

OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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A NARRATIVE OF OSLER'S LAST ILLNESS

NEAR THE END of his Life of Sir William Osler, Harvey Cushing mentions T. Archibald Malloch's arrival at Oxford early in December of 1919 and the notes that Malloch kept of Osler's last illness. The notes resurfaced this summer when they came to the Osler Library with a group of Malloch's books and manuscripts, the gift of his son, Professor A.E. Malloch. The notes are here published for the first time. Their importance lies in being an eye-witness account of the final stage of Osler's life.

Cushing both quotes from the notes (or from copies of them prepared by W.W. Francis) and draws upon them indirectly in the last chapter of his biography. It is also possible that others recalling the last months of Osler's life had access to them. Strangely, Malloch's own published account of Osler's days in Oxford (Canadian Medical Association Journal, July 1920: 51-65, *Sir William Osler Memorial Number*) did not draw directly upon the notes he himself had taken. However, a typed transcription by Malloch of extracts from the diary is found in his scrapbook of *Osleriana* (Osler MS. 326/40, Folio Box 20, item no. 101).

Malloch's notes are written in a stationer's notebook divided alphabetically into sections. They begin at the letter I (for Illness) and when that section is filled, Malloch continues and completes the memoir in section Z. The narrative takes the form of diary entries which are headed by a date and arranged in chronological order. The diary begins on 5 December 1919 when Malloch is called to Oxford, and ends on 2 January 1920. Malloch gave no title to the manuscript; that given here is provided by the editors.

In editing this memoir we have tried to preserve its character as an informal document, that is, one not originally prepared for publication. Consequently, we have kept editorial intrusion in the text to a minimum. Abbreviations, excluding obvious ones such as *rt.* for right, are listed in an Appendix. The men and women mentioned by Malloch are also identified there. The preservation of the character of the diary may at first seem an impediment to reading, but we think it brings the reader as close to both the letter and spirit of the manuscript as it is possible to do in typographical form. Portions of the manuscript inserted by Malloch as afterthoughts are placed in angle brackets « »; portions of the text he crossed out are set within braces { }; and portions of the manuscripts that cannot be deciphered are noted with the word, unrecovered. The editors' insertions are placed within square brackets []; square brackets used by Malloch are reproduced in double [[]].

This edition has been prepared by Harvey Blackman and Philip M. Teigen. Dr. Harold M. Segall and Professor A.E. Malloch helped with difficulties in the transcription.

5. xii. '19 When I telephoned after lunch yesterday Sir Wm. heard about it and said he wished me to be here. I came down on the 4.45 «bringing Reord syringe & needles with me» and Dr. Gibson soon came & told me the white count was 27,000 & agreed that {a} «the» chest should be needled. (I had written on 1st to him that W.O. suspected a loculated collection & said 'I imagine it would comfort him to have his chest needled in a couple of places' - his temp. from being normal had risen on 30th Nov. to 101°. []) Sir Thos. Horder came at 8.22 & I met him. After he had dinner Drs Collier & Gibson came in and we discussed the case & then he went up & examined W.O. then we all talked it over in the sitting-room. He thought there possible [sic] was a focus (an abscess) in the rt. 1.1. with a splash of pleurisy extending out over this lobe almost to the sternum. But thought it wisest to puncture. He felt there was no large collection of fluid. About 10 a.m. he told Sr Wm. who said "Nurse and I were going to do it ourselves some day before breakfast." We were all in the room Horder, Collier, Gibson & myself, Sister Edwards & Sister [blank space]. He got off about 14 ozs at about the 7th space on rt. side behind. He had to point upwards a little & apparently it lay between the lobes - turbid yellow fluid & Gibson reported no pneumo. some *B. influenzae* & leucocytes. Sir Wm. had no pain & said to me later, "It is worth while to have lived to be 70 and to have had an exploratory puncture done without feeling any more pain than the prick of the hypodermic [[local anaesthesia]]". Horder used my 20 cc Reord syringe c̄ [unrecovered] spinal puncture needle, both of wh. I brought down [unrecovered] yesterday. W.O. slept for about 4 hrs during the day - had a 1/2 & a good sleep all last night. He joked a bit but asked me to write to Sir Clifford Allbutt, Sir Humphrey Rolleston & A.W. Pollard which I did. He often asks me to feel his pulse and once he said "how is it?["] & I "Oh just a little bit fast" and he "is it rapid and small"? and then with a break in his voice "I know I'm going, since you have begun to make a pin-cushion of my back". It did not seem to be that he was joking all together.

