



The Oslerian

A Message from the President

By Clyde Partin, Jr.

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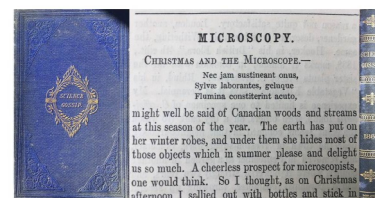
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Osler's "CHRISTMAS AND THE MICROSCOPE"

Several decades ago, after becoming aware of Osler's first publication, *CHRISTMAS AND THE MICROSCOPE*, (1) I compared my own Christmas Day activities to those of Osler's. On Christmas Day, 2017, I took a nature walk in a nearby park in anticipation of Christmas Day, 2018, as my idea to write this communication was coalescing. No snow, hot springs, or microscopes were seen, but nonetheless I contemplated Osler's incredible curiosity that propelled him out of domestic holiday warmth and into the frigid Canadian woods. Few among us can remark on spending any of our Christmas Days searching for an unfrozen stream, in the hopes of finding teeming cellular life there to sample and examine under a microscope. As a child, a microscope as a gift came my way one Christmas, the kind obtained from Sears & Roebuck that goes up to maybe 500x magnification. Much of my youthful Christmas Day was spent examining various prepared botanical and protozoan slides. As did Osler, I have had a Christmas and the microscope experience.

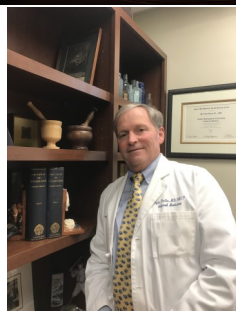
Osler's whimsical piece on microscopy appeared in February, 1869, in *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip*. (Photo 1) Nineteen when he wrote it, Cushing quoted Osler as saying, some years later, that this was the: "beginning of his inkpot career." (2) In 1867, Osler recorded in a notebook a detailed and elegant description of the Polyp arrangement on a gelatinous caenaecium. Osler's ability to observe and describe is

PHOTO 1: 1869 VOLUME OF *HARDWICKE'S SCIENCE-GOSSIP* CONTAINING OSLER'S *CHRISTMAS AND THE MICROSCOPE*.



evident in his precociously mature and subtly lyrical scientific prose, but that paper was not published until 1883. (3) Most Oslerians will recall that he had come under the spell of Weston school professor, Reverend W.A. Johnson, a dedicated naturalist who took his pupils on expeditions through the surrounding countryside. As early as 1866, Osler was preparing microscopic slides on all manner of specimens. Osler's scientific proclivities emerged, and he began unconsciously to stray from his previously projected ministerial path. C.H. Bunting wrote: "If we may accept the testimony of Dr. Walker, it was the microscope also that weaned him from the Church for which he was intended." (4) Who knew that the microscope could propel souls down such a wayward trail? Johnson, who had access to the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*, was an inveterate journal note taker. He recorded on: "22/i/67" (22 Jan 1867) "Crocodile scale ground by Osler, ground through (dry)." (2)

In the summer of 1867, Osler and others had gone to Oakville, situated on a lake, to study for the seminary entrance exams. One participant recalled that they would stay up till midnight, "watching un-



President
Clyde Partin, Jr.
49th AOS President
installed at the 2018 meet-
ing in Pittsburgh, PA.

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

der a microscope, borrowed from Dr. Bovell, the activities of freshwater algae." (2) Thus the foundation for Osler's fascination and respect for the microscope as a teaching and research tool was becoming ingrained. His Toronto Medical School classmates had noted Osler was: "always to be found looking through a microscope at Bovell's cells." (2) One other microscope mentor was Griffith Evans, DVM, MD, assigned to Toronto by the Royal Artillery, who advised Osler to treat the microscope: "gently, as you would a lady." (5)

The image of Osler walking quietly through the Bond Head wilderness on Christmas Day to look for microscopic flora is idyllic, but while attending medical school, he was then staying in Toronto with Dr. Bovell. The "two lived more like father and son than as teacher and pupil." (2) Thus Osler's trek in search of microscopic samples may have been a somewhat more cosmopolitan one than imagined by most, though still with plenty of forest to be found. Why Osler would not have taken some time to be with his family at Bond Head on Christmas Day is unknown.

