



The Oslerian

A Message from the President Reflections on Medicine and Our Mission

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

“The American Osler Society has been founded for the purpose of bringing together members of the medical and allied professions who are, by their common inspiration, dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness, and the ethical example of William Osler (1949-1919). This for the benefit of succeeding generations.”

Thus reads the Mission Statement of the American Osler Society.

My thoughts about our profession, our society, and the present state of medicine have been incubating since May 25, 2000, when I read Richard Horton’s review of Michael Bliss’s *William Osler: A Life in Medicine*. Dr. Horton entitled his review, “An Autopsy of Dr. Osler.”

Horton, a former research fellow in cardiovascular pharmacology and an FRCP who is now editor of *The Lancet*, opines:

“Bliss gives a well-paced and intellectually fascinating account of Osler’s life. . . . But

even for Bliss, an experienced biographer, the exaggerations that have grown around Osler’s life prove hard to strip away.

“To celebrate the life of Osler is, for some, to recall a different and better time for medicine. . . . Here lies an obvious danger. There is much in Osler’s life to study with modern advantage. His achievements are a remarkable testament to professional ideals that deserve discussion and reinterpretation among every new generation of medical practitioners. But to sustain the Osler myth, as doctors and medical historians have done, serves only to promote a version of medicine that is disengaged from contemporary clinical inquiry and the difficult political discussions that affect the future of health care. Those inquiries and debates need fresh thinking, not curatorial reverence.”

I am not a passive reader and this call to mount the barricades of political activism ruffled me. I was reminded of the Los Angeles County Medical Society which dismantled and largely sold off their superb medical library (some parts were given to UCLA and The Huntington) in order to have

money for socioeconomic projects. What they were or what has been accomplished has never been made clear, and a significant portion of that library has simply disappeared.

Horton mistakenly speaks of Walt Whitman’s “hero-worshipper,” Dr. Maurice Bucke as Maurice Burke—where else could I find him in error?

I have kept my eye on Dr. Horton ever since and have been disappointed to find that he writes often and well: #1. Letter from Durbin in the *Times Literary Supplement* of August 4, 2000, about the AIDS Conference in South Africa.

#2. A review of John F. Murray’s *Intensive Care: A Doctor’s Journal* in the *New York Review of Books*, August 10, 2000.

#3. A review of Cleavage, Nora Jacobson’s *Technology, controversy, and the ironies of the man-made breast* in the *Times Literary Supplement* of July 7, 2000.

#4. A review of *Mosquito: A Natural History of Our Most Persistent and Deadly Foe*, by Andrew Spielman and Michael D. Antonio, in *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001.

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John Carson

President's Message (Continued)

I am so sorry for anyone who has gone through medical training without adding a veritable corps of heroes. IN recent months there was a moving tribute to Robert Loeb in *Pharos*. Mark Silverman has paid homage to James Paullin and to Paul Wood. Bill Roberts has written about Eugene Stead and Willis Hurst, and about a whole pantheon of cardiology grates. Charles Bryan's story of Theodore Brevard Hayne, the last martyr of yellow fever, is recounted in *A Most Satisfactory Man*. Richard Rapport has given us "Character is Fate," again in *Pharos*, as a preview of his forthcoming biography of Paul Beeson. This is obviously a "don't miss it" book. Bill Hollingsworth has evoked the era of Soma Weiss, Stead, and Beeson in *Taking Care*. Herbert Black's *Doctor & Teacher, Hospital Chief*, the story of Samuel Proger (who was James Paullin's protégé) and the New

England Medical Center, cannot be read without pride in our profession, and without recalling Osler's dictum: "In the continual remembrance of a glorious past individuals and nations find their noblest inspirations." I will make every effort to invite Richard Horton to a meeting of the American Osler Society.

And what is the state of American medicine?

It is not a happy picture.

I see academic medical centers being swamped with clinical work to stay afloat, making it difficult for faculty to carry out their research and teaching functions.

I see Grand Rounds, in my hospital and in academic medical centers, to be a shadow of what they once were, attended more by retired physicians than by younger practicing doctors. I see an outstanding internist, who is a former chief resident at a leading medical institution on the West Coast, who has never been to Grand Rounds during

Gilman, founding president of the Johns Hopkins University and to whom Osler dedicated the 10 years he has been out of training.

