

# The Oslerian

## A Message from the President On New Books, Articles, and Oslerianissimus

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### Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

As is so often in Oslerian matters, it was Earl Nation who alerted me to the Duke University Press publication of

### OSLER'S "A WAY OF LIFE"

&

### OTHER ADDRESSES

WITH

### COMMENTARY

&

### ANNOTATIONS

by our own Shigeaki Hinohara, and Hisai Niki. John McGovern has done the forward.

This is a valuable addition to the Oslerian canon. The inclusion of an index would have made it even more valuable, but so much good work has gone into it that one should not quibble about absolute perfection.

Over the years I have kept a list of those literary allusions for which I found no answer, thinking that some day I would do what Hinohara and Niki have done. Two solutions I found immediately:

"all, all gone, those old familiar faces," cited in "The Master Word in Medicine and identified as

Charles Lamb's *The Old Familiar Faces*.

"Private, unactive, calm, contemplative," in "The Fixed Period" and identified as coming from Milton's *Paradise Regained*. The list could go on and on.

Gerald Tremblay's review in the October 3, 2001 issue of *JAMA* was moderately favorable. He is correct that "Oslerians will rejoice at having rich trove for future symposia." There are riches throughout. For example, from Osler's "The Leaven of Science" Hinohara and Niki have tried to pin down a quotation from F. Marion Crawford—"in all ages the reason of the world has been at the mercy of brute force..." and were unable to find it.

This is the way things happen when one becomes Oslerianissimus: you find a quotation that interests you, you look up the author (of whom you may have never heard), and you end up with a new and totally engrossing collection. In my case it was Margaret Deland. In *Science and Immortality*, Osler quotes a deathbed scene from *John Ward, Preacher*. I read the book and then began what

is now a complete collection, including a pilgrimage to her home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Elsewhere, Osler quotes from *John Ward, Preacher* that "sensible men never discuss religion." And I have been through the book several times and have never found that sentence. Another reason that I was interested in Hinohara and Niki's failure to find an exact quotation in Marion Crawford!

My first American Osler Society presentation was in New Orleans in 1988 and my topic was "Biblical Allusions in the Writings of Sir William Osler." Some years before, in going through Harvey Cushing's *Life*, I found a statement to the effect:

*Students of today are amazed at Osler's knowledge of the Bible. But he was the son of an Anglican clergyman and never far from his hand was Cruden's Concordance.*

I had never heard of a Concordance or of Cruden!! This was the beginning of my real study of the Bible and of my special appreciation for the King James Version, as well as for that 18th Century



John Carson

## President's Message (Continued)

polymath, Alexander Cruden.

Another interest pointed out by Osler and Cushing was the reference to the Reverend W. A. Johnson as "a man of the White of Selborne type." I knew nothing of Gilbert White or *The Natural History of Selborne*, but that deficiency was remedied ("the flighty purpose is neer o'ertook unless the deed goes with it") and I was brought into a new field. The richness of this world of Gilbert White has never been more beautifully outlined than in the Stanford University Library's 1989 publication, *Gilbert White and the Natural History of Science*, to which I was introduced by John E. Mustain, the Stanford Rare Book Librarian. In Tremblay's review he specifically mentions "a man of the White of Selborne type" as an instance of a reference to "obscure individuals." Obscure in America, yes, but estimated to be the fourth most published book in the English language, and one never out of print!

The article by Josef E. Fischer, M.D., Professor of Surgery designate at Harvard Medical School, in the August 2001 *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons* should not be missed. It's title: "What we can and can't do: One surgeon's perspective." Dr. Fischer sets the record straight

and looks realistically at the physician's role in medicine and surgery today, and introduces the term "Hamster health care" (running faster and seeing more patients).

Health economists see no problem with "Hamster health care"—after all, it is more service for less money. But a system that exhausts doctors and other health care professionals is not sustainable, nor is it just.

Society has refused to care for the indigent. It demands that the medical profession take care of these patients free of charge—and then berates us for being greedy, non-altruistic, and avaricious.

Dr. Fischer concludes: "There are certain things that are beyond our ability to solve, and we should leave those matters to society to manage, as they stem from societal decisions."

Now these are matters that Kenneth Ludmerer talks about in *Time to Heal* (1999). I see no evidence from the groves of academe that any time or effort is being spent on this problem, or that the book has been read. This is certainly a problem on which Town and Gown should share a unanimous opinion. But, in these days, it is increasingly improbable that they get together and share opinions and problems. We have become a society of cardiologists, gastroenterologists, surgeons, etc., and

few join their local medical societies or the American Medical Association. Medicine has not spoken in a single voice since the days when Osler, in Cushing's words:

"... Regarded the attendance at medical meetings as one of his professional obligations. . ."

