YALE UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

DR. HARVEY CUSHING

Ans May 26/39

31 March 1939.

Dear Casey:

How in the world did you ever know that I had such things as birthdays and have kept such track of them that you knew the day - perhaps the hour - and the exact number? As I have just been stating in a note on the occasion, I got along many years without birthdays because Dr. Welch had the same birthday and mine consequently were often overlooked. You have had a good many more of them than I have had - almost as many as Popsy himself; and if I could only look forward to another decade or so of his and your vigour, I would be willing to do so even though perforce I have no such length of tether as you take advantage of and am obliged to sit close at home in this obscure corner of New England.

You say that there is snow on the winter hills around Palermo at which your Sicilian contemporary expostulates. You can perhaps imagine what it is like here toward the end of March, with patches of snow still on the ground and a cold wind which makes it almost too uncomfortable even to go out and see what the crocuses may be doing and what birds have ventured to put in an appearance. You would identify them by even hearing their chirp, but I had to call on our new librarian, Knollenberg, who is something of an ornithologist to identify some finches that had suddenly put in an appearance a day or two ago.

Thanks much for your letter. And please don't forget the three glasses of Marsala which you promise to quaff on the 8th.

With warm regards to you both, I am

Sincerely yours

Harvey Cushing

P.S. I hope your translation of the work of Frederick II of which you wrote to me from Tripoli will soon be published.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
c/o American Express Company,
Rome, Italy.

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PATHOLOGIST

Ans. May 17.30
Yes; glad to go: can I also hear your R.C.S. lecture?
When call I call on you?

May 7, 1930.

Dear Casey Wood:

Thanks for your informing and entertaining letter from Rome. I wonder if you ever ran across a (doctor) man there named Axel Munthe, he of Anacapri. Everyone here has been reading his amazing autobiography with consuming interest.

I never know where I am going to find you - whether in California or in the Orient - but now that I learn you are to be in London with your headquarters in the British Museum, not to speak of your hindquarters, I shall endeavor to run you down for I, too, shall be in London in July. I am going to give an address, which I am now agonizing over, on the 9th at the College of Surgeons. And then on the 12th there is a plan to go down to Ewelme and dedicate a tablet there to William Osler. It would give me great joy if we could, perhaps, make the trip together.

I like to think that I may have a chance to see you and perhaps interrupt your work on the History of Vertebrate Zoology

Always sincerely yours,

Harvey Cushing

Dr. Casey Wood
The Author's Club
2 White Hall Court
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June 2, 1930.

Dear Casey Wood:

Thanks for your first and second post letters of May 18th. I shall give you a personal invitation to hear the R.C.S. lecture; but please don't expect much because I have been so snarled up the past weeks with a wedding in my family that I haven't had any consecutive time to put my mind on the subject. I shall be glad to have you there to make at least an audience of one, but I am talking on the obscure topic of neurohypophysial mechanisms, or at least that is my present idea unless I abandon it at the last moment and do something more popular. I have reserved accommodations at Garland's Hotel where I eat my 'am and eggs and Brussels sprouts in moderate quiet.

This man, Axel Munthe, must be a strange bird, but he certainly can write. I find that he is an intimate friend of Francis Brett Young, the novelist, to whom I wrote commending his novel "My Brother Jonathan" (which incidentally I may commend to you), and Young wrote me back from Anacapri where he appears to spend the winters with Munthe. Young confessed in his kind reply to me that the medical episodes in his novel were some of them those of his personal experience before he took to novel-writing.

Always yours,

Harvey Cushing

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
The Authors' Club,
London, S.W.1, England.