

Baltimore,
Friday, April 18, 1913.

Dr. Osler's Tribute to Baltimore.

To the Editor of the Evening Sun.

Sir:- Someone who is careful to conceal his identity under the initials "W.M.S." writes in the EVENING SUN of Friday a letter headed "The Limitations of Sir William Osler" and beginning with the following extraordinary paragraph:

Please tell me if the writer of the editorial on William Osler in tonight's issue was present at the banquet at which Dr. Osler spoke, and what liquid refreshments were served there, for unless written after looking too long upon the wine when it is red its author should present himself for observation at the Phipps Clinic.

What this anonymous critic thinks fit for print is not quite correct, or, rather, his much-muddled confusion shows that his facts are quite on a par with the spirit in which he writes.

The editorial in question appeared in the EVENING SUN of Thursday and was merely a fitting and well-deserved tribute to one who, though often purposely misrepresented, is certainly one of the greatest and best men of our time - one of those who have best loved their fellow-men and shown this love in every possibly way, not only by words but by many, many deeds. The editorial is concerned mainly with Dr. Osler's eloquent address at the formal opening of the new Phipps Clinic on Wednesday afternoon [April 16th]. "W.M.S." thinks that it refers to an after-dinner speech and intimates that the author of the praise either was not present at the banquet or else must have been drunk at the time: otherwise he could not have praised so heartily, according to "W.M.S." who was evidently himself not present on either occasion.

As a matter of fact, Dr Osler's after-dinner speech consisted solely of an unusually cordial and sincere expression of deep gratitude to those who had welcomed him when he first came here, been kind to him while he lived here, and welcomed him again so heartily when he returned. This gratitude was, however, expressed not merely in abstract form, but in a very personal way, and Dr. Osler mentioned by name Dr. Chew and other leading Baltimore medical men of that time whose truly cordial welcome he could never forget. Unfortunately, this short speech, being the last on the program, was not fully reported in the papers.

"W.M.S." was not present at that impressive testimonial dinner to Mr. Phipps on Wednesday evening, but all who were privileged to hear such a noble tribute to this community from such a man as Sir William Osler will always treasure his words in their hearts. They will also justly despise such attacks as that of the anonymous "W.M.S."

L.L.M. [Mackall]?