6. xii. '19 Slept fairly well with a 1/2 still much numular mucopurul. sputum. H. not so good P. 107 & irregular T. still about 100.4°. We decided to start on tinct. digitalis [unrecovered] x̄x q.4.h. After lunch he asked me to see to straightening out the papers about the library in the drawer in the lib. table oppos. the fire-place. I knew what he meant. Later he said "I do not think «that Bill & you can print» this catalogue till after Lady Osler's death as after that things will be in hand of the trust. Up till then there will only be a fixed income of five thousand" then he said ten thousand but I did not ask if he meant pounds or dollars. "In the large pad on the table" [[The small one beside the bed]] "you will see some memoranda". I took it up but he said not to look at it then. Later in the day he spoke of the flushed feeling about his head & I tried to explain it [unrecovered] but he said "Archie you lunatic: I've been watching this case for two months and I'm sorry I shall not see the post mortem". "Well at anyrate the books are there; do you know about Michael Angelo and his tomb? «So pathetic!» Well it's Michael Angelo and his tomb and Osler and his library". He had me write to several people & tell about him &

also call on some others. After dinner he got me to fetch Sir Thos. Browne's *Religio Medici* "the 1868 edition"; but he meant the 1862 one and I got it. He looked something up in it. He asked to have 1/4 (after the 1/2 taken on going to sleep) if he woke up about four. He told the Sister "if I don't have it I do not believe my heart will stand another morning like this morning." On saying good night to him he said, "I don't see, with the pump going like that {that} «why» my breathing is so easy". He calls it 'delirium cordis'.

7. xii. '19 He had a somewhat better day. Slept for a while in the a.m. and woke perspiring a bit. Temp. dropped to 99°. After lunch read the papers for a time & Lady O. read to him. Had loose stump of a tooth pulled out. Felt flushed Temp rose about 7 p.m. to 100.6°. Altogether he seemed a wee bit more cheerful. Pulse a little stronger.

8. xii. '19 After break. Collier & Gibson found him a little better. He said "remember the brain is not yours; you're all here as witnesses. It is to go to the institute at [unrecovered] «Wistar»" and Gibson said "I know that". Sweated on waking about 1 p.m. After some sleep & Temp. fell to normal. Asked me what the w.b. cells had been & when he heard 27,000 said "There must be some sepsis". Has some stomatitis. In afternoon wrote his will & Gibson & I witnessed it. T. up to 100.2° in evening. On the whole is better. Asked me if I had any notes of the case & said "if I pull through I must write it up from the patient's stand point". Lady O. read *Marius The Epicurean*. He read the paper for a time.

9. xii. '19 Seems a little better. Temp. normal for some hrs in the afternoon rose to 99.8° about dinner time. Feels flushed then & now looks «forward» to having cert. symptoms at this time of the day. He calls them toxic. Coughs more in the afternoons and retches & vomits a little \bar{c} the coughing at time that he is flushed. Pulse is more regular certainly but still about 104.

10. xii. '19 Had a good sleep last night and coughed only six times. Had a fairly good morning and read the papers. Sir Thos. Horder wired to Lady O. that he was pleased with Gibson's report and said "what are your observations". Sir Wm. wrote some for himself. I examined him for 1st time for nearly a week. Certainly though I got area of incr breath snds about level of lower part rt. u.l. behind and rapid ch. to v. much decr. br. snds & fract. loss of tact. frem. & flatness. A patch of marked friction later about poster axill line at this level. They say (C. & G.) that they never heard the br. snds come so well thr. dull area. Here are W.O.'s observations (just brgt. down from upstairs) "1. The infection is still strongly entrenched, and the irritative cough seems only to be kept in check by the morphia. 2. The heart has done well, but such bouts could only have one ending. 3. Whether or not the fluid had increased is doubtful — the flat note seems to me higher. 4. Very comfortable until about 7 p.m. when the flushed feelings begin and sense of discomfort and great heat without rise of temperature. Sometimes with this a feeling of nausea and retching. W.O." In afternoons he prepares for rise of temp & flushed feeling. Coughed a lot all p.m., little sputum, Temp went up to 100°. Very depressed and said to me "Archie you know that there are about a dozen books which will be in the catalogue but are to go to libraries over here; there is a list of them here" and he pted. to his little bed-table.