"It seems impossible to get more than 100 men together for any common object, and for the discussion of questions relating to the welfare of their profession or the advancement of science (last years in Montreal; summer of 1881)."

Dr. Fischer points out:

"Physicians and surgeons must rise up together or separately and give one consistent message: we will deal with what is our responsibility and with what we can influence. We will do what we can do.

"Hamster health care" is not what we want to do, and we will no longer do it.

Richard Rapport's *Physician: The Life of Paul Beeson* is now out, published by Barricade Books, Inc., of Ft. Lee, N. J. It is an engrossing study of a great physician whose contributions to American medicine touched the lives of most of us. Following his path from

college at the University of Washington, medical school at McGill, internship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, practice in Ohio, then to the Rockefeller Institute, Peter Bent Brigham, Emory, Yale, the Nuffield Professorship at Oxford, and then back to America as Distinguished Physician at the Seattle Veterans Administration Hospital, makes for interesting reading. What a splendid career!

The American Osler Society has heard Bill Roberts speak on biographical aspects of American cardiologists, and have read his "Conversations with the Editor" in the *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings*. Of particular interest is his write up of our Secretary-Treasurer, Charles S. Bryan, in October 1999, and of our Second-Vice-President, Marvin J. Stone, in October 2001.

Bill Roberts also has a regular column, "Facts and ideas from anywhere," which is full of little-known information, facts, whimsy, observations, and the garnering of an inquisitive and observant mind. *Facts and Ideas from Anywhere* has now been gathered in book form, published by Futura Publishing Company in Armonk, New York.

Happy reading!

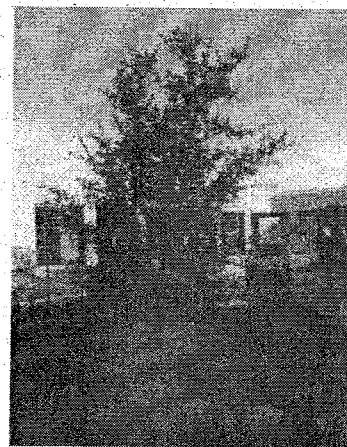
John C. Carson, M.D.

## A Tree Grows in College Station

Recently, I was honored to be invited to Texas for two lectures, including one at Texas A & M Health Sciences University entitled (you guessed it!) "The Oslerian Tradition: Is it Relevant Today?" What a pleasure it was to find, just outside the lecture hall, a plaque com-

Allen Knight (1918-1998), a distinguished Oslerian who was that school's founding dean! Immediately I remembered that his widow, Dr. Sally Knight of New Orleans, had told me of a tree planted in Jim's memory. It is a pleasure to report that the tree (shown at right) is doing very well, thank

greater pleasure to report the many excellent memories of Jim shared by his colleagues and former students. Jim Knight, a native of St. George, South Carolina, was many things during his life: minister, psychiatrist, educator, and—in common with so many Oslerians—author, humanist, and humanitarian. May the tree continue to prosper!



## Oslerians Reflect on September the Eleventh

The bombings of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Arlington by terrorists redefined our world in ways we can only begin to imagine. William Osler, we can be sure, would have grieved—and then gotten on with the business of helping others. Oslerians were invited to share their feelings about these tragedies. Here are some samples.

### **From Darlinghurst, Australia:**

The attacks on New York and Washington icons and citizens were an attack on civilised values and on World Order. They are condemned by all but a minority—and these usually persons who are oppressed and who do not enjoy the freedoms that we take for granted. Over 6,000 people were killed in New York and Washington, including up to 50 Australians in the planes and buildings. The Australian Prime Minister John Howard was in Washington on the day of the attack, had been in the Pentagon the previous day, and attended the U.S. Congress and was warmly recognized the following day. Australian views were ably put by Mr. Howard; we stand with the U.S.A. and other nations in fighting this evil—which continues to be perpetrated with the Anthrax bacillus. Australia is sending over 1500 troops, with planes and ships to the Middle East to assist the U.S.A. and its allies. In taking it stand, Australia has much potentially to lose. We are emerging from serious difficulties with our nearest neighbour, Indonesia, the largest Moslem nation in the World, and the largest nation after the U.S.A. in population terms. We need to foster moderate elements in Indonesia, and to avoid the confrontations and antagonism that the terrorists wish to stimulate. There are many potential martyrs for their cause.