At Christmas recess in 1868, Johnson records a "number of microscopic specimens such as: 'Trachea of mouse given me by W. Osler. Gly. Beautifully stained.'" (2) Johnson reciprocates the spirit of the season by gifting Osler a copy of Alpheus Hyatt's *Observations of Polyzoa, Suborder Phylactoaemata*. Cushing suggests that this gift is what inspired Osler's Christmas Day sojourn in the woods. The piece reveals Osler's "fondness, even at the very start, for tags of quotations" (2) and opens with a quotation in Latin from Horace's *Odes*:

*"Nec iam sustineant onus,
Sylvaelaborantes, geluque
Flumina constiterint acuto*

might well be said of Canadian woods and streams at this season of the year. The earth has put on her winter robes, and under them she hides most of those objects which in summer please and delight us so much. A cheerless prospect for microscopists one would think." (2) Thus begins Osler's inaugural publication, clearly demonstrating his command of written language. The article, about 750 words, fills three-quarters of the page. Osler goes on to chronicle his unrequited Christmas Day search for an unfrozen stream, and as he was about to concede, he remembered a stream that supplied a small community of families. Locating the spring, he reached into a sunken barrel, retrieved a piece of floating algae and scraped the sides of the vessel from whence he anticipated discovering lurking diatoms and *infusoria*. Lamenting his arrival home at dusk, the light unfavorable for examining his harvest: "darkness soon succeeds the light" (1), he later properly studied his samples under a lamp on Christmas Night, utilizing one of Bovell's microscopes. In abiding language, his personifying observations of the animalcules are a delight, such as "some little creature, kicking and struggling as it were caught in a net . . . one of the little water-bears, its feet entangled . . . freed itself and then it began its slow and stately walk." (1) (See Table 1) The article is signed *W. Osler*,

Dundas, Ontario.

Table 1: A compilation of Osler's listing of cast of 22 microscopic characters in order of appearance. (1)

Hardwicke's Science-Gossip appeared monthly from 1865 to 1893, then renamed *Science-Gossip* and continued publication until 1902. Naturalists and intellectuals would gather monthly to review the contents and tended to share one copy, so eventually the magazine succumbed to

Tardigrada (little water-bears)	Scenedesmus quadricauda (Desmid)
Encyonema prostratum	Gomphonema coronatum
Euglenae viridis	Gomphonema minutissimum
Euglenae acus	Melosira varians (Thwaites)
Paramecium aurelia	Fragillaria rhabdosoma
Kolpoda cucullus	Meridon vernale
Amphileptus anser (Infusoria)	Navicula amphirhynchus
Vorticellinae (Infusoria)	Navicula librile
Leucophrys (Infusoria)	Hyalosira rectangular
Closterium acerosum (Desmid)	Syndera splendens
Cosmarium undulatum (Desmid)	Cymbella gastroides

economic stress. The 1869 volume included a wide spectrum of topics, such as "The Story of a Piece of Coal," "English Plant Names," "The Anatomy of the Zebra Mussel," and "Wasps as Domestic Pets." In 1871, *Nature* reviewed the sixth volume under the headline "Our Book Shelf." The innominate reviewer deemed *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* the scientific equivalent of a popular literary review called *Notes and Quotes*. The critic observed, as did I, the: "illustrations being especially well executed." A section on "MICROSCOPY" was regularly included. (6) Osler was astutely aware of this as he wrote in his article, "A short account of the things I found may not be uninteresting to English readers of the *Science-Gossip*." (1)

A hardbound copy of the 1869 monthly editions of *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip*, obtained via a dedicated sleuthing effort on my part and with the assistance of a rare book dealer in Devon, England, last winter, proved to be the perfect Christmas gift to myself. As a modern day Oslerian bibliophile, growing accustomed to haunting the mysterious and dark, electronic alleys of the internet, I experienced the same joy Osler must have felt when he discovered a coveted text. Bibliophiles take note: "CHRISTMAS AND THE MICROSCOPE" has become a scarce collector's item.

Osler's inaugural article has been reprinted several times. The *Bulletin of the Institute of the History of Medicine* chose to feature the article in 1937, on the seemingly arbitrary sixty-eighth anniversary of the original publica-

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

PHOTO 2: QUALITY ILLUSTRATIONS FROM
HARDWICKE'S SCIENCE-GOSSIP 1869.

tion. A Spartan introductory paragraph offers only that one Dr. Henry R. Viets of Boston had “recently acquired a copy of vol. 44 of *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* . . . that contain Osler's first printed paper . . . and gives evidence of his keen interest in nature,” (7) the very acquisition itself apparently reason enough to re-publish Osler's article. A copy of the title page for that volume is faithfully reproduced along with the article. Dr. Viets (1890-1969) was a Harvard neurologist, whose obituary notes that he established the first clinic in the world for the study of myasthenia gravis and studied with Osler at Oxford in 1916-1917. Viets published widely in the field of the history of medicine, and at that time of his death, he was the only American who had been admitted to the Osler Club of London. (8)