11. xii. '19 He has had a better day. He had «aspirin grs \bar{x} » about 4.30 p.m. &, whether on acct. of this or not, had no rise in temp. & none of that toxic feeling. I read Walter Pater and Andrew Lang to him in the evening. He did not cough quite so much. W. pleased that some anaesthesia papers have come *Boston Med & Surg Jour* for 1846[.] Trying to get them for years. He had me write in it "All things come to them who wait but it was a pretty close shave this time!"

12. xii. '19 Early in the a.m. his temp. rose to 102°, but he slept right thr. almost (morphia only once & less than 1/2) till 10 a.m. There is a lot of dulness at rt base & even high up in axilla — t.f. pract gone behind [.] Some frict. & harsh br. snds. above. I want them to go in with a needle again. A few sharp crackles (fine) at 1. base. Again no fever in the afternoon. Is very fond of Pater & we had more of him in the evening. Thinks he has had a better day but "my sensorium is dulled and I am not properly 'orientiert'".

13. xii. '19 Sir Thos. Horder motored down from town in the evening & exam. W.O. and was quite pleased with him. He is a little thinner H. thought, but that is to be expected after the fever — but is less "inflammatory" as he put it to Lady O. He saw W.O. in one of his flushes & when he felt a little nauseated. H. thinks it may be due to the morphia.

14. xii. '19 About 9.45 H. drew off about 1 pint of clearer fluid (no Pfeiffer's on direct smear, but a few polys). W.O. had a comfortable day after it — sleeping quietly and did not cough & bring up so much. I read Pater's Sir Thos. Browne to him in the evening.

15. xii. '19 Had a good night, but T still rises to about 100 at 7-8 in the a.m. Slept for a long time and all thr. noon to 3 p.m. A very quiet day free from cough. Read to him till 11.45. Trying to go to sleep on paregoric alone — to have 1/4 if necessary later on.

16. xii. '19 Is getting less morphia at night 1/4 at 1st & then 1/8 later on. Temp. rose to 102° about 7 or 8 this a.m. Complains of flushings. I think is bringing up a {good deal} «little» more sputum again. No odour to sputum.

17. xii. '19 Still rise of temp. in morning. Complains of some uncomfortable feelings about his heart & flushings. Is down today and v. distressed at death of Dr. Cannan of the Delegates to the Clarendon Press. Has me read Walter Pater to him at night & Matthew Arnold *On Translating Homer*. He sweats a bit each day — no chill. W.B. c's 29,000.

18. xii. '19 No fever early this morning — but is down & certainly looks thinner. Temperature about 11 a.m. «??» went up to 99.8. When he was flushed however about noon it was 98.2. Had a rather hard afternoon as Bob Emmons went up to see him & that always makes him sad to think of Revere etc. I listened to him (back) this a.m. no signs def. but think we should go into rt pleura closer to sp. col. & level of upper 1/3rd of rt. 1.1. — fancy different voice snds here (though dulness everywhere) & incr. br. snds. immed adjac. to this on 1. side — across sp. column. Sir Wm. Hale White called & saw him for a little while. I told Collier & Gibson that I do not think temp due merely to trouble in lung — though sputum shows there is still trouble enough there }} — & that we shld. do exploratory punctures & try to find a pocket of pus.

19. xii. '19 Has had a little more comfortable day & has not had so much of "fuzzy-wuzzy" feeling. I spoke out again & said I thought we must go in. Gibson has asked Horder to come down. Had 1/2 last night & slept much better.

20. xii. '19 Again quite a good night with a 1/2. Morphine does not prevent him bringing up the night's collection after he awakes. Hardly had the flushed feeling all afternoon & I read "Red Dog" & "The King's Ankus" (Jungle Books) and also some of *Marius The Epicurean*. Heard that "Lapland" \bar{c} Bill & Mrs. Chapin on board is to arrive at Plymouth on Sunday night.