I see physicians in the 40 to 50 year age range who are so overworked and discouraged that they either leave California to find a place that has less managed care penetration, or they stay home and can hardly wait to retire. I recall that 10 to 15 years ago, a well trained physician told me that he could not afford the time necessary to take a history, for he would not be paid to do so. Fortunately he left clinical medicine entirely.

Young physicians starting out in practice—and private medical school tuition and costs these days run between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per year—do not come to California. They cannot afford to do so unless they go into an HMO. My prediction: there is—in California—already a shortage of physicians and within two years it will

become apparent even to state and local governments.

In 1892, Daniel Coit Aequanimitas, warned young men of the dangers of losing:

- The elements of repose
- The quiet pursuit of knowledge
- The friendship of books
- The pleasures of conversation
- The advantages of solitude.

Does this observation make you want to laugh or cry?

In my medical lifetime I have had each of those advantages and I continue to practice because I enjoy it and cherish for my younger colleagues the enjoyment of their profession, its past and its future. But are we training students in "the higher walks of internal medicine" to have them join an organization which sees patients every 15 minutes and practices "nickel in the slot medicine?"

John C. Carson, M.D.

Minutes, Board of Governors, 2001 Annual Meeting

The Board of Governors of the American Osler Society met Citadel Conference Room North, the Embassy Suites, Charleston, South Carolina, on 17 April 2001, at 7 p.m. Present were Doctors Roland, Bliss, Bryan, Canale, Carson, Dymont, Kahn, Leon, Longo, Neilon, Silverman, Stone, West, and (by invitation) Lella. Dr. Silverman presided.

1. A moment of silence was observed for remembrance of Dr. Stanley Jackson, who died during the previous

Year. Dr. Silverman asked for new agenda items, of which there were none. Minutes of the 2000 meeting were approved as written and published in *The Oslerian*.

2. Secretary-Treasurer's report: Dr. Bryan reported that the Society now has 74 Active members, 2 Active non-resident members, 5 Honorary members, 2 Student members, and 4 Inactive members. Dr. Bryan presented the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Financial statements were reviewed in great detail. Dr. Bryan

Suggested that an Investment Oversight Committee be created to review the allocation of the Society's investments, which are presently held with Fidelity Securities of Boston, Massachusetts. After considerable discussion it was elected to place this issue under the supervision of the Audit Committee, to be renamed the Financial Committee. A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to increase dues from \$100 to \$150 per annum for Active and Associate members.

3. New prices for items sold by

the Society (latchkeys, neckties, and posters) were discussed and the recommendations made by Dr. Bryan were approved.

4. Dr. Bryan reviewed three options for review of financial records by an accounting firm, which were (in ascending order of sophistication and cost to the Society) reconciliation, review, and audit. It was suggested that the Society utilize "review" rather than formal "audit" at least for the time being. Dr. Bryan indicated that he would make all receipts and

Minutes, Board of Governors (continued)

Disbursements available for proper review.

5. *William B. Bean Student Research Award*: Recipients for the 2001 award were announced as Christopher J. Pittinger of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Christin McKenna of UMDNJ-NJMS (New Jersey Medical School).

6. *John P. McGovern Lectureship Committee*: Dee Canale reported that Kenneth M. Ludmerer was the recipient of this year's lectureship.

7. *Nominating Committee*: Dr. Bryan announced the committee recommends Marvin Stone for Second Vice President and Joseph Lella, Jacalyn Duffin, and William Sodeiman for the Board of Governors.

8. *Auditing Committee*: Paul Dymont reported that the committee had reviewed the statements provided by Dr. Bryan and found no irregularities.

9. *Program Committee*: Dr. Carson reported on the deliberations and results of this year's committee.

10. *Membership Committee*: Dr. Longo presented his findings to the Membership Committee, and proposed memberships were discussed at length. It was elected to delay consideration of Dr. Burke Cunha's application (because this year's meeting would be the first that he has attended). Doctors Bruce Innes and Conrad Fulkerson were elected to Active membership. Doctors Lloyd Kitchens, Robert Mennel, and Clyde Partin were advanced from Associate Membership to Active Membership. Michael W. Cater was elected to Associate Membership.