Twenty years later, in 1957, the University of Kansas republished Osler's Christmas article, extending “a holiday greeting from the Clendening Medical Library.” (9) The medical library at the University of Kansas was bereft of a name but Logan Clendening, MD, who had died in 1945, had given them his history of medicine collection, and the university eventually renamed the library the Clendening Medical Library and dedicated it on 13 September 1957. Clendening, a clinical professor, founded the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine at the University of Kansas. He also was a superior essayist and literary scholar, well known for his Sherlockiana writing, and a colleague noted he was remembered: “usually for his idiosyncrasies. He was a superb raconteur, a *bon vivant* and practical joker, an inveterate party-giver and party-goer, altogether one of the most memorable characters in Kansas City's history.” (10) Dawn McInnis, a librarian at the Clendening History of Medicine Library, has postulated that Dr. L. R. C. Agnew, the recently named chairman of the Department of the History of Medicine, was familiar with Osler's article and decided to extend a holiday greeting from the newly named library. He adorned the reproduction with a seasonally-themed cover and sent it to donors or perhaps to those who had attended the dedication. (McInnis, D. Professional communication/emails. 13 Sept & 1 Oct, 2018) How many copies of this holiday version of Osler's article were printed is unknown. The rare book world has none of them for sale.

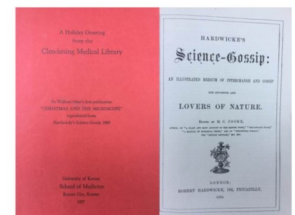
Unfortunately, too, the archivists at the Clendening Medical Library have been unable to locate their copy. The interlibrary loan service at Emory University found the

1957 reproduction at Dartmouth. The description provided by members of the Clendening History of Medicine Library fits with the copy sent by Dartmouth. A front cover of thick red paper, 9 3/16” tall by 6” wide, is folded over and inserted within the red cover, is the cover page for *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip* followed by Osler's article, on high quality paper. No seasonal embellishment adorns the cover, save the red color, and some basic information in black print. (Photo 3)

Bibliophiles, keep the antenna raised for the above items in the antiquities market. If there were a thematic metaphor here, it would be that historians of medicine, and especially the American Osler Society, have put Osler's life under a microscope, examining, possibly to a fault, every facet of his life. One of the most cherished compliments I have ever received came from the late Larry Longo, an accomplished Oslerian scholar, who told me that he “questioned the need for such detailed inspection of Osler's life on trivial matters, especially my talk on Osler as an athlete,” but admitted he was “pleasantly surprised to find the talk illuminating and meaningful, a good contribution to Oslerian history.”

Best wishes to all members of the American Osler Society for a pleasant and fun holiday season. If a chance to peer into a microscope materializes, take the opportunity to look and think of Osler trekking through the snow on Christmas Day in 1868, a hundred and fifty years ago.

(See page 11 for President's
Message references)

PHOTO 4: THE RED HOLIDAY COVER FROM THE
1957 REPRODUCTION FROM THE CLENDENING
MEDICAL LIBRARY AND THE COVER PAGE.

AOS Montreal 2019 Meeting May 12-15

The 49th meeting of the Society will be convened at Montreal, Quebec, from May 12 to 15, 2019. It will be held at the Hotel Omni Mont Royal in the middle of downtown Montreal, just next to McGill University and within walking distance of many attractions.

As most of you are aware, a fire occurred on the roof above the Osler Library on the evening of July 13. Fortunately, the Osler collection itself was unharmed. Unfortunately, water and smoke damage to the building itself necessitated removal of all the Library's contents for storage and access at another location during reconstruction. Probably, this reconstruction will not be completed in time for us to have the visits to the Osler Room which we had originally planned for the meeting.

Despite this, we are still organizing several special events to mark the 100th anniversary of Osler's death, including one about "Osler, the man you didn't know". This will be held at the Library's temporary location on the main McGill campus. Additional "extracurricular" activities include a walking tour of the "Square Mile" area of Montreal (located near the Omni Hotel) and visits to the Maude Abbott Medical Museum and the Montreal Neurological Institute. We also hope that members of the extended Osler family will attend. We are excited about our McGovern speaker, Marie Wilson, who will talk about Indigenous peoples of North America, their 20th century tribulations, and reconciliation.

Another project marking the 100th anniversary is an Osler book collection, which will be accessible to students and other individuals throughout the world. The basis of such a collection has been started at McGill for the Physician Apprenticeship component of its medical school curriculum. The books are housed in the Osler Library in a special cabinet and have a dedicated listing in the catalogue (<https://mcgill.worldcat.org/profiles/oslerfellowslibrary/lists/3031413>).

All AOS members will be receiving an invitation to contribute a book suggestion to this special collection, known as the Osler Fellows' Library.

The weather in Montreal in May is usually excellent - sunny and around 20 degrees Celsius (68 F°) as an afternoon high. There are many other things to see in the City, if you have a few extra days to spend

before or after the meeting, including the historic Old Port, several interesting Museums [such as the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Pointe-à-Cailière (Montreal archeology), and the McCord Museum (social history)], the Botanical Gardens, Mount Royal Park (designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect of New York's Central Park), Nôtre Dame Basilica, and St. Joseph's Oratory.