21. xii. '19 A good sleep last night. Sir Thos. Horder came down about noon. He went over Sir Wm., Gibson was here too. He found friction over base but air entering more freely. Found higher up in rt. l.l. & closer to sp. col. some bronchophony & oppos. this on lt. side (close to spin. col.) incr br. snds. He said he must go in & with a long needle «& after lunch» under novocaine went in near same place as before viiith (?) interspace got fluid \bar{c} some flakes (about 3-4 ozs) then pushing in farther — upwards & towards sp. col. got a few cc v. turbid brownish pus \bar{c} a v. foul odour. Then went in about 3 in [.] to middle line of this & got bloody fluid — pushing farther got into collapsed lung. «As I held him & he coughed I again got bad odour.» We three talked it over in the bath-room & decided that of course an operat. was neces & it should be done tomorrow. W.O. was shown the pus — he was pleased it was found and said that paroxysms of coughing continued even without rise of Temp. nearly always means trouble in the pleura. “Strange”, he said, “that I did not have chills.” Later he said to me “I wish they had got off ten ounces”. He had a fairly quiet afternoon. After dinner he appeared a little restless & complained a little of his heart. {It} The pulse was 120 & R. 36. & later the night sister found his temp. was 100.4° [.] Late in the afternoon the sputum was tinged \bar{c} blood. He said he did not feel so well. “Well it is good to have gone so long with so little wrong with me”. I said “Oh it will go all right” & he “I feel as Franklin said ‘I’ve gone so far across the river — it is too far to go back and have it all over again’”. “Did you ever read Franklin’s life — it’s a wonderful book.” “It’s a {stormy} «rough» night” thinking of Bill & Mrs. Chapin at Plymouth. “Bill will see a great change in me”. He said to Lady Osler “Think of an operation for empyema at 70” & he smiled. Mrs. Chapin & Bill arrived from London at a little after 10. W.O. was glad to see them.

22. xii. '19 Sir Charles Gordon Watson & the anaesthetist Mr. Cross came down at 11.15. Chiefly Lady O., but we all, arranged his room for operation & it was heated up above 70° F. W.O. looked very bad as he was wheeled in. P. improved under the anaesthetic CHCl_3 & O_2 [.] Gordon Watson exposed 7th rib mesial to scapula & severed about 4” of it then with needle thr. pleura bad odour was obtained. Pleura opened «&» about 10-12 oz bl. stained stinking fluid came out. Cavity wing shaped [see Fig. 1] & extended towards mid line (sp column) up dorsum & towards axilla — no soft spot found in lung. Rubber ties [with] gauze wick put in & also empyema tube [see Fig. 1]. Mr. Parker assisted & I sponged & handed instruments too[.] Dr. Gibson there also holding arm & Dr. Collier looking on Sisters Edwards & Schott. Over just after 1 p.m. He came rnd. slowly & was hardly sick at all & soon began to take whiskey & water. T fell to subnormal. Pulse rapid 120 & small. I suggested rectal salines.

23. xii. '19 Slept quite well «1/4 morph»[.] Dressed by Mr. P. at 11 a.m. quite a lot of oozing — big tube came out — not reinserted. A pretty quiet afternoon T still subnormal & P. down to 108 & of better volume. Had “fuzzy” attack 6 p.m. & T. rose to normal — depressed him & he felt pocket had not been found. I reassured him that we got pocket. Scotch Sister Miss «MacLaws» from Perth v. good.

24. xii. '19 Really had quiet night \bar{c} a 1/4. A dressing down below level of incision an ounce (say) stinking fluid released. Much disturbed by dressing & for some time afterwards seemed shocked. Pulse at 6 p.m. 96 & stronger[.] Glad he is to have 1/2 pint saline *per rectum* q.4.h. Has not been getting enough fluids. As I sat beside him he shifted the clothes \bar{c} his hands & I asked “Do you want to put them inside” & he said “no, I want to go out O-U-T out”. Not a marked flushed feeling in evening, only a little[.]

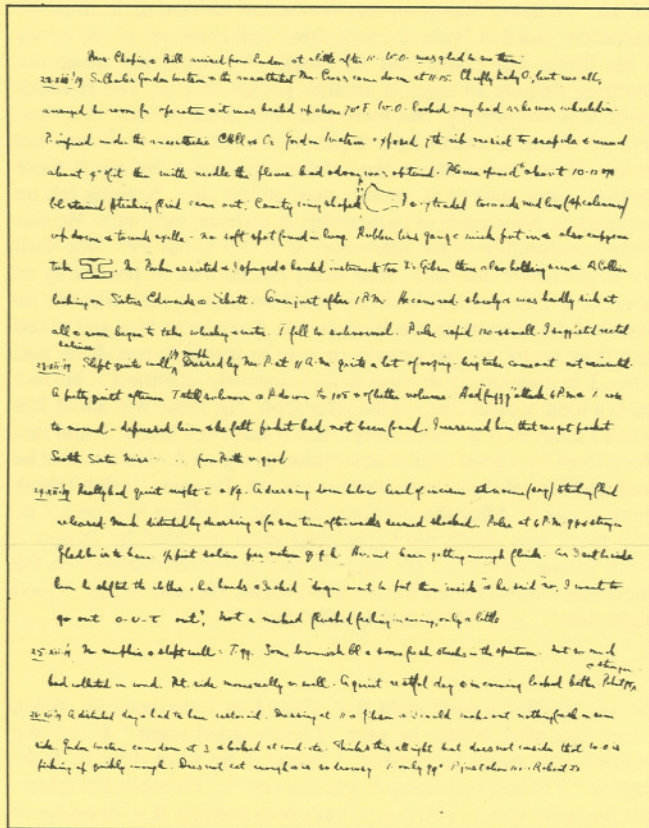


Fig. 1: Photograph of a page from the Malloch diary. The diagrams referred to in the text appear in the entry of 22. xii. '19.