11. *Committee appointments*: Dr. Silverman recommended the following persons for

committees for 2001-2002: *Finance Committee* (formerly, *Auditing Committee*): Paul G. Dymont (chair), Perry Hookman, Claus A. Pierach; *Nominating Committee*: Richard J. Kahn (chair), Dee J. Canale, Mark D. Silverman; *William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee*: Philip W. Leon (chair), Lynn C. Epstein, Charles S. Bryan; *John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee*: Gary B. Ferngren (chair), T. Jock Murray, Michael Bliss, John B. West, John P. McGovern (ex-officio); *Program Committee for 2002*: Lawrence D. Longo (chair), Cynthia Pitcock, Francis Neelon, Charles S. Bryan; *Membership Committee*:

Marvin J. Stone (chair), Jacalyn Duffin, William McMillan.

12. *Web site*: The American Osler Society Web site was discussed in detail. Dr. Bryan raised the issue that the expenditure for the Web site is now about \$1200 per year. Enthusiasm was expressed for further development of the site.

13. *Creation of a new committee*: A proposal was received by Fax just prior to the meeting from Dr. William Feindel for another book to be developed by the Osler Library. A proposal had previously been submitted by Dr. Jock Murray for subvention of a book of quotations by Dr. Bryan based on Osler's recommended reading list for medical students. It was pointed out that request for subventions are increasing and that there is currently no procedure for review of proposals other than general discussion by the Board. It was elected to defer consideration of both proposals, pending development of guidelines for such subventions. Dr. Bryan

suggested that the Society should support the actual printing costs of publication rather than contribute to publication in the form of unrestricted grants. Dr. Silverman recommended that a *Publications Committee* be created. Frank Neelon and Clark Sawin were appointed to be co-chairs of this new committee, to which additional persons could also be appointed.

14. *Transactions of the annual meeting*. Dr. Neelon reported considerations, developed with Dr. Sawin (who was unable to attend the meeting), for disseminating the transactions of the annual meeting. There were three specific recommendations: obtain abstracts from all submissions; begin to collect previous abstracts, manuscripts, and papers; and publish papers obtained from the meeting in a forum that would make the work widely available. There was considerable discussion. Alternatives proposed included publication of papers in electronic form; in an inexpensive (hard-copy) journal-type format; or as progress toward a *Persisting Osler IV*. The issue was left unresolved but, as noted above, a Publications Committee was formed to address this and other issues in the future.

15. *Persisting Osler III*. Dr. Roland reported on the progress of this volume.

16. *Future meetings*: Dr. Bryan reported that the next annual meeting will be in Kansas City, Kansas, 23-25 April 2002, with Dr. Robert Martensen in charge of local arrangements. This meeting will be held in tandem with

the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine. Progress is being made toward a meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2003 in collaboration with the Osler Club of London and with the Japanese Osler Society. The date for the 2003 meeting has not yet been established. Board members were encouraged to make recommendations for a site for the 2004 meeting.

17. *Archives*: Dr. Roland reported on progress pertaining to the Society's archives, being developed in collaboration with the Osler Library for the History of Medicine of McGill University.

18. *Green College campaign*: Dr. Silverman indicated that a brochure would be sent from Green College, Oxford, concerning purchase of 13 Norham Gardens.

19. *Revision of Bylaws*: Proposed changes to the Bylaws, previously distributed to Board members and to the general membership, were discussed. The Bylaws were endorsed by the Board with two minor changes, to be made by Dr. Silverman.

20. *Acknowledgement of retiring Board members*: Dr. Silverman thanked Doctors Eugene H. Connor, Philip W. Leon, Jock Murray, and Frank Neelon for their service to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Bryan
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes, 2001 Annual Meeting (General Session)

The annual meeting of the American Osler Society was called to order at 7:25 a.m. on 19 April 2001 in the Colonial Ballroom, Embassy Suites Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, by President Mark Silverman. He requested new agenda items, of which there were none. The minutes of the 2000 annual meeting were approved as written and previously distributed in *The Oslerian*.