The November 15 deadline for abstract submission is fast approaching, and we invite you to participate in what should be a memorable set of presentations. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Montreal Local Organizing Committee

Rick Fraser, Pam Miller, Mary Hague-Yearl, Rolando Del Maestro, Joan O'Malley, Mathew Schulz, Steph A. Pang, Ke Xuan Li, Melanie Babinski, Katerina Giannios

Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the American Osler Society May 12-15, 2019

Meeting at a Glance - Preliminary schedule

Sunday	
1:00-5:00 p.m.	Registration - Omni Hotel
Afternoon	Tour of the Montreal Neurological Institute
Afternoon	William Osler's Montreal walking tour (student-guided or self-guided)
2:00-5:00 p.m.	Set up of Art Exhibit - Omni Hotel
3:00-5:00 p.m.	Frank Neelon Literary Gathering
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Past Presidents Meeting
5:00-6:30 p.m.	Past Presidents Dinner
7:00-9:00 p.m.	Board of Governor's Meeting
Monday	
7:00-5:00 p.m.	Registration - Omni Hotel
1:30 & 3:30 p.m.	Tours of the Maude Abbott Medical Museum
7:00- 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Art Exhibit - Omni Hotel
7:45-8:00 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks - Omni Hotel
8:00-11:00 a.m.	General Sessions - Omni Hotel
11:00 a.m.-Noon	The John P McGovern award lecture, Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
-	
Noon-1:00 p.m.	Luncheon
1:00-5:00 p.m.	General Sessions
6:00-8:00 p.m.	Reception at McCord Museum
Tuesday	
7:00-5:00 p.m.	Registration
1:30 & 3:30 p.m.	Tours of the Maude Abbott Medical Museum
7:00- 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Art Exhibit
8:00-Noon	General Sessions - Omni Hotel

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Noon-1:00 p.m. Luncheon
 1:00-5:00 p.m. General Sessions
 6:30-10:00 p.m. Banquet and Presidential Address, McGill Faculty Club

Wednesday
 7:00- 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 8:00-9:00 Annual Business Meeting
 9:00-Noon General Sessions - Omni Hotel
 Noon Adjourn



American Osler Society Committee Membership 2018-2019

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS	NEW CHAIR	ROTATES OFF	NEW MEMBERS
Bean Award	J. Murray	S.Podolsky, B.Thompson, J.Wright	J. Wright	J.Murray	J.Harris
McGovern Award	J.VanderVeer	P. Mueller, H. Swick	L.Drevlow	H.Swick	None
Lifetime Achievement Award	C.Pierach	J.Barondess, B.Fye, S. Moss,	No Change	S.Moss	B.Mennel
Nominating	J.VanderVeer	P. Mueller, H. Swick	L.Drevlow	H.Swick	None
Finance	M. Molina	B. Cooper, M. Stone	No Change	None	None
Membership	M.Molina	C.Boes, W.Evans, M.Jones	M. Jones	M.Molina	C.Fulkerson
Publications	M. Jones	W. Roberts, J. Greene, M. Malloy, H. Travers	No Change	W.Roberts, J.Greene	None
Annual Meeting – Program Committee	C.Partin	T.Frank, J.Harris, M.Molina, B.Silverman, J.Wright	M.Molina	T.Frank, J.Harris, C.Partin, B.Silverman, J.Wright	M.Jones, E. Matteson, G. Frank, M. Trotter
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	J. Erlen	G.Duker, K.Bettermann, D. Lanska (ExCmtLiason)	Rick Fraser	G.Duker, K.Bettermann, D. Lanska	P. Miller, R.DelMaestro

HISTORY OF MEDICINE ESSAYS

Renaissance and Enlightenment Period Essays: A Sampling from a UTMB Minimester Course in the History of Medicine

Essay 1

During Renaissance and Enlightenment periods, mechanistic thinking represented an important evolution over a humoral paradigm that had dominated for 1,500 years. By reducing the human body into simpler parts, Rene Descartes set into motion a school of thought that can be seen in modern physiology and pathophysiology. The zeitgeist of humanism allowed medicine men to focus on the human body and break it down into individual piece for study. In this way, mechanistic thinking represents a shift from anatomic description and illustration into physiology and pathology, due to the reductionism provided by humanism.

By emphasizing the physicality of the human body and interrogating the natural world, humanism opened the door to reductionism. In contrast to earlier periods, a desire for new knowledge could not be satisfied by Biblical explanations, especially considering the waning Church influence. While Renaissance scientists reinvigorated Greco-Roman literature, Enlightenment figures sought to discover novelty. The physical sciences, such as math and physics, were ripe for discovery and innovation. Yet medicine was not far from the gaze of scientists, who began to view the body in terms of physical phenomena. With a physical frame of reference, measurement and experiment soon followed, which produced descriptive vital signs including height, weight, and blood pressure. Quantification was critical for Enlightenment thinkers; the world must be observable and quantifiable, a dramatic departure from the Church's concept of an insubstantial and immortal soul. As a result of humanism and inquiries into the natural world, including the human body, the Enlightenment primed Europe for the concept of reductionism.

