

The Oslerian

A Message from the President

What Do We Do For an Encore?

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

In his book, *How the Scots Invented the Modern World*, Arthur Herman describes Edinburgh as "a hotbed of genius. It sharpened minds, inspired originality, and intensified that sense of purposeful activity that every thinker, writer, or artist needs to be truly productive and creative." I believe all of us would agree. Our meeting in Edinburgh was one of the best ever!

With colleagues from The Osler Club of London, the Japan Osler Society, and the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine, we heard 46 papers over a wide range of topics. As always, discussion following the papers was informative and entertaining. President Longo gave an erudite address on "Lessons' from the History of Medicine? An Oslerian Perspective." Sir Richard Doll's John P. McGovern Lecture, "The Evolution of the Controlled Clinical Trial," a field to which he has made so many fundamental contributions, was outstanding. Lauren Kim's William B. Bean Student Lecture on the American eugenics movement was excellent. Another highlight of the meeting was the combined

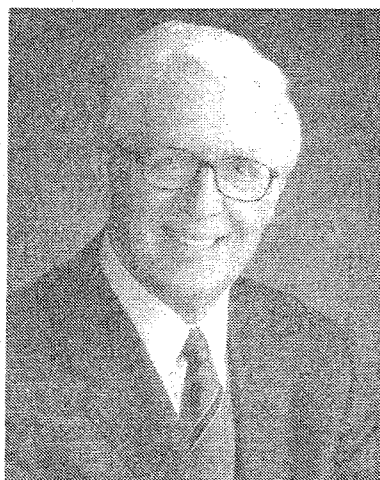
presentation of Herb Swick, Larry Longo, and Charley Bryan on "An Oslerian Response to the Physician's Charter on Professionalism." Their remarks generated stimulating dialogue and more seems indicated (see below). We were pleased to induct two new members and had two wonderful banquets. It was a pleasure seeing old friends and making new ones!

Two people deserve special mention: Larry Longo and Charles Bryan. Larry is a superb leader and scholar. As many of you know, he served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AOS for 12 years before becoming President and thus has had major influence on our growth and development. During his presidency, Larry edited all the McGovern Lectures which we look forward to seeing in book form soon. At the meeting, he presented each of us with a special edition of Osler's "Man's Redemption of Man" 1910 lecture given in Edinburgh. All of us owe Charley a great debt of gratitude for his enormous efforts in planning a magnificent meeting. His "Ode to the Haggis" at the banquet was one of the unforgettable moments in Scotland. None of

without thinking of Charley!

Those of you who took the post-meeting tour of the Highlands have pleasant memories of Stirling Castle, Culloden, Armadale Gardens, and other picturesque sites. Charley Bryan's book, *Celts, Picts, and Scots*, was enjoyed by many who read it as the trip progressed. When we reached Glasgow, the city tour included the Burrell Collection and the Hunterian Museum. At the museum, we found Robert Hooke's seventeenth century microscope through which he looked at cork and saw tiny compartments which he called "cells"—the first use of the word in its biological sense. The farewell banquet at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons was elegant.

It is a great honor to serve as your President. Please let me know about any thoughts and suggestions you have to improve our Society. I'd especially like to hear from you regarding the professionalism presentation and whether you agree with the view that the Physician's Charter lacks a number of Oslerian humanistic ideals that belong in such a document. Interestingly, the Professionalism category on the clinical competence evaluation forms we fill out every month for residents and fellows includes "respect, compassion, integrity and honesty."



Marvin J. Stone

What Do We Do For an Encore? (continued)

To my knowledge, the AOS has never taken an advocacy position or issued a policy statement—but this may be the time to consider doing so. I look forward to your feedback and to seeing you in Houston next April, if not before. Stay well.

Marvin J. Stone

E-mail: marvin@baylorhealth.edu



John Truman played the bagpipes at our banquet at the Royal College of Surgeons. It wasn't at all bad!