1. A moment of silence was observed in memory of a departed member, Dr. Stanley Jackson.

2. Charles Bryan presented the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Membership as of this year's Annual Meeting (including actions of the Board of Governors taken on 17 April 2001) are as follows: 80 Active members, 2 Active nonresident members, 4 Associate members, 55 Emeritus members, 2 Student Members, and 4 Inactive members for a total of 152 members. He presented the Society's income and expenses for the calendar years 1995 through 2000, the balance of the William B. Bean Student Research Scholarship account, and of the John P. McGovern account, the financial status of the previous (2000) annual meeting, and the projected financial balance for the present (2001) annual meeting. He reported the projected annual budget for the Board of Governors decision to increase dues (for the first time since 1990) from \$100 to \$150 per year. In response to a question it was explained that the dues increase reflected the Society's vision

to become a significant force for promoting humanism and professionalism in North American medicine, which would require that the Society strive to increase its assets (the alternative being to use interest and dividends to subsidize the Society's operating costs). The Secretary-Treasurer's report was accepted as information.

3. Perry Hookman presented the report of the Auditing Committee, indicating that the financial data as presented appeared to be sound.

4. Charles Bryan gave the report of the Nominating Committee, as follows: Marvin Stone (for Second vice President); and Jacalyn Duffin, Joseph Lella, and William Sodeman for the Board of Governors. There being no other nominations, these nominees were elected by acclamation.

5. Richard Eimas gave the report of the William B. Bean Student Research Committee, indicating that recipients for this year's awards are Chris Pittenger and Cristin McKenna.

6. Dee Canale gave the report of the John P. McGovern Lectureship Committee, indicating his satisfaction with this year's performance by Kenneth M. Ludmerer.

7. Mark Silverman expressed his appreciation to this year's McGovern lecturer.

8. Committee Appointments: Dr. Silverman recommended the following

persons for committees for 2001-2002: *Finance Committee* (formerly, Auditing Committee): Paul G. Dymont (chair), Perry Hookman, Claus A. Pierach; *Nominating Committee*: Richard J. Kahn (chair), Dee J. Canale, Mark D. Silverman; *William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee*: Philip W. Leon (chair), Lynn C. Epstein, Charles S. Bryan; *John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee*: Gary B. Ferngren (chair), T. Jock Murray, Michael Bliss, John B. West, John P. McGovern (ex-officio); *Program Committee for 2002*: Lawrence D. Longo (chair), Cynthia Pitcock, Francis Neelon, Charles S. Bryan; *Membership Committee*: Marvin J. Stone (chair), Jacalyn Duffin, William McMillan.; *Publications Committee*: Francis Neelon and Clark Sawin (co-chairs) with other members to be appointed.

9. Dr. Silverman recognized newly-elected members: Bruce Innes and Conrad Fulkerson (as new Active Members); Lloyd Kitchens, Robert Mennel and Clyde Partin (advanced from Associate Member to Active Member status), and Michael W. Cater (as new Associate Member).

10. Dr. Silverman reported on future meeting sites for the Society. The next meeting will be in Kansas City, Kansas, 23-25 April 2002. The 2003 meeting will be in Edinburgh, Scotland, probably in May with the exact date to be set. The site for the 2004 meeting has not yet been decided and members were

encouraged to submit their ideas for possible sites. Dr. Silverman asked for a show of hands for potential attendees for the Kansas City and Edinburgh meetings, both of which brought enthusiastic responses.

11. There were no book subventions to report.

12. There was no new business to report.

13. The proposed Bylaws changes, previously published in *The Oslerian*, were discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve the proposed Bylaws changes, as written, with two minor changes to be added by Dr. Silverman.

14. Dr. Silverman introduced John Carson as the next president of the American Osler Society and placed the latch key, symbol of the office of president, around Dr. Carson's neck.

15. Dr. Carson expressed his appreciation to Dr. Silverman, to whom he presented a plaque.

16. The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Carson at 8 o'clock a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Bryan
Secretary-Treasurer.



Aequanimitas

Evaluations of 2001 Meeting: Needs Assessment

Requirements for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit stipulate formal evaluation and needs assessment. Results of the survey instrument administered at the April 2001 meeting in Charleston, South Carolina will be summarized here.

Overall summary

The activity met my needs: All respondents agreed, with 88% (43 of 49) saying that it was "excellent."

The activity made me want to learn more: All agreed, with 92% reporting "excellent."

The activity was valuable to me professionally: All agreed, with 68% reporting "excellent."

The format facilitated learning: All agreed, with 66% reported "excellent."

The opportunity for participation was good: All agreed, with 64% reporting "excellent."

Audiovisual materials were helpful: 49 of 50 respondents agreed, with 62% reporting "excellent."

The handout notebook was considered excellent by 74% of respondents, good by 22%, and satisfactory by 4%.