Several key figures connected reductionism to bodily mechanisms. Rene Descartes was first among them to consider the body in terms of a clock, whose function is defined by parts that could be replaced or repaired. He favored mechanical explanations for mechanisms, such as the heart, circulation, and muscle function. Descartes launched the reductionist school of thinking by translating the wider trend of

humanism and mechanistic philosophy into the human body. Boerhaave and others continued the work some hundred years later. He saw health in terms of fluid dynamics, pressures, and materials. A key thought was the blood clot being composed of "overly rigid fibres" as Porter¹ describes. Boerhaave is somewhat correct in that clots do in fact consist of solid clotting factors, which sometimes inappropriately form, as in the case of pulmonary emboli or deep vein thrombosis. Similarly, the nervous system was utmost importance for Enlightenment thinkers who were trying to reconcile an existential crisis of where the soul resided and how it worked, if it did indeed exist at all. Coming full circle, experimentation revealed that the nervous system operated by electricity. If electricity alone was humanity's motivator, why would a God be needed? Such questions no doubt plagued Enlightenment thinkers, allowing materialism, agnosticism, and atheism to surface. Yet by deconstructing the body into simplest terms, scientists began to understand underlying mechanisms. Physiology most closely resembles their thinking, which is the foundation for pathophysiology during disease. With better tools, later scientists would be able to inquire about the cellular and molecular mechanisms further underlying the gross and histological features observed in the Enlightenment. Finally, manipulating those systems allows 20th century and modern clinicians to reduce the burden of disease on humanity. Increasing or decreasing elements to reduce pain, prevent disease, or ease suffering is at the core of clinical practice.

By Ethan Hinds

(Ethan Hinds is a second year medical student and Osler Student Scholar at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX)

Essay 2

The enlightenment brought amazing breakthroughs in science through a greater understanding of anatomy and physiology. Europe, however, was still experiencing frequent epidemics, and physicians ~~could do little to prevent death from the common conditions of the time.~~ The achievements up to this point "proved more impressive on paper than in bedside practice (Porter p. 245)." Although great science, it had not greatly improved the practice of medicine. Voltaire, a prominent French enlightenment thinker, thought "doctors poured drugs of which they knew little to cure diseases of which they knew less into hu-

HISTORY OF MEDICINE ESSAYS

man beings of whom they knew nothing (Porter p. 256).” Voltaire, an ever-active critique, also commented “the art of medicine consists in amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.” A commonality shared between the practice of contemporary medicine and the enlightenment time is the presence of an increasing expectation on the ability of physicians to cure diseases. There seems to be a lag between theory and the putting to good use those new ideas. In today’s medical research, there is a great push to cure cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, and many other chronic conditions. Genetic research has held great promise in the treatment of these conditions but is still in its infancy, and society is experiencing frustrations like those that occurred hundreds of years ago.

Almost 20 years after the human genome was first sequenced, very few of the promised cures, treatments, and other benefits have materialized. Taking a detailed family history is still much more effective than using genetic predictors for most diseases. The problem lies in the fact that the genetic complexity of many disease processes is much more complicated than originally believed. Although billions of dollars and hours of research are being spent, we are still chasing the transformative new treatments and therapeutics promised long ago. A very strong similarity lies between researchers of today and researchers of the enlightenment. Anatomy and physiology of the enlightenment time was a way to do science, not medicine. Today, the same applies, genomics is still better suited for science, and not medicine. The fruits of genetic research are coming through the pipes. At UT Southwestern Medical Center, scientists have for the first time used CRISPR gene editing to stop the progression of Duchenne’s muscular dystrophy (DMD) in animal models. The long-promised treatments to this disease are in the pipeline. Once we can edit the genome of individuals, genetic research will have a much more significant use in the practice of medicine.

Enlightenment thinkers believed that a more thorough understanding of anatomy and physiology would yield the cures to common ailments of the time. Great thinkers and critiques such as Voltaire were justifiably disappointed when these new discoveries created little to no change in clinical practice. Doctors were still extremely limited in their ability to change the course of disease and practicing medicine based upon a small foundation of scientific knowledge. Thomas Jefferson characterized the issue well and rivals the critical nature of Voltaire. “Harvey’s discovery of the circulation of the blood was a beautiful ad-

dition to our knowledge of the animal economy, but on a review of the practice of medicine before and since that epoch, I do not see any great amelioration which has been derived from that discovery.” The great advances of the enlightenment time were not in the amelioration of disease. Instead, superstition and false claims were being systematically replaced with reason and logical experimentation. This set the stage for future generations to use accumulated knowledge and a new way of thinking to further chip away at the mystery of disease and human physiology. Within the 20th century, the world saw the last human-to-human transmission of the plague, the first use of penicillin, the introduction of chlorine into the water supply, and the introduction of vaccines to prevent many of the big killers of past generations. Just the same, with time we will see the benefits of genetic research. These benefits will similarly not be as timely as desired.