25. xii. '19 No morphia & slept well. T. 99. Some brownish bl. & some fresh streaks in the sputum. Not so much had collected in wnd. Rt. side moves really v. well. A quiet restful day & in evening looked better. P about 98 «& stronger»[.]

26. xii. '19 A disturbed day & had to have castor oil. Dressing at 11 & Gibson & I could make out nothing fresh on same side. Gordon Watson came down at 3 & looked at wnd. etc. Thinks this all right but does not consider that W.O.[.] is picking up quickly enough. Does not eat enough & is so drowsy. T. only 99 P just above 100 & R about 28[;] he was wandering a bit tonight.

27. xii. '19 Got Gibson to «do» a w.b.c. count. It is 39,000. Must be pocket somewhere. No pneumonia on oppos. side. Can make out so little on same side of wind. Am a bit suspicious of rt. lower axilla & yet it is over liver. Cannot feel convinced that all is right with the empyema cavity & every day ask about all the corners. Urine is o.k. — no albumen G. says. Ate better, not wandering. Got him raw beef juice. Had a little irritating cough all afternoon. Said to me “I am not too far gone to know that the ‘successful operation’ has not cleared up everything. There must be some pus in a pocket somewhere — perhaps in the lung.” Slept last night again *sans* morphia.

28. xii. '19 Sister Schott reports that he had the best night since the operation. Gordon Watson came down and explored all the cavity \bar{c} his finger but could find no block. We could not make out anything definite to suggest another pocket of pus. The rt lower axilla was woodening, but there had been dulness there & extensive pl. friction weeks ago. I percussed out liver & it was not down. There was quite marked abdom. pulsation but much more beneath upper part of rt. sectors than on left side. Nothing felt on palpitation. No sounds of pericarditis & no heart murmurs. He was more comfortable in the afternoon & T still about 99°. We shall try to get better drainage. Had many discussions of possibility of pockets & I do not feel as if we could be {very} sure whether he ever had an abscess in the lung or not. I spoke to him and asked him if he really was so drowsy or was he trying to rest & he said "No, I'm unnaturally drowsy & feel curiously orientiert". He had quite a long natural sleep in the afternoon. His pulse was about 108 when I counted it & more irreg. than it had been lately. I said that there must be a good deal of absorption going on & said it would be such bad luck if there were another pocket. He said, "I don't think there is one." After the evening dressing & rolling him on his rt. side there was much discharge (had been irrigated by Parker \bar{c} weak iodine solution). He said "I feel more comfortable in the chest and I think I shall have a good night. He said to me "Good night dear". — ["I've had a bully day".

29. xii. '19 Had a good night & P. about 6 or 7 am [was] 98. When I saw him after break. he said "I had a good night" & that the outlook was more favourable. I asked if he were drowsy & he replied "I'm just beginning to get drowsy"[.] He looked brighter. But his pulse was 118 then & of very poor volume & v. irregular in volume. I could not understand this. Horder came at 11.15 & I met him. He exam. Sir Wm. (except in front) & said "left side quite clear" & "nothing to be made out on rt except air is entering quite well into upper part of rt. l.l. behind." The discharge was yellowish rather than brown this a.m. \bar{c} novocain Parker cut skin & muscles, not pleura at rt l's down from center of wnd. for 2-3 inches & washed out \bar{c} H₂O₂ — in order to get better drainage. Then washed out \bar{c} sterile water or saline. T was about 99.6° last night & R. this morning up to 32. Horder thought it a very bad pulse. On coming down to lunch about 3/4 hr after dressing Lady O. said that Sir Wm. was feeling his heart & thought it was the novocain as on one occas. before. Then Sister Edwards came down & asked Horder to go up. He told me later that W.O. had said a little time before that he thought he "had made a mistake about the bed-pan["]". Then he vomited & coughed. When I got up he was almost pulseless blanched (or so for him \bar{c} with his dark complex) restless & coughing & difficult rsp. He was given strychn. 1/30 & then morph 1/2. {Horder} Dressings cov. \bar{c} blood. Horder took off dressings, quite a handful of clots came out of pleura. Cld see no bldg. plugged. During this W.O. said to me "Hold up my head". Parker came a little later cld see nothing more. Intravenous given by Gibson & Parker — 2 pints of saline. P. down to 124 & then to 120 & better volume. No more coughing. but in hr. as hard as ever. Dressing not soaked[.] Unconscious — rectal coffee & brandy. P. not felt & died about 4.30 — with no agonal convulsion[.] Lady Osler, Bill, Mrs Chapin & I on rt side of bed & Sir Thos. Horder on other. Miss Edwards & Miss McLaws in room & Dr. Gibson at doorway. *Requiescat in pace.*