The facilities were considered excellent by 34%, good by 48%, and satisfactory by 9%.

The food was considered excellent by 25%, good by 43%, satisfactory by 22%, and poor by 10%.

The overall activity rating was considered excellent by 79% and good by the remaining 21%.

Learning objectives

1. Identify the major

historical figures and their specific influence during the early years of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions: This objective was considered to be met by 49 of 50 respondents.

2. *Identify the major themes of American medical education over the past century:* This objective was considered to be met by 49 of 50 respondents.

3. *List and discuss issues pertaining to medical education in what is now being called the era of managed care:* This objective was considered to be met by 49 of 50 respondents.

4. *Name and discuss specific medical discoveries of the past century:* This objective was considered to be met by 45 of 50 respondents.

5. *Discuss the importance and role of the humanities in medicine:* This goal was considered to be met by 49 of 50 respondents.

Participant evaluation comments

What are the three most important things you learned from this activity?

The most frequently identified theme was the relevance of the humanities and humanism to medicine. One respondent remarked, "The importance of history in medicine, the impact of Osler on medical education, listening to these excellent presentations—for me it was a lesson in humility." Several respondents commented favorably on the presentations by

medical students (Bean Award recipients). One respondent listed: (1) Medical students are still our "best hope," (2) The AOS, with its new Bylaws, can adapt to important changes, and (3) improving the AOS-AAHM relationship is a very important agenda item. Two respondents commented on the papers about Osler and women medical students. Another observed that "time is very important in medical education [and] mentors and mentoring are quite important to the prognosis of medicine."

How has this activity enhanced your professional effectiveness? Several respondents believed that the program would help make them better and more effective teachers. One observed that "Kenneth Ludmerer's lecture was especially helpful in framing issues of medical education." Several found the information useful to their efforts to teach medical history, one found it useful for his/her scholarly inquiry, and several noted that enrichment, or being "more firmly grounded and understanding my professional heritage better."

How could this CME activity be improved? Of the 5 respondents felt that the audiovisual equipment could be enhanced, 3 were especially critical of PowerPoint. As one put it, "PowerPoint is still too shaky to permit its use at meetings in hotels with unknown audiovisual equipment." Other suggestions included:

1. Fewer talks with more time for discussion.
2. Expansion of the abstracts into "not too large but reasonable length handouts."
3. More time for open discussion during the business meeting.
4. Increased participation by chairs/moderators in informed discussion/commentary analysis.
5. Less emphasis on Osler and more on general medical topics including more historical presentations involving the latter half of the 20th Century.

What topics would you suggest be presented in future CME activities? Answers included: Antique instruments, the relationship of chemistry and medicine, the use of antimicrobial agents in the late 19th and 20th centuries, "theme" sessions, more clinical medicine history, more emphasis on philosophy, and more about the application and relevance of the Oslerian view to the late 20th Century.

Were the sessions presented objectively and fairly? One respondent observed that "some [speakers] were allowed to go way over—need to control all."

Was enough time allotted for presentation and discussion? Several respondents suggested a longer meeting. One suggested that speakers be offered a choice of 10 or 15 minute slots.

Would you favor combining the program and the abstract notebook into a single "Program and Abstracts" booklet? To this question, 29 said yes, 13 said no, and one had no opinion.

H. L. Mencken on Osler, by William S. Haubrich

For some time now I have been seeking a connection between two of my heroes: William Osler and H. L. Mencken. One might think it easy to dig up a trove. They were contemporaries; both resided in Baltimore at the same time. Osler, with his literary bent, surely would have been aware of Mencken's belles-lettres; Mencken, with his wide acquaintance among the medical faculty at Johns Hopkins, surely knew of Osler. Yet, alas, traces of crossed paths are faint and hard to find.

Mrs. Paula King, director of the Kresge Library at the Scripps Clinic, at my prompting did come up with one piece on Osler by Mencken, which appeared in the October 1909 number of *American Magazine*. The prose is vintage Mencken. Here it is.

—Will Haubrich

Dr. William Osler

A handicap of crushing weight rests upon all the ambitious young gentlemen who swarm in clinic-studded Baltimore. It is their evil fate to be measured with a colossus. Say of one of them that he used to sit under Osler at the Johns Hopkins, and you are giving him high praise. Say of him, going further, that he promises, some day, to be worthy of his master, and you are at the limit of lawful eulogy.