By Alex de Jong

(Alex de Jong is a second year medical student and Coordinator for the Bow-Tie Social Club (a history of medicine club) at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX)

¹ Porter, Roy. *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity*. New York-London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999.



American Osler Society Presidential Addresses—Second Installment 1980-1989

Year	City	President	Title	If Published: Citation
1980/10	Boston	Irving Beck	The Providential Visits of William Osler	osler.library.mcgill.ca/media/pdf/p100.pdf . Cached Oct 5, 2016 - Visit the Osler Library Archive Collections homepage for more information. Page 2. Sir William Osler Collection Fonds – P100 – Inventory List. 2 Beck, Irving A. "The Providential Visits of Sir William Osler" 1980. Wagner
1981/11	Hamilton, Ontario	Peter Olch	Osler's Clinical Prig: William S. Halsted	William S. Halsted: the Antithesis of William Osler. <i>The Persisting Osler</i> . 1985, pp. 199-211
1982/12	Philadelphia	William Gibson	Osler's Influence in British Columbia	No data.
1983/13	Minneapolis	Palmer Howard	A Collection of Artifacts from the William Osler Family	Indirect references at McGill, where these artifacts are housed.
1984/14	Atlanta	Jeremiah Barondess	Osler's Biographer: Notes on the Friendship of William Osler and Harvey Cushing	<i>The Persisting Osler II</i> . 1994, pp. 95-120
1985/15	Durham	Garth Huston	Sir Geoffrey Keynes and the Oslerian Tradition	Original Article, <i>The Oslerian Tradition in the BMJ</i> , G Keynes, 1968 (4): 599-604 But no data on G Huston's talk
1986/16	San Francisco	William Spaulding	William Osler's Experience with Smallpox	<i>The Persisting Osler II</i> , 1995. Pp. 269-279
1987/17	Philadelphia	Charles Roland	On the Need for a New Biography of Osler	<i>The Persisting Osler II</i> , 1994. pp. 73-84
1988/18	New Orleans	Robert Hudson	Oslerian Formes Frustes: A Clendening Sampler	No data
1989/19	Birmingham	Bruce Fye	Osler's Departure from Johns Hopkins: The Price of Success	WB Fye. "William Osler's Departure from North America: The Price of Success" <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1989; 320:1425-1431. Reprinted in Barondess and Roland. <i>The Persisting Osler II</i> . Malabar, FL, 1994: 245-257].

AOS HISTORY & MEDICAL HUMANITIES

The Ongoing Saga of Compiling the AOS Presidential Addresses

Clyde Partin's recent essay on AOS presidential addresses reminded me of how I got the "inside story" regarding how the *New England Journal of Medicine* editors decided to publish my 1989 presidential address. I spent more than a year researching, writing, and choosing illustrations for my talk, *Osler's Departure from Johns Hopkins: The Price of Success*, was delivered at the 19th annual meeting in Birmingham. A few months before the meeting I decided to take a chance and send the manuscript, embellished with 55 endnotes, to the journal and was very pleasantly surprised when they accepted it. The address was published one month after the Birmingham meeting [WB Fye. "William Osler's Departure from North America: The Price of Success" *N Engl J Med* 1989; 320:1425-1431.] It was reprinted in Barondess and Roland. [*The Persisting Osler II*. Malabar, FL, 1994: 245-257].

Three or four years later, I was seated next to Marcia Angell (who was then the executive editor of the NEJM) at a banquet, I told her how delighted I was that the journal had accepted my Osler article. She then explained how that decision was made. Angell informed me that when the manuscript was received in the journal's editorial office the response from someone involved in the initial screening of submissions was essentially, "We don't publish articles about Osler." Luckily, the journal had a policy that one member of the small editorial team had to review each manuscript before it was sent out for peer review or rejected without outside review. The individual who reviewed my manuscript liked it, so it went through the formal review process and was published. Needless to say, if the person who first reviewed the paper did not think it was suitable for the journal I would have received a form letter explaining why it had been rejected.

There is another aspect to this story that AOS members might find interesting. I illustrated my 1989 presidential address with 62 Kodachrome slides...remember those days? Since the beginning of my clinician-historian career I have embraced the notion that if you put a lot of effort into researching and writing an historical or biographical article you should develop an illustrated talk based on that research. Moreover, well-researched and well-illustrated medical history talks/presentations have a

very long shelf life. Contrast this concept with the fact that a talk on some aspect of cardiology (my pre-retirement specialty) has a very short shelf life because things change so quickly. My Osler presentation illustrates this point. With the maturation of PowerPoint presentations in the early 21st century, I revised the text slightly and paired it with 167 PowerPoint slides. It has been a privilege to be an AOS member since 1978 and to have served as the organization's president 30 years ago.