Oslerian Progress Notes

Mark E. Silverman, senior editor of *The Quotable Osler*, writes: "Dear Fellow Members of the AOS, I would like to know your favorite quotes of William Osler. Please send them to me by e-mail (marksil@attbi.com) or by post (508 Dykes Drive, Atlanta, GA 30342). You can reproduce the quote or just refer to its number in *The Quotable Osler*. I will compile the top ten quotes for a presentation. To make this meaningful, I need a robust response so please send this to me as soon as possible. Thanks! Mark Silverman."

Gary B. Ferngren has had published an impressive edited volume, *Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press).

Herbert L. Fred has had published his memoirs entitled *Looking Back (and Forth): Reflections of an Old-Fashioned Doctor* (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press). Dr. Fred, who is Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Clinical

Director of the Department of Medicine at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, writes: "My former trainees (with my help) have formed The Herb Fred Medical Society. We had our first meeting last March 22nd, and 122 people attended. By the end of this month, our website should be available (www.HerbFred.org). It will contain just about all one would want to know about the Society." The letterhead of this new society's stationery lists 4 C's of medicine: commitment, compassion, candor, and common sense.

Richard Osler, Sir William's great-great nephew, has had published a volume of poetry entitled *Baboon in the Mirror*. To inquire about this limited edition, one can contact him at: Box U57, Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0 Canada (e-mail: osler@direct.ca). Richard, who attended the 1999 meeting in Montreal, began his career as a journalist, later became a financial analyst, and now runs his own money management company called Aequanimitas, Inc. (*What a great name for such a company!* —Ed.)

The AOS Visiting Professorship in Oslerian Medicine: A Call for Applicants

At the Board of Governors meeting in Edinburgh (minutes of which will appear in the next issue of *The Oslerian*), it was determined that (1) the committee would become a permanent one; (2) a single AOS Visiting Professorship would be offered for the academic year 2004-2005; and (3) invitations to apply for the Professorship would be distributed to medical school deans and other persons in the near future. **Persons interested in becoming an AOS Professor should contact Chester R. Burns by**

1 August 2003. Please give: (1) Name, address, telephone, e-mail address, and specialty; (2) Willingness to do clinical or grand rounds; and (3) Titles of no more than two talks related to Osler, describing the contents of each talk with no more than three sentences or—and perhaps better—providing several learning objectives for each talk. Chester's address is: University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX 77555-1311; his FAX is (409) 772 5640; his e-mail address is: cburns@utmb.edu.

—CSB

In Memoriam

Robert M. Kark (1911-2002)

Robert M. Kark, M.D., MACP, FRCP, died on 24 September 2002 in Lynwood, Washington, where he had spent the last years of a long, productive, and remarkably innovative life in a nursing home.

Dr. Kark was born in Cape Town, South Africa and received his medical degree from Guy's Hospital, where he also completed a residency. In 1938 he went to Harvard Medical School as a research fellow and it was there that he participated in the discovery of vitamin K and worked on fortification of bread with B vitamins. Continuing his research on vitamins and nutrition during World War II, he tested food resources and helped develop the famous K rations—the standard fare for Allied troops. Later during the war, he gathered intelligence behind enemy lines in Burma.

Working in Chicago at the University of Illinois after the war, Dr. Kark became interested in kidney diseases and helped

pioneer the use of renal biopsies. His papers to the American Osler Society included "Osler and H.H. Riddle," "Wakley and Richard Bright the Lesser," and "Marshall Hall and His Influence on the Societies of Medical Observation of Paris, Boston, and London."

According to *ACP-ASIM Observer* (November 2002), Dr. Kark also "invented the single-pane aviator's goggle, proved that a land invasion over the Arctic Circle was implausible, foiled a sabotage attempt on Winston Churchill's life, supported civil rights and integration at a segregated medical school in Tennessee during the 1940s, and was an avid rugby player, swimmer, and fisherman." Incredible!