The way ahead will require

extreme diplomacy as well as military muscle. We must believe avoid appearing to side with any who while claiming to be allies perpetrate terror on those about them in the name of peace.

Osler Society members are generally older than those in other American societies, and most would remember the period after Pearl Harbor when Australia was threatened from the North with its troops in Europe and was utterly exposed. Australia will never forget the assistance that the United States provided at that time.

—Michael O'Rourke

### **From Ceredigion, Wales:**

The awful news of the Manhattan and Washington tragedies has caused me much sorrow and I should like you to know how much we in Wales sympathise with you all. You asked for a paragraph or two (or about 100 to 150 words) on thoughts of the frightful tragedy that befell you. Many people remember exactly where they were when they heard the news of President Kennedy's death: The news of this one evolved terribly slowly.

—John Cule

### **From Little Rock, Arkansas:**

Here's what I'm thinking at the moment.

Remember what we have deep in the marrow of our American bones. We are born of stalwart, wealthy old Quakers who gave us their work ethic and all those rules of moral perfection, not to mention the value of hard work and silent Sundays. On the other hand, they also gave us bundling which was a major contribution to the ordered life of Colonial America. We're descended from those founding dreamers who were self-taught, who, like every Oslerian I know, had boundless

energy and read every book in the world. John Adams and Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson would be proud of us, I'm sure, as we face this crisis. They would keep journals and write long letters to one another about what must be done to face the war on terrorism and they would assume we could handle it. And we can. We will. There will be alterations in our national life, but there have been before, and we have come through wars and depressions, terrible anxieties, and we're still here. That's what James Madison would love about us. . . . The grant experiment in the government of a free people is still intact, still plugging along, and we are not for sale, we still have the integrity and inventiveness of those dauntless World War II citizen soldiers. Our enemies will never understand what we are made of—the children of inventors, of sod busters on the Great Plains, freed slaves, arrogant yuppies, gamblers, poets, cowboys, professors, doctors, horse thieves, and preachers. The marrow of our American bone is solid and tough, and don't you forget it.

—Cynthia Pitcock

### **From Oxford, England:**

Throughout recorded history the scourges of the Four Horsemen on the Apocalypse have revisited mankind. The Twentieth Century was filled with war, including two world wars. The advent of atomic weapons initiated universal fear of an atomic abyss. The cowardly, heinous acts inflicted by terrorists on September 11, 2010, on the World Trade Towers, the Pentagon, and an in-flight commercial airliner near Pittsburgh will be forever etched in the memory of this

this generation. The extensive loss of lives of citizens of over eighty nations and the sacrifice of many lives of those who tried to rescue victims, the disruption of personal lives, the extensive damage and economic changes that ensued brought feelings of fear, panic, and helplessness against terrorist acts. Strong sentiments concerning the need for justice to prevent such future acts arose. Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and many other nations should be commended and supported for their actions against terrorism ensuring that people of our planet be allowed to live in freedom from fear and in peace.

Billy F. Andrews  
Visiting Fellow,  
Green College

### **From La Jolla, California:**

How this Republic of ours should respond to this vicious attack is widely debated in circles high and low. Some favor bombing Afghanistan back into the Stone Age. This seems futile; Afghanistan is already in the Stone Age. I favor the suggestion that we invade the hornet's nest with a fleet of cargo planes laden with food, medicines, and clothing to relieve the suffering of masses huddled in refugee camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This, of course, would be greeted with peals of derisive laughter. We'd have to accept the likelihood of collateral damage as members of the Taliban keeled over and died laughing. But to me it would be worthy of the risk. Giving succor to those who smite us? A novel idea? Not really. Someone is said to have suggested it 2000 years ago.

—Will Haubrich

Continued, page 4

## Oslerians Reflect on September the Eleventh (continued)

### From Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Well, I have no words, my tears dried up, my sleep is good no more. World War II revisits me with all the horror, all the fear, and this overpowering sense of helplessness. I was a kid when we ran away from the Russians, when shots were fired through our railroad car, when we hovered under the seats. Only to later see Frankfurt burning. At least mother was with us. Father had been captured by the Russians. Since he spoke Russian fluently he managed to escape after having heard and understood every word when they conducted what amounted to a mock trial.

Just imagine: both our daughters were near the World Trade Center on 11 September. Even prayer offered me but small comfort til the call came that they were alright.

So, I thought it might be

appropriate to just be silent. You remember that people questioned our ability to write poetry after the atrocities of World War II. This, while not the same, is similar.

Thus I send you herewith my contribution. A blank page, just the date on top and my name at the bottom. If you agree and accept, you may want to sacrifice the space of one or two paragraphs and leave them blank in my name. I trust that the reader will understand my unspoken commentary.