W. Bruce Fye



POETRY CORNER



THE KING

By Lenexa J.F. Morais

A room fit for a King, sterile and white,
Who huffed and puffed with all her might.
Combative, non-compliant, a weary old soul
Who needed a break, not a mountain of gold.
No kingdom had she, but a chair in the sun.
And regarded by all as "Not That One."
Alcohol, dirt, a mess too big to clean,
Grouchy, exhausted, sometimes just plain mean.
Our frequent flyer, the miles were bound to catch up
Bought a one-way ticket to the land far above.
Disbelief. Shock. When her name no longer graced
the board.
Tragedy. Sadness. When we learned of the sword
That felled a great King.
I met her many times on her lengthy stays,
And though she didn't remember me,
I'd like to say: "I'm sorry, I miss you."
You say, "how could that be?"
We were strangers, divided by profession and sea.
But I learned from you. Your life, your choices.
My education.
You were and will always be, important to me.
I will never forget
the laughs you gave me
with your crass humor
your vitality
your passion to fight
May you be at peace.
I bid you a goodnight.

Lenexa Morais is a second year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX.

OPINION

The History of Medicine in Medical Education

Articles expressing opinions on contemporary issues related to the medical humanities, ethics, and practice of medicine will be presented in this section.

The June 2016 edition of the *Oslerian Newsletter* contained a similarly named article in which I reviewed the 2016 Joint Session of the American Osler Society (AOS) and the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) at which Jacalyn Duffin, Jeremy Green, David Jones, Ken Ludmerer, and John Warner reviewed the challenges of integrating the history of medicine into contemporary medical education. The summary of their observations can be viewed in the October 2015 edition of the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 70:623, *Making the Case for History in Medical Education*. As I pointed out in the 2016 *Oslerian Newsletter* the goals of the Joint Session Panel Discussion related nicely to the Strategic Goals and Direction of the AOS submitted by an AOS Ad Hoc Task Force. One of those goals was to, “make the AOS more relevant in today’s educational milieu.” Another goal was to, “communicate and transmit the importance of Oslerian values in contemporary medical practice through schools of medicine” and “to make medical students and residents more aware of William Osler as a relevant role-model.”

Since that Joint Session in 2016 several AOS members have taken active steps in attaining those goals. Joe VanderVeer, Jr. and Charles Bryan completed their *Vade Mecum for Medical Students and Residents: Osler for White Coat Pockets*, and have made this little jewel of aphorisms and Oslerian meditations available at an extremely reasonable price to all. We, at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) purchased this book for our entire entering class of 2022 this year and distributed it in gift bags that we provide through the Osler Student Societies to the incoming freshmen medical students. I know at least one of the Osler Student Societies has provided a luncheon to review several chapters in the book. I believe several other medical schools have made similar purchases.

I, personally, began a Minimester Survey Course in the History of Medicine at UTMB in 2017. These Minimester elective periods are two week offerings at the beginning of the second year of medical school at UTMB. In this survey course I use Roy Porter’s book, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medi-*

cal History of Humanity (1999), as our text book. It is certainly a challenge for the students to get through about 700 pages of reading in 2 weeks time, but I encourage them to read the book as a novel without the intent of memo-

rizing. I supplement this reading with other readings pertinent to the history of medicine that we spend a bit more time analysing and add in visits to the Blocker Collection of the History of Medicine in UTMB’s Moody Library to view important historical artefacts such as Vesalius’, *Fabrica* (1543) and William Hunter’s, *Anatomia uteri humani gravidi* (1774). Perhaps it is a bit insane to think that we can get through 2000 years of medical history in 9 days worth of 2 hour meetings (I lose one day because Labor Day falls within the Minimester schedule), however, I have been relieved to find in the evaluations of the course that the small number of students taking the course (5-6) have said they have benefitted from the experience. As further proof of maintaining the students’ interest, I have included two essays (pages 6 and 7 of this edition of the *Oslerian*) that were written as part of the course requirements. I think that you will agree for such a brief exposure these students have picked up on some very important aspects of the value of the history of medicine in the medical education process.

As we approach the deadline (November 15th) for the submission of abstracts for the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Osler Society in Montreal, I hope you will seek out students and residents in your local area to encourage submission. I have several students here at UTMB that I am working with on their submissions. By encouraging this younger generation of upcoming physicians to begin their acquaintance with the history of medicine and Sir William Osler perhaps we will continue to supplement our ranks of very mature and greying members with young and enthusiastic physicians to carry on our legacy to future generations.