30. xii. '19 At 2.30 p.m. Dr. Gibson & "Edwin" came to do the autopsy. I took notes as Gibson dictated them. It was over about 4 p.m. [[see report]]

31. xii. '19 The coffin remained in W.O.'s room with Browne's *Religio Medici* (ed. 1862) upon it all day. Just before midnight Lady O. & I went in and stood. "To think that these two dears have gone and «have» left this big lump behind" Lady Osler said.

I. i. '20 Col Armour, "Uncle Frank & Aunt Belle", Mrs. Emmons & [.] Sister Badeock (Ewelme) and Dr. Ed. Jenner Wood were here for lunch & some of us sat at the smaller table in the dining-room. I could hear Lady O. carrying on bravely. The coffin was carried out about 3.5[0] p.m. & put in the motor hearse. Lady Osler, Mrs. Chapin[,] «Marion Emmons &» Bill & I (beside Benning) followed it in the motor to Chr. Ch. and the Max Mullers, the Ramsay Wrights[,] Mr. & Mrs Emmons & Miss Smart met us at the door. As the sentences were being said Lady O. and Bill then Mrs. Chapin[,] Marion & I followed the coffin up the Church. The Cathedral was filled to overflowing. «The servants & the other mourners sat behind us.» The burial service was read and we sang "Oh God our Help in Ages Past" and Abelard's hymn "O quanta qualia" (which W.O. & Revere liked so much) in Latin. We remained whilst Mendelssohn's Funeral March was played and then the procession left the Cathedral in the following order. University Marshal, Choir, Chaplains, Canons, the Dean, The Mourners[,] The Vice Chancellor[,] Proctors, The Regius Professor of Physic (Camb)[,] Representatives of Learned Societies and Medical Institutions and Members of the University. The coffin remained in the Lady Chapel over night[.] Lady O. went down \bar{c} Bill in the evening and she said she could not imagine a more beautiful resting place, near the remains of the Saxon shrine of St. Frydeswyde and close to where the Norman gives place to Early Eng. Architecture & with the tomb of Burton.

2. i. '20 At 7.30 a.m. Bill & I were at Tom Gate and I got into the motor hearse and started for London with the stars shining brightly overhead. It was an unforgettable clear cold morning; we went through Headington, Thame, Aylesbury, «Stone»[,] Tring and Berkhamstead to Kendon & Golders Green. There was a beautiful sunrise over the Chiltern Hills. We arrived a minute or so after ten o'clock. At 10.30 the «simple» Committal Service was read by The Dean. Lady O., Mrs Chapin, Marion Emmons & Bill had come up by train & Sister Edwards was there too & Mr. Frank Osler who had walked all the way from his lodgings. Bill alone remained in London; we had lunch at Paddington & came down on the 1.30. Bill came down with the ashes in a casket & this } in the evening & this remained in the library for a time before being taken down to the safe.

APPENDIX

Listed here are explanations of abbreviated words and phrases as well as brief notes on people appearing in the narrative.

Allbutt, Sir T. Clifford, Regius Professor of Medicine, Cambridge, and friend of W.O.

Armour, Col. Donald J., surgeon and colleague of W.O. in the administration of Canadian hospitals in England.

Aunt Belle, Mrs. Frank (Isobel) Osler.

Badeock, Sister, a nurse from Ewelme, the alms-house near Oxford of which Osler was master.

Bill, W.W. Francis.

bl., blood.

bldg., bleeding.

br., breath.

c̄, with

C., Dr. Collier.

Cannan, Dr., Charles, delegate to the Oxford University Press, as was W.O.

Chapin, Mrs. Harry T., sister of Lady Osler.

Chr. Ch., Christ Church Cathedral.

