Edward Boyle
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A Preliminary Account of the Proposal

that the

HAMILTON MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Wentworth County Branch

of the

Ontario Medical Association

Should take a leading part in the foundation

of an

OSLER MEMORIAL

In the course of his remarks at the dinner on the Annual Clinical Day, Dr. Leonard G. Rowntree presented the following:

To our profession, Osler has given much, improved our system of training, enlarged our opportunities for acquiring clinical experience, broadened our outlook on Medicine and contributed to our idealism. As physicians, our debt is large. For Canadian Medicine and Canadian manhood he has won the approval of the entire world. Because of his influence the Canadian medical profession enjoys added prestige everywhere. As Canadians our debt is large.

His absorbing passion was the development of young men. Is it within our power to continue this work? Shall we receive from Osler's hands the torch he carried so successfully for half a century, and create in his name a memorial fund for the continuation of his work, to make possible greater opportunities for young physicians of unusual promise? It is fitting that such a fund be started in Canada. I leave this idea with you, hoping that here in Wentworth County, so long the home of the Osler family, and in Hamilton, where Osler first began the practice of Medicine, this little seed may find fertile soil in which to grow and bring forth fruit.

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A Newspaper Clipping

The Hamilton Medical Society, taking the initiative in a long-discussed proposal to establish a permanent Memorial to the late Sir William Osler, will shortly launch a project of magnitude and which will fittingly serve as a monument to the lasting memory of the dean of medicine, whose life work and that which still remains in his literary works, wrought incalculable good in the profession on two continents, and especially in the ranks of Canadian medicine.

The Hamilton Medical Society plans to honor in several ways the brilliant leader, who served so largely at McGill, Philadelphia, Baltimore and later as Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University.

It is proposed to erect a memorial in the town of Dundas, where Sir William spent his childhood days, after his family moved from his birthplace at Bond Head.

The memorial in Dundas will first occupy the attention of the Society, and on its completion or its assurance, further plans providing for a yearly address, by a celebrated medical man, to the Society, in annual commemoration will be culminated. Following this, a further proposal is the establishment of a memorial fellowship.

At the present time the whole scheme is in its infancy, but there is no doubt of its success. The local Society feels that no better means of preserving the memory of one of Canada's greatest sons could be put in operation, and an eventuality is visualized in the adoption of the plans by the combined Medical Societies of the continent, which will provide for many more scholarships and will make the Osler Memorial international. From the members of various medical organizations, the local body has received assurance of co-operation.

"Not that we all live up to the highest ideals, far from it—we are only men. But we have ideals, which mean much, and they are realizable, which means more."

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The Society's Action

As a result of the interest aroused after the presentation of this proposal by Dr. Rowntree, and much discussion by various members of the Society, the Executive Committee appointed a special committee (three officers and seven past presidents), with power to add to their number, for the purpose of dealing with this proposal. At the request of this Committee, the President called a Special Meeting of the Society, and at this meeting the following resolution, indicating the powers and scope of the Committee, after being duly moved and seconded, was carried unanimously:—

"That all the members now present be added to those already appointed to form the General Committee, with power to add to their number, by adding members of the Society, representative members of the profession from other communities, and such others as may seem desirable, and be it further stated that this Society hereby authorizes this Committee to proceed with its complete organization and with the development of plans which seem advisable, provided that the funds needed by the Committee are raised independently of this Society's annual fees. The Committee may undertake necessary measures to obtain such funds, and to bring the complete programme outlining its prospective plans to the attention of all who should be interested, and later through its organization, to arrange for the administration of these plans."

"Of all the altruistic instincts veneration is not the most highly developed at the present day, but I hold strongly with the statement that it is the sign of a dry age when the great men of the past are held in light esteem."

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Immediately after this Special Meeting, the enlarged Committee, now called the General Committee, met and elected their officers: A Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, and Convenors and Secretaries of three committees; (1) Plans or Programme, (2) Finance, (3) Publicity or Information. These, with the President and Secretary of the Medical Society, were to be the members of an Executive Committee. This Executive Committee was authorized to act as a "Striking Committee," for the purpose of completing the personnel of the sub-committees and making such additions as they considered advisable. All of these Committees were given authority to proceed with their respective duties.

It is the wish of the officers of these committees, that all members of the Society actively co-operate with them in this important undertaking. Each committee will be called together in the very near future and should proceed with its special organization and definitely recognize its functions and activities.

They will also invite others, not members of this Society, to act in an advisory capacity, or as Corresponding Members. In various ways, they are sure to be of the greatest assistance in bringing to fruition a programme which will continually visualize Osler's life and work in the interests of humanity.

"The men I speak of (bibliomaniacs) keep alive in us an interest in the great men of the past, and not alone in their works, which they cherish, but in their lives, which they emulate. They would remind us continually that in the records of no other profession is there to be found so large a number of men who have combined intellectual pre-eminence with nobility of character."

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