the matter up. As a member of the Council of the National Association in London, he arranged that their exhibition should be held in Oxford within the next few months. I saw him in June 1909, the Exhibition was opened in the University Examination Schools in November. He organised lectures, medical conferences and two big general meetings in connection with it. Many thousands of people came to it and the Association was formed. As an immediate result, early in 1910, the first dispensary was opened in Oxford, a medical officer specially trained at Edinburgh in the School of Sir Robert Philip, and two nurses trained in tuberculosis were attached to it.

(Over.)

Within the next two years 7 other dispensaries were opened in the county. Sir William went himself all over the county to rouse interest and get financial help. We went in this way to Lady Wantge, Sir Charles Rose, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Brassey and many others. During its early years patients came from Berkshire and Buckinghamshire to the Oxfordshire Dispensaries. The Reports I am sending you show how rapidly the work grew, and Sir William scarcely missed the fortnightly committee meetings.

We made many efforts to get a small Sanatorium-hospital for ourselves, and Mr. Phipps made a gift of £500 therefore to Sir William for this purpose: Mr. Mason gave another £500. A property was bought on Shotover where the Hospital was so badly needed and could have been built, but rival interests have always prevented it, and we are still without any hospital for consumption in the County.

Up to the last months of his life Sir William Osler has been steadily at our back in the work of the association: giving advice, help, encouragement and generously of his time. His unflagging support has helped us in what was often uphill work.

As long as the Dispensaries were in the hands of the Association (in 1916 they were taken over by the County Council) he came regularly to the Oxford Dispensary - generally one morning in the week at 10 - and saw patients there in consultation with the Tuberculosis Officer - taking the clinic himself if the latter was away for any reason.

If a particularly difficult or sad case occurred in the county, he would go himself and see it. Early in 1916 before the government scheme for the care of consumptives was as complete as it became later, a discharged soldier was dying in a lodging in a very poor house in Banbury. I told Sir William Osler of this and he at once went off to see him - the man had been turned out of one lodging after another - finally a woman had given him an attic in her house and was doing what she could for him - but the conditions were impossible. Within a few days the man was removed to a War Office Hospital in London.

This is a bare outline of all he did for us. An expression of the Committee's appreciation is in the beginning of the Report for last year.

I am sending you one letter - written in the early days - to show you the amount of thought and interest he gave to the work, and the first report he drafted himself to increase the membership of the Association.

May I have these two back? I have no other copies.

Believe me,

Very sincerely,
MABEL F. M. PRICE.

letter to June 1909
CUS417/110.B 34

British Medical Journal, Sept. 3, 1910, ii, 646.

TUBERCULOSIS IN OXFORDSHIRE

At a recent meeting of the Henley Rural Council the following letter was read from Dr. Osler on the subject of consumption:

Oxfordshire County Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

May I ask you on behalf of the above association, to lay this letter before your Council at its next meeting? In view of the prevalence of consumption, and the absence of any adequate means for its relief or prevention, the Radcliffe Infirmary has determined to devote certain hours of its out-patient department each week to the treatment of consumptives only coming from all parts of the district. It will mean a large increase of its work, and this association is undertaking to make good to the Radcliffe Infirmary any loss it may thereby incur. A doctor will be in charge who will devote himself solely to this department and to preventive work in consumption, in close cooperation with the Infirmary, and the sanitary authorities. The Oxford City Council has granted £100 a year towards his salary. The association would ask the district councils throughout Oxfordshire to cooperate in this work by making yearly grants of perhaps £10 to £15 according to the population they represent - suggesting that councils representing over 5,000 persons should contribute £15 a year - and by this means to provide a fund of £150 a year, which will be needed to raise the doctor's salary and allowances to £250. Will your council give this matter its serious consideration? An early answer, if it be favourable, will make the immediate appointment of a doctor possible, and he can enter without delay on the special training which this work will need either at Edinburgh or in some centre where preventive work in consumption is already in full activity.

I am, yours very truly,
Wm Osler.

With the letter was a table of the number of deaths from tuberculosis in Oxfordshire. In Henley borough there was a population of 5,984, of which there were six deaths from tuberculosis in 1909, when the deaths from all causes were 88. In the Henley rural district the population was 9,123, and the deaths from tuberculosis 14, and all other cases 126. The clerk was instructed to write and ask under what conditions would patients be admitted to the hospital if they subscribed the necessary £10 or £15?

Oxford and Oxfordshire Branch of the National Association

FOR THE

Prevention of Tuberculosis.