A current advertisement for Arbor Home Care notes that Dr. Kark moved there in 1997 and said: "This is a wonderful place to live. I'm very happy here." —CSB

Random Reflections on Scotland and the 2003 Annual Meeting

John Blair and his wife, Ailsa, graciously invited me to spend a few days prior to the meeting in their home in Perth, "The Gateway to the Highlands" on the Tay River an hour north of Edinburgh. The first day, John took me to see his club, The Royal Perth Golfing Society, of which he is justifiably proud. Founded in 1824, it's the oldest golfing society in the world, predating by a year the Royal and Ancient in St. Andrews. John is a former captain of the club, wrote its definitive history, and in 1979 won the Bell Jug (second handicap at the autumn meeting). I was of course duly impressed by the club, but I was awestruck by the realization that I was looking out over the North Inch of Perth, a benign-looking expanse of grass on the banks of the Tay. The North Inch, you see, was the site of one of the most incredible events in the colorful history of Scotland: the Battle of the Clans that took place in 1396. There is some debate over which clans were actually involved. Some accounts list the Clan Chattan Mackintoshes and the Clan Kay Cummings; others say it was the MacPhersons rather than the Mackintoshes; still others claim that four or more clans may have been involved. At any rate, King Robert III of Scotland, fed up with the feuding and lawlessness of the Highlands, helped stage a contest whereby each side chose 30 champions and armed each warrior with a sword, dirk, axe, and crossbow with three arrows. An enclosure of wood and iron was built for the contest, along with a viewing stand for the king and his entourage. On the day of the battle, the Mackintoshes (or MacPhersons) showed up one man short. The king suggested calling it off, but out of the crowd stepped one Henry Smith, a blacksmith or armorer known to history as Hal o' the Wynd. He announced that he would fight for

a fee on the conditions that, if he survived, the losing side would give him board the remainder of his life. Accounts of the battle vary, but there is general agreement that it lasted no more than 30 minutes. Only one of the Clan Kay Cummings survived, and he only because he climbed over the enclosure and swam across the fast-moving Tay. Nineteen of the Mackintoshes (or MacPhersons) were killed and the other 10 severely wounded. As for Hal o' the Wynd—well, he reputedly killed the first man with an arrow, helped rout the opponents, and survived unscathed!

I tell this story to illustrate how Scotland exudes history wherever one turns. Riding with John Blair he casually noted, for example, where the battles of Sherrifmuir and Killiecrankie (which I'd also studied) took place. And history was abundantly evident at the venues for our meetings! The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (known locally as "Physicians Hall") was founded during 1681 as part of the prelude to the Scottish Enlightenment. The New Library and the Great Hall, venues for the reception and banquet on Friday 23 May, surely rank among the most impressive rooms of their kind. Yet the next evening we were told at the Royal College of Surgeons ("Surgeons Hall," in the Old Town section of Edinburgh) that their building is even more historic. Founded in 1505, the Royal College of Surgeons indeed claims to be the oldest still-existing medical organization in the world!

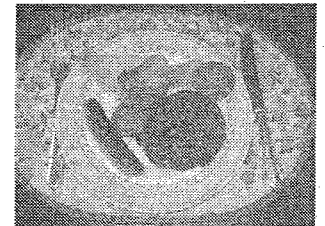
In his message to us in this issue (pages 1 and 2), our new president Marvin J. Stone recounts some of the highlights of this our thirty-second annual meeting. For the first paper, the Program Committee wisely

chose Nicholas Dewey's reflections on Sir William Osler's experiences in Scotland, which included the Rectorial contest, various lectures, and a series of respiratory illnesses. I would add that Sir William also took holidays in Scotland, during which he often played golf at North Berwick. Neil McIntyre showed us a series of statues of medical luminaries to be found in Scotland, and Chester Burns traced the influence of the Scottish Enlightenment on the development of medical ethics. Surrounded by Scottish medical history both literally and figuratively, we sensed that we could have extended the meeting by a fortnight and still have had much more to hear about, see, and do. Already I want to go back!