Dr. Osler, of course, was not snatched up to Mount Olympus the moment of his arrival. Like the new Johns Hopkins Medical School, which he came to nurse and glorify, he was received, at the start, with something not unlike polite suspicion. Saving only Dr. William H. Welch—that father of genius—no one quite appreciated his true stature.

But before long interesting news began to filter from the Hopkins. Dr. Osler was solving problems that the textbooks put down as insoluble; he was ridding the art of medicine of cobwebs and barnacles; he was sending our parties of enthusiastic young men to explore the medical Farthest North and Darkest Africa. He observed things that no one else noticed, and he drew conclusions that violated the league rules. One day the newspapers became aware of him, and the next day the public. By and by, the doctors followed.

During the last few years of his residence in Baltimore, Dr. Osler might have used Druid Hill Park as a waiting-room. People came from all over the country to consult him, accompanied by their attendant physicians, surgeons, spiritual advisers, and nurses; and no Baltimorean

of position felt it decent to surrender his appendix without first seeking the advice of the great diagnostician

In the end the doctors themselves drove him out of Baltimore. By the rules of the healing art, be it known, a physician is forbidden to accept a fee from a fellow-practitioner. Under this rule, the sick doctors of America paid glorious but embarrassing tribute to Osler. They were welcome, and it was a pleasure and privilege to see them—but there were classes to teach, books to read and write, clinics to look after, problems to ponder. The day brought a hundred hours' work, and but twenty-four hours of time.

Unexpectedly a message came from the King of England, offering Dr. Osler a royal appointment, with leisure unlimited, at Oxford. . . . Baltimore is mourning yet.

Report of a Visit to 13 Norham Gardens

Oslerians around the world delight in the purchase of 13 Norham Gardens by Green College, Oxford, made possible by donations including a generous contribution from AOS founding member John P. McGovern. With Neil McIntyre, I recently enjoyed a private tour of Osler's residence (1907 to 1919) from Kay Honner, Director of Development for Green College. Here are some of my observations.

1. The building is a large, magnificent place, well

deserving its reputation as one of Oxford's finest houses during Osler's day. Indeed, it is a mansion. During the 1904 AOS meeting tour, we saw but a fraction of it! 2. Ms. Honner explained that the building has/will have essentially 4 separate functions. Of most interest to us, the entrance hall, drawing room, and Osler's study will become the *Osler-McGovern Centre*, a conference center to "promote the integration of the art and science of medicine." The drawing room will

be converted into a state-of-the-art conference room, and Osler's study will become a break-out room. Second, the residence houses the Oxford University Newcomers' Club, which certainly seems consistent with its reputation during Osler's day as "The Open Arms." Third, the building houses the Reuters Foundation Programme at Green College for mid-career journalists. Finally, the building also has room on its upper levels for flats for students. 3. The grounds are extremely

impressive, but it is with mixed feelings that I report the tentative plans to install a tennis court in the backyard. How would that affect the ambience? What would W.O. think? I suspect that, like us, he could argue it both ways. 4. There is a lot of work yet to be done, and funds are needed! Fully tax-deductible donations can be made to Americans for Oxford, Inc. (telephone 212 726 6400; fax 212 889 4052, e-mail gifts@oxford.oudna.org.

—CSB

An Oslerian July with Cool Weather and Grilled Salmon



Richie and Patti Kahn in their private medical history museum in York, Maine.



With John Ward (left) and Ted Howard (right) after the Osler Oration at the Royal College of Physicians.



Neil and Wendy McIntyre share a laugh at the banquet, perhaps about their daughter's wedding the previous week.



"Now that's the *real* William Harvey!" says my English buddy, Colin Speirs.

Columbia, South Carolina must be one of the hottest places in the Western Hemisphere during July. One can fry an egg on the sidewalk most days. This past July was surely one of the coolest and most pleasant since my boyhood (during which we'd often spend the month in New Hampshire), thanks in large measure to the hospitality and generosity of fellow Oslerians.