**Claus Pierach**

### Editorial Response:

*Claus, your memories are too poignant to pass unprinted. However, I shall honor your second request. And I thank all of you!*

—CSB

September 11, 2001

Claus Pierach

## Kansas City Program Shaping Up as Another "Don't Miss!"

In the wake of the attacks of September the eleventh, Americans are thinking twice about air travel. Tourism is down, and so is meeting attendance. It therefore seems appropriate to inform Oslerians about the high quality of abstracts submitted for the consideration of this year's Program Committee. Here is a sample:

### Papers submitted about William Osler:

"Osler and the Infected Letter"

"The Use of Pejorative Terms to Describe Patients: What Would Osler Have Said?"

"Osler's Study of the Act of Dying: A Critical Analysis"

"Would William Osler be Successful at Johns Hopkins Today?"

"*Oslerized*: A Musical Response to Osler's Fixed Period"

"A Favorite Poem of Mine: Osler and Browning's 'Rabbi Ben Ezra'"

"Sir William Osler and the College of the Book"

"Syphilis: Osler, Tuskegee, and AIDS"

"Our Distinguished Visitor": Osler in Columbus, December 1899.

"Sir William Osler's Perceptions on Urolithiasis and the Case of the Indigo Calculus"

"The Godfathers (Docie O, Campbell, Revere) and the Iowa Connection"

"Arsenic in Hematology: Observations by Osler and its Recent Rebirth"

"Professional Community: William Osler's Presence in the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society"

### Papers about people or subjects dear to William Osler:

"Maude Abbott in Philadelphia"

"George Dock, Washington University Disciple of Osler"

"Memories of 134 Northham Gardens, 'The Open Arms' . . ."

"Life of a Tradition: The Progress of a Tradition in Teaching of the Anglo-American Medical Ethos"

"Observation vs. Speculation—From Fact to Fiction"

"Twenty-one London Editions of Tytler's *Treatise on the Plague and Yellow Fever are Missing!*"

And there's **much, much more**—fascinating papers about a wide array of subjects (for example, "The Death of Thomas Wolfe") and, of course, superb fellowship. As they say in Kansas, "Ya'll come!"

—CSB

## In Memoriam

## Lloyd Wade Kitchens, Jr.



**Lloyd Wade Kitchens, Jr.**  
1946-2001

Lloyd Wade Kitchens, Jr., M.D., MACP, died of liver failure on August 23, 2001. A native of Mississippi, he grew up in Crystal Springs. He received his B.S.

degree from the University of Mississippi and his M.D. degree from the same institution in 1971. After an internship and residency in internal medicine at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, he completed his medical oncology fellowship there in 1976. He then entered private practice at Baylor and was Medical Director of Texas Oncology, P. A., from 1990 until 1997. He served as Medical Director of the Virginia R. Cvetko Patient Education and Psychosocial Support Unit at the Baylor-Sammons Cancer Center from 1980 until his death. He also held an appointment as Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Despite chronic illness throughout his medical career, Dr. Kitchens emerged a superb

clinician and teacher. He was loved by his patients and highly respected by physicians. He had a wonderful sense of humor which he maintained even in the most serious circumstances. Lloyd taught many of us a great deal about commitment, courage, and professionalism. He was dedicated to the ideals of the American Osler Society.

Lloyd was active in the American College of Physicians before and after becoming a fellow in 1978. He excelled in numerous roles at local, regional, and national levels. He was Governor of the Texas Northern Region from 1989 until 1993, and a member of the Board of Regents from 1995 until 2001. He also served as Chair of the Ethics and

Human Rights Committee.

He received the Laureate Award from the Texas ACP Chapter in 1999, and became a Master of the College in 2001.

An accomplished pianist, Lloyd performed on numerous occasions with his talented wife, Connie Coit. For many years he participated in his church choir. He was active in support of theatrical organizations, including serving as Chair of the Board of Directors at Theater Three in Dallas. In addition, he was a member of the Players Club of New York City.

Dr. Kitchens is survived by his wife, one daughter, and two sons. Memorials may be made to the Baylor Health Care System Foundation, 3600 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, TX 75246.

—Marvin J. Stone

## Oslerian Progress Notes

**Billy F. Andrews** writes from Oxford, where he is Visiting Fellow at Green College: "The opening of the Osler-McGovern Centre at Green College went off well and Faye and I were highly honored to represent Jack and Kathy. It would have been so much better if they and Bill Gibson could have been present. This Centre has great potential for expanding the Osler philosophy and mystique. Jack was caught in the Osler web very early. This has greatly benefited mankind. I will be eternally grateful to Dean Davison and Jack for expanding the Osler influence in my own life."