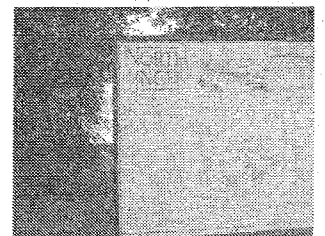
This was my seventh trip to Scotland, dating back to medical school when with several boyhood friends I hitchhiked part of the way from England. I've gone three times with golfing buddies, losing balls in the gorse at most of the better-known courses and many lesser-known ones as well. Then I found out about Charles Hunter, of Balquhiddy, who surely ranks among the world's finest tour guides. Charlie's clients include at least eight couples from Columbia, South Carolina, alone! Donna and I have taken two trips with Charlie, on the first of which he took me to numerous out-of-the-way Pictish monuments. After Mark Silverman and John Ward got the idea of having an AOS meeting in Scotland, and after the Board of Governors had approved this ambitious plan, I determined that a tour of the Highlands with Charlie would be most appropriate. He was happy to accommodate us, and recommended for a travel agent Al Yougel of Atlanta, Georgia. Registration surpassed expecta-



John and Ailsa Blair at their home in Perth.



Haggis for breakfast at the Blairs!



The North Inch of Perth, site of the Battle of the Clans (1396).

tions, leading us to use a second bus with Charles Stewart as guide. Judging from the comments of the 67 participants, the results were spectacular. Charlie and Al made the arrangements not only for the tour but also for our memorable parting banquet at the historic and intimate Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. I thank both of them (and will recommend both of them, along with addresses, to anyone interested in a Scottish experience).

The participation and enthusiasm at our 2003 meeting suggests that the future of the American Osler Society and its kindred organizations is bright indeed. —CSB

Oslerians in Edinburgh

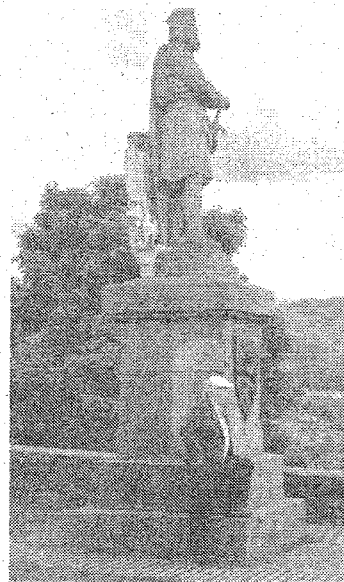
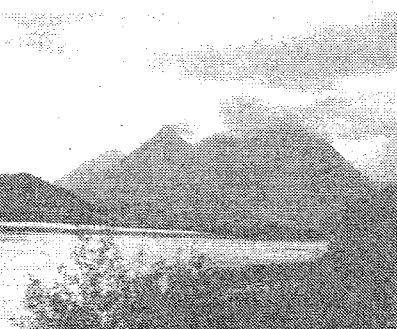
Clockwise from upper left: (1) President Lawrence D. Longo presided over the opening session. (2) The contingent from the Osler Club of London included secretary-treasurer David Green and president James Heron. (3) Shigeaki Hinohara, founder and president of the Japan Osler Society. (4) Allen Weisse rises to ask a question at the Conference Centre. (5) Lauren Kim, who gave the William B. Bean Student Lecture, fields questions from the audience. (5) Sir Richard Doll gave the John P. McGovern Lecture. (6) Lord Walton and Sir Richard Doll listened attentively to the program. (7) Among the 178 attendees at the banquet were Niall Finlayson, president of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; David Wright, president of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine; and CSB (in kilt; knobby knees cropped out of the photograph). (8) Billy Andrews, ever his ebullient self. (9) Christopher Gardner-Thorpe, editor of *The Journal of Medical Biography*, Neil McIntyre, and John Ward. (10) Dee Canale and Tom Benedek during a break. (11) Clifford Rose of the Osler Club of London. (12) Marvin Stone at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh on the evening of his first full day as president of the American Osler Society. **Below:** Ceilings in the great halls of the Royal College of Physicians (left) and at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.