First, Donna and I visited Richie and Patti Kohn at their home in York, Maine, en route to a family mini-reunion at my brother's summer retreat on Swans Island. Richie and Patti live in a marvelous old farm house that they've extensively decorated by hand, but they spend their summers at a cottage-on-the-lake down the road from this magnificent old residence. After a wonderful dinner of grilled salmon, they took us up to the main house, which contains what must be the largest private collection of medical artifacts west of London's Wellcome Institute. Richie started collecting things such as bleeding bowls before the prices became prohibitive. I was enormously impressed by the "doctor's church cane," the pile of combination splints/crutches, the prototype wheelchairs, and the vast assortment of old porcelain bedpans. It seems that Richie gives history of medicine lectures to anyone who will sit still for a few minutes!

After a brief return to

Columbia, I was in for some more cooling off, courtesy of a much-appreciated invitation to give the annual Oration to the Osler Club of London. Neil and Wendy McIntyre had planned out a marvelous itinerary, which included (1) the annual summer garden party of the International Medical Society at the Chelsea Physic Garden; (2) an evening outdoor concert at Kenwood, where we sipped champagne in lawn chairs while watching great works by Russian composers being performed; (3) a marvelous play (Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*) at the re-done Globe Theater; and (4) cocktails at the Royal Automobile Club followed by dinner at the Athenaeum Club. During the rare evenings spent at the McIntyre home in Wembley, Wendy fixed—you guessed it—grilled salmon! Neil and I took a side trip to Abingdon, near Oxford, where we stayed with John and Ruth Ward. John is well known to us as an Oslerian (and outgoing president of the Osler Club of London), but Ruth is equally well known as a food writer and tour guide. On the way back, Neil and I stopped off at Oxford where we had a private tour of 13 Norham Gardens (see page 7).

Returning to the Sauna bath that is South Carolina in the summer, I mused about how the Kahns, the McIntyres, the Wards, and others on this journey truly embodied the Oslerian tradition of warm hospitality!

—CSB



Neil graciously delayed a round of golf to satisfy my desire to see the Rollright stones.



Ruth and John Ward in their wonderful garden at Abingdon, near Oxford.



John McAlloon satisfies his just golfing debt to the Ward-Bryan team (CSB's contribution to the win was nominal).



Kay Honner at the front entrance of 13 Norham Gardens (see related article, page 6).

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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Aequanimitas

*The Oslerian is published approximately four times a year by the American Osler Society, Inc., a non-profit organization. Members of the American Osler Society are encouraged to send news items of interest, including but by no means limited to their personal activities and accomplishments and accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. For distribution of reprints and other materials of possible interest to AOS members, please send 155 copies. Your ideas for **The Oslerian** are of course most welcome! Direct all correspondence by mail, fax, or e-mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.*

The American Osler Society has been founded for the purpose of bringing together members of the medical and allied professions who are, by their common inspiration, dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness and the ethical example of **William Osler** (1849-1919). This, for the benefit of succeeding generations, that their motives be ever more sound, that their vision be on everbroadening horizons, and that they sail not as Sir Thomas Browne's Ark, without oars and without rudder and sails and, therefore, without direction.

Abstracts for 2002 Meeting Due November 15

For several years the AOS has had a pleasant problem: more quality submissions for the annual meeting than can be accommodated. The Program Committee is now chaired by the First Vice-President, and this year's chair is Lawrence D. Longo. Please note the following guidelines (some of these are required for Continuing Medical Education credits):

1. Abstracts must be **received** by the Secretary-Treasurer by November 15, 2001. **FAX and e-mail transmissions will be accepted only from overseas members.** Members and invited guests are encouraged to submit their abstracts well prior to the deadline; receipt will be acknowledged by e-mail and/or postcard.
2. The abstract should be no longer than one page.
3. The abstract should begin with the complete title, the names of all co-authors, and the corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail address.
4. The text of the abstract should provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine its merits and its possible interest to membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be kept to a minimum.
5. Three learning objectives should be given after the abstract. Each learning objective should begin with an active verb indicating what attendees should be able to do after the presentation (for example, "list," "explain," or "outline").
6. The curriculum vitae of each author should accompany the abstract (a one-page synopsis is acceptable).
7. A covering letter should state the authors' opinion of the paper's potential interest to members and the date of the senior author's most recent presentation to AOS (some preference will be shown to prospective members and to members who have not presented in recent years).

Please send five copies of the abstract, a computer diskette containing the abstract (not required but encouraged), curricula vitae of all authors, and a covering letter to: Charles S. Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer, American Osler Society, Two Medical Park, Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29203. Thanks!