Collier, Dr. William, a colleague of W.O. at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Cross (Sol?), surgeon and anaesthetist.

decr., decreasing, decreased.

Edwards, Sister, a nurse.

Edwin, autopsy assistant(?).

Emmons, Bob., friend of Revere Osler.

Emmons, Marian (Mrs. R.S. Humphrey), sister of Bob Emmons.

fract., fractional.

friect., friction.

G., Dr. Gibson.

Gibson, Dr. Alexander George, pathologist at Radcliffe Infirmary.

grs., grains, a pharmaceutical measure.

h, heart.

H., Sir Thomas Horder.

Hale-White, Sir William, physician & colleague of W.O.

Horder, Sir Thomas, F.R.C.P., a physician from London and long-standing friend of W.O.

incr., increasing, increased.

Jenner Wood, Dr. Edward, see Wood, Dr. Edward Jenner.

l.l., lower lobe.

Lady O., Lady Grace Revere Osler.

MacLaws, Sister, a nurse.

morph., morphia.

mucopurul., mucopurulent.

Mullers, the Max, neighbours and friends of the Oslers.

1/8, 1/4, 1/2, grains, pharmaceutical units used here to measure morphia.

Osler, Frank, Francis Osler, an older brother of W.O.

p., pulse.

P., Mr. Parker.

Parker, Mr., an Oxford surgeon?

pl., plural.

Pollard, A.W., honorary secretary of the Bibliographical Society.

polys., polymorphonuclear cells.

poster. axill., posterior axilla.

q. 4 h., quaque quarta hora; every four hours.

R., respiration.

Revere, Revere Osler, W.O.'s son killed in action in Flanders, 1917.

rsp., respiration.

Schott, Sister, a nurse.

Smart, Miss E.F., W.O.'s secretary.

snds., sounds.

sp. col., spinal column.

strych., strychnine.

T., temperature.

t. f., tactile fremitus.

tact., tactile.

tact. frem., tactile fremitus.

u. l., upper lobe.

Uncle Frank, see Osler, Frank.

W., Sir William Osler.

Watson, Sir Charles Gordon, F.R.C.S.

w. b. c., white blood cells.

White, Sir William Hale, see Hale-White, Sir William.

wnd., wound.

Wood, Dr. Edward Jenner, American physician in London and close friend of W.O.

Wright, Ramsay, professor of biology at Toronto School of Medicine and friend of W.O.

OSLER AND SHERRINGTON

The April 1984 issue of the *Trent Collection Report* reproduces an article by Sir Charles Sherrington. Entitled "Osler at Oxford," it was originally published in the *North Carolina Medical Journal*, 1949, 10:377-379, as part of a series of Oslerian recollections to mark the centenary of Osler's birth.

In Sherrington's article, there is the following reference to an item which concerns the Osler Library. "There is at McGill in the Osler Library a small sixteenth century herbal full of woodcuts which I certainly thought a possession of my own. Osler borrowed it, and presently said, 'Thank you: a very good little copy'."

The herbal to which Sherrington referred is indeed in the Osler Library (*B.O.* 5100) and its description in the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* contains the following statement, "Given to me by my colleague Sherrington. [W.O.]" However, a pencilled note by W.W. Francis on the flyleaf of *B.O.* 5100 suggests that Sherrington's story was probably true. He had lent it to Osler but, finding that Osler had accepted it as a gift, graciously inscribed it as such. So, in the end, the note in the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* "Given to me by my colleague Sherrington" was correct.

It should be added that there was another more valuable book which Sherrington lent to Osler and Osler accepted as a gift. This was *B.O.* 931 (Descartes 1662) which W.W. Francis described as the first modern textbook on physiology, a book which would have greatly interested Sherrington. Francis relates a pleasant story about this volume in his "Showman's Patter," a record of Franciscan reminiscences dictated between 1950 and 1957. He tells that, when he was cataloguing the library at Oxford, Sherrington picked this book off the shelf and brought it to him "with a twinkle in his eye," stating that he had *lent* it to W.O. in 1914. It was a rare book and Sherrington had never succeeded in getting another copy. Francis wanted to restore it to Sherrington but he would not accept it, even for his lifetime. So *B.O.* 931, like *B.O.* 5100, became officially Sherrington's gift to Osler.

NOTE: In Wilburt C. Davison, "Osler's Influence," *Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleagues*, 1950, 25:161-173, there are references to these two transfers of ownership from Sherrington to Osler.

E.H.B.