**Robert J. T. Joy** has been named recipient of the 2002

Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award by the American College of Physicians.

**William S. Haubrich** writes: "At this morning's [27 October] gathering of our little medical history group here in La Jolla, Dr. John Carson held forth on the wit and wisdom of the late, lamented Dr. Earle Scarlett, the Canadian physician who contributed regularly to the *Archives of Internal Medicine* in the 1960s. An item from Earle Scarlett's personal commonplace book is a prayer attributed to Robert Hutchison: 'From inability to let well enough alone, from too much zeal for what is new and contempt for what is old, from putting knowledge before wisdom, technical service before art, cleverness before common

sense, from treating patients as cases and from making the care of a disease more grievous than its endurance, Good Lord, deliver us.'"

**Shigeaki Hinohara** and Niki Hisae have had published *Osler's 'A Way of Life' & Other Addresses, With Commentary & Annotations* (Duke University Press, 2001). (See President's Letter; more to come in next issue).

**James F. Toole** has had published (with Robert J. Joynt *Presidential Disability: Papers, Discussions, and Recommendations on the Twenty-Fifth Amendment and Issues of Inability and Disability among Presidents of the United States* (Rochester: University of

Press, 2001). This report of the Working Group on Presidential Disability contains final recommendations on how the 25th Amendment should be used.



**Kenneth M. Ludmerer** is president-elect of the American Association for the History of Medicine.

## AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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*Spend the last half-hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.AMERICANOSLER.ORG



### 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.*  
*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.

## 2003 Joint Meeting Scheduled for Edinburgh, Scotland

A contract has now been confirmed with the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, for the 2003 annual meeting. Although the American Osler Society will assume planning and fiscal responsibility for the arrangements, it will be a joint meeting with the Osler Club of London and the Japanese Osler Society. A 4-day meeting is planned, as follows:

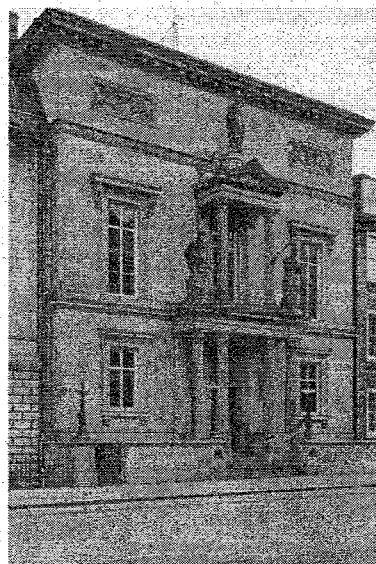
- May 21: Arrival; Board of Governors meeting; Literature and Medicine Interest Group
- May 22: A full-day schedule of presentations (8 AM until 5 PM)
- May 23: A half-day schedule of presentations (8 AM until 1 PM)
- May 24: A half-day schedule of presentations (8 AM until 1 PM)

The banquet will take place on May 23 in the Great Hall, which is a spectacular venue.

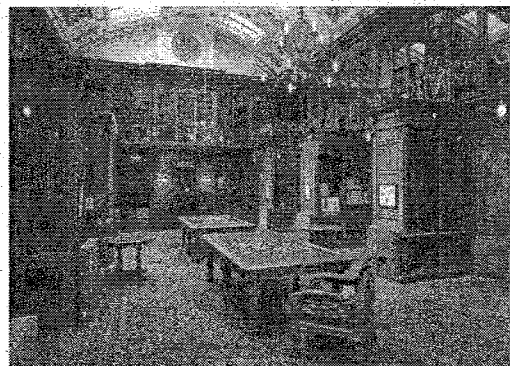
The meeting hotel is conveniently located a block from the Royal College of Physicians and a block from Princess Street, with its many attractions, shops, and the famous view of Edinburgh Castle. Several museums are within easy walking distance.

The planning committee will, of course, be working with our Scottish colleagues. We are strongly considering a 4-day post-meeting tour, which would include Aberdeen and its environs, Pictish stones, Culloden, Inverness, the Trossachs, and a final day in Glasgow. There is even talk of a pre-meeting experience in St. Andrews. This should be an outstanding meeting—mark your calendars and start making plans now!

—CSB



Located at 8 Queen Street, the Royal College of Physicians is a superb meeting location.



The New Library at the RCP, which ranks high among the world's most beautiful, has been reserved for several functions.