*Deaths from Consumption in Oxfordshire taken from the
Reports of the Medical Officers of Health for 1909:—*

OXFORD:	660	deaths from all causes, of which	76	(more than 1 in 9) from Consumption.
	128	„ between ages 15—35,	53	(more than one-third) „ „
	74	„ „ „ 15—25,	36	(nearly half) „ „
OXFORDSHIRE:	2651	„ from all causes, of which	252	from Consumption.

STATEMENTS OF FACTS.

The Deaths from Tuberculosis in Great Britain in 1908 were about 80,000: about 1 in 10 of all deaths are due to it. 56 per cent. of deaths from Consumption were at ages between 20 and 45. It has been reduced 50 per cent. in the last 40 years. It is a preventable disease, we know the cause, a germ which exists in the Expectorations of Consumptives and in the Milk of Tuberculous Cows. In its early stages it is curable.



"HOPE, THAT COMES TO ALL."

A CAMPAIGN OF HOPE.

It is steadily diminishing, with united effort it may disappear. What can you do as an individual to help? Live a healthy life with plenty of fresh air and exercise.

Join the National Association,
20 Hanover Square, London.

Join the Local Association by becoming an Annual Subscriber.

Treasurer: GUY THOMSON, Esq., Old Bank.

Council of the Association for Oxfordshire.

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Wingfield Convalescent Home.

Oxford Sanitary Aid Association—Mrs. FISHER.

Oxford Charity Organisation Society—Rev. L. R. PHELPS, Miss MERIVALE.

Headington Charity Organisation Society—Rev. C. F. H. JOHNSTON.

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Treasurer: GUY THOMSON, Esq., Forest Hill, Oxford.

Secretary: Miss PRICE, 16 St. Giles, Oxford.

OXFORD,

June, 1910.

As the success of any effort depends on the public recognition of an evil, and on combined action in dealing with it, the Council of this Association begs your help and co-operation.

The object of the Association is to educate public opinion in Oxfordshire by means of:—

- (1) A central office for the collection and distribution of information as to the modes of diffusion of Tuberculosis, and measures of prevention.
- (2) The circulation of pamphlets and leaflets, setting forth in plain language the results of scientific investigation.
- (3) Public lectures and addresses.
- (4) Co-operation with other Societies, having for their objects the promotion of public health.
- (5) Provision for open air treatment in Sanatoria.
- (6) Influencing Parliament, Councils, Boards of Guardians and other Public Authorities in matters relating to the prevention of Tuberculosis.

At the first meeting held in January last the Council appointed representatives to confer with the Governing Bodies of the Radcliffe Infirmary and the Wingfield Convalescent Home as to the provision of a Sanatorium. A joint Committee has met, and many of the questions involved are advanced towards a possible solution. A suitable site has been found where a Sanatorium could be provided at a reasonable cost. The financial questions of initial outlay and subsequent upkeep have been under consideration.

In connection with the Sanatorium there will be head-quarters in Oxford where all matters connected with preventive work can be centred and controlled, and where information and advice will be available.

The Committee has borne in mind that it is useless to hope to cure all Consumptives, and that long treatment of individual cases is prohibitively costly. To the Community at large they believe the educational aspect of a Sanatorium is its most valuable one, and that life in a Sanatorium for a few weeks will teach lessons which will enable the Patient to live at home without risk to his own family.

Patients will be asked to contribute where possible to the cost of their treatment in the Sanatorium, but payment shall not determine nor the absence of it prevent admission. For this reason the Council will need and ask for a liberal measure of public support.

The most important part of the campaign against Consumption rests with the Public itself. Under any circumstances only a few weeks of the life of a Consumptive can be spent in a Sanatorium. He must put the lessons there learnt into practice in his home, and systematic supervision will ensure this. Educated public opinion is needed to support the work of Public Authorities, Doctors, District Nurses and others.

Recognizing the value of preventive measures against consumption, the Oxford City Council has set aside a sum of money in their estimates for the year to defray the cost of such measures.

It is hoped that the Sanitary Authorities in the County may eventually follow the same course.

The Council of the Association hopes that it may be possible to form small Auxiliary Committees in convenient centres throughout the County, to whose care Patients attending the Out-Patient Department or leaving the Sanatorium may be consigned.

The Council hopes that you will become a Member of the Association, and co-operate in forwarding its work, and that you will signify the same to the Secretary.

Subscriptions of 2/6 and upwards to be paid to the Treasurer of the Oxfordshire Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, GUY THOMSON, Esq., or to the account of the Association with Messrs. Barclay, Oxford.