ANNE WILKINSON 1910-1961

Anne Wilkinson was the subject of an article in a previous *Osler Library Newsletter* (no. 40 - June 1982). In the introductory paragraph, she was identified as the author of "that literary gem" *Lions in the way: a discursive history of the Oslers*,¹ a book which unfortunately has been out of print for many years. Although this is what makes her of special interest to Oslerians, it is her distinguished career as a poet which is of more general interest.² It is principally as a poet that she is honoured by an account of her life and work presented this fall on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation — Radio's literary program "Anthology." Through the weaving of Anne Wilkinson's poetry and prose, and interviews with fellow poets and with her son, Alan Wilkinson, Helene Fallen, a freelance writer and broadcaster, brings Anne Wilkinson back to our midst.

1. Anne Wilkinson, *Lions in the way: a discursive history of the Oslers*. (Toronto: Macmillan, 1956)

2. Anne Wilkinson, *The collected poems of Anne Wilkinson and a prose memoir*. Edited, with an introduction, by A.J.M. Smith (Toronto: Macmillan, 1968)

MARILYN FRANSISZYN

The Editorial Committee of the *Newsletter* announces with regret the transfer of Miss Marilyn Fransiszyn, Associate Librarian, from the Osler Library to the Reference Department of McGill's McLennan Library, the University's library devoted to the Humanities and Social Sciences. She will be greatly missed at the Osler, where she has served as our Reference and Manuscript Librarian. We wish her well and at least can take some satisfaction from the fact that she is not leaving McGill University.

WILLIE: A DREAM

A dramatic monologue portraying Sir William Osler

References have been made in previous *Newsletters* (no. 43, June 1983 and no. 46, June 1984) to this dramatic monologue, written and interpreted by Professor Joseph Lella, Chairman of the Department of Humanities and Social Studies in Medicine at McGill University. Readers of the *Newsletter* will be interested to know that this play, performed by Professor Lella several times at McGill, has proved very popular and he has now been invited to present it this fall at meetings in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania and in Kingston and London, Ontario. Two of these presentations are sponsored by the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine.

This monologue offers an innovative socio-historical interpretation of Osler. Those who wish further information should communicate directly with Professor Lella at 3655 Drummond Street, Montreal, H3G 1Y6.

ALFRED WHITE FRANKLIN

1905-1984

Through the kindness of Mr. Philip M.M. Franklin, we have received the sad news of the death on September 20th last of his father, Alfred White Franklin. Dr. Franklin, a co-founder with W.R. Bett of the Osler Club of London, was a friend of the Osler Library from its very beginnings. When the Osler Library celebrated its 50th anniversary in May 1979, he personally brought greetings from the Osler Club of London (*Osler Library Newsletter* no. 32). In 1983 he contributed to our *Newsletter* (no. 44) the story of the Osler plaque on "The Open Arms" and, just before his death, he was planning another article for the *Osler Library Newsletter*. Alfred White Franklin will be greatly missed by a host of Oslerians and many, many others.

FRIENDS OF THE OSLER LIBRARY

During the 1983-84 fund-raising year of the Friends of the Osler Library, 300 Friends contributed \$13,200 to the Library. Donors have been acknowledged individually in the February and June 1984 *Newsletters*. Friends who have contributed since June will be noted in the February 1985 *Newsletter*. The continuing generosity of the Friends is a source of great help and we are grateful to them all for their support.

During the past year contributions went for a variety of special projects in addition to the printing and mailing of the *Newsletter*.

Characteristic of the use made of the donations is the purchase of three facsimiles of medical works, one a medieval manuscript, the other a work of Andreas Vesalius in German, and the last a work in German by W.S. Smellie. The most spectacular from a visual point of view is the facsimile of the Codex Bruxellensis, a French-language herbal from the fifteenth century. This has been reproduced in colour as both the text and illustrations are of great interest to a wide variety of scholars. The other two facsimiles are translations into German of works by Andreas Vesalius and W.S. Smellie, which provide evidence of the widespread nature of their contributions to anatomy. Their influence extended far beyond their immediate countries. All of these acquisitions contribute to the research potential of the Library and we are grateful to the Friends for making their purchase possible.

With this issue of the *Newsletter* we launch our appeal to the Friends of the Osler Library for the 1984-85 academic year. Friends and readers who wish to contribute are asked to fill in the enclosed form and return it with their cheque to the appropriate address listed thereon.

Editorial Committee for the *Newsletter*: Edward H. Bensley, Editor; Philip Teigen, Osler Librarian; Lorraine Hicks, Editorial and Production Assistant.

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