Oslerians on Highlands Tour

Clockwise from upper left: (1) A namesake of Robert the Bruce, Bruce Innes, surveys the site of the famous victory at Bannockburn from Stirling Castle. (2) It rained at the Culloden National Monument as Oslerians looked out over Drummoissie Moor where so many Scots along with their culture perished in a few hours. (3) The sun came out later that afternoon, allowing us to explore the Clava cairns near Inverness and to speculate what these burial chambers and their surrounding stone circles meant to those who came before some 5000 years ago. (4) Phil and Joan Leon enjoy the scenery at Loch Ness, one of our many stops to enjoy the local scenery. (5) John and Ewa Noble at Eilean Donan Castle, ancient seat of the MacKenzies and now a war memorial to the Clan Macrae. (6) Marvin Stone and his son, Rob, were inseparable. (7) Will Haubrich with his omnipresent pipe at the Donald Visitor Center on the Isle of Skye. (8) A portion of the Japanese contingent plus one. (9) Arthur Gryfe indulged his fascination with old tombstones at Kilmartin, where everyone became steeped in prehistory. (10) Bob and Kathleen Mennel at Oban. (11) Glasgow schoolchildren entertain each other at the Burrell Collection. (12) Scottish dancers performed prior to our farewell dinner at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow. (13) A clarsair—that is, a musician who plays the *clarsach*, the Celtic triangular harp—sets the mood for our parting thoughts. **Below:** Typical scenery in the West Highlands on a typically misty day.



AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

American Osler Society
Charles S. Bryan, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
2 Medical Park, Suite 502
Columbia, SC 29203

Phone: 803-540-1000
Fax: 803-540-1075
Email: cbryan@richmed.medpark.sc.edu

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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 180 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.

Call for Abstracts—2004 meeting in Houston, Texas, 20-22 April

The 2004 meeting will take place in Texas, primarily in Houston but with a day trip to Galveston. The Board of Governors will meet on Tuesday, April 20. As was the case this year, it is possible that a third half-day will be added to the meeting on Friday, April 23.

For several years we have received more quality submissions that can be accommodated. The Program Committee will be chaired by the First Vice-President, Chester R. Burns.

Please note the following guidelines for submission of abstracts (some of these are required for Continuing Medical Education credits):

1. Abstracts must be **received** by the Secretary-Treasurer by 15 November 2003. **FAX and e-mail submissions will be accepted only from overseas members and guests.** Members and invited guests are encouraged to submit their abstracts well prior to the deadline.
2. The abstract should be no longer than one page. It 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. The text should provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine its merits and possible interest to the membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be avoided or kept to a minimum.
3. 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"; **avoid** noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate."
4. Each author should provide a brief (two- to five-sentence) description of himself/herself, which will serve as the speaker's introduction. We have learned that providing this information in the program booklet saves valuable meeting time.
5. Each author supply a curriculum vitae (a one-page synopsis is acceptable), which is required for Continuing Medical Education.
6. A covering letter should state:
 - The corresponding author's opinion of the paper's potential interest to members.
 - Whether any of the authors have a potential conflict-of-interest such as direct financial involvement in the topic being discussed, and whether there will be any mention of off-label use of drugs or other products during the presentation.
 - *Optional:* Would the author(s) be willing to present their paper in a 15-minute time slot (rather than a 25- or 30-minute time slot) if necessary.
 - *Optional:* Are there any special considerations, such as insistence by one's organization that a paper be presented to receive reimbursement for the costs of attending the meeting.

Please send five copies of the abstract, a computer diskette containing the abstract (ideally in Microsoft Word format), 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. Again, the deadline for receipt is 15 November 2003.