Michael H. Malloy

LETTERS –OBITUARIES–NOTICES

President's Message (references)

(1) Osler W. Christmas and the Microscope. *Hardwick's Science-Gossip: An Illustrated Medium of Interchange and Gossip for Students and Lovers of Nature*. Ed. by MC Cooke. London 1870. 1 Feb 1869:44-44.

(2) Cushing H. *The Life of Sir William Osler*. Vol. 1. Oxford at the Clarendon Press. 1926.

(3) Osler W. On *Canadian* fresh-water polyzoa. *Canadian Naturalist*. 1883 n.s. (x): 399-405.

(4) Bunting CH. Dr. Osler as Pathologist. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. 23(4) 1949: 336-340.

(5) Bliss M. *William Osler: A Life in Medicine*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1999.

(6) Hardwick's Science-Gossip. (Review) *Nature*. Feb 16, 1871. Vol. 3(68): 304-304.

(7) H. E. S. "WILLIAM OSLER'S FIRST PRINTED PAPER." *Bulletin of the Institute of the History of Medicine* 5, no. 1 (1937): 91-93. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44438171>.

(8) News, Notes and Queries OBITUARY HENRY R.VIETS, M.D. *Medical History*. 1969 Oct, 13(4): 394-394.

(9) Osler W. Christmas and the microscope, Sir William Osler's first publication, reproduced from *Hardwicke's Science-Gossip, 1869: a holiday greeting from the Clendening Medical Library*. Reprinted by University of Kansas, 1957.

(10) "LOGAN CLENDENING: CANONIZING AN IRREGULAR SAINT." Published originally in the *Baker Street Journal*, December 1992. https://www.bsiarchivalhistory.org/BSI_Archival_History/Clendening.html. Accessed 1 October 2018

Dear Fellow Oslerians,

I'm pleased to present the following update on *William Osler. An Encyclopedia*:

Norman Publishing of San Francisco has kindly agreed to be our publisher. As you many of you know, this firm does beautiful work, and previously brought out *Sir William Osler. An Annotated Bibliography and Illustrations*, by Richard L. Golden and Charles G. Roland.

The book will be about 900 pages, 8.5 inches X 11 inches, with at least 400 illustrations.

The text will consist of about 800 pages of alphabetized entries (approximately 1,200), a forward, and a bibliography. For the latter, we'll strive to essentially all of Osler's non-technical writing and most of the secondary literature pertaining to Osler.

Of the projected 800 pages of alphabetized entries, we have thus far formatted 660 pages, or 82 percent of the projected total. Thus, we're well on schedule.

We have 94 contributors to date, representing four continents.

We've engaged the services of two copy editors to expedite publication.

Our target date for publication is May 2020, in time for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the American Osler Society.

Here is a review of our aims:

- To pull together and make easily accessible the enormous scholarship pertaining to William Osler that has accumulated since his death in December 1919.
- To depict Osler as he was perceived by the contemporaries. For the first time, we will make available in one place the published impressions of Osler's peers along with biographical sketches of these persons (who, by and large, were an extremely impressive group of people).
- To summarize, with commentary, essentially all of Osler's non-technical writing.
- To present selective aspects of Osler's activities, character traits, and opinions on a wide range of topics.
- To situate Osler's life and work in the context of his times, with due appreciation of his contemporaries (many of whom made contributions of at least equal importance to his).
- To present, selectively, historical figures that influenced Osler, recalling his advice to "spend the last half-hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity."
- To provide concise biographical summaries of the various periods of Osler's life.
- To air criticisms of Osler made by his contemporaries, by later observers, and by the contributors to this volume.
- To supply a starting place for anyone wishing to undertake a project pertaining to Osler in one or another area.
- Above all, to produce a credible work of scholarship pertaining to Osler and his era.

As the editor of this collaborative project, I thank all of you who have contributed and invite those of you who have not contributed to contact me. We still need authors, and we also welcome fact-checkers and proof readers. I think you'll find it a lot of fun.

Charles S. Bryan

cboslerian@gmail.com

Alfred R Henderson M.D., a founding member of the American Osler Society, sent me a letter noting that the medical library of Temple University is now the largest collection of Osler material in the eastern United States. Please keep this in mind as you pursue your scholarly Oslerian research.

Clyde Partin

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

President

Clyde Partin, Jr.

clyde.partin@emoryhealthcare.org**Secretary**

Douglas Lanska

douglas.lanska@gmail.com**Treasurer**

C. Joan Richardson

jrich@utmb.edu***The Oslerian: Editor***

Michael H. Malloy

mmalloy@utmb.edu

Looking Ahead to Montreal



The 49th meeting of the Society – marking the 100th anniversary of William Osler's death – will be held in Montreal, Quebec from May 12 to 15, 2019. We anticipate a significant level of interest in this meeting and enthusiastically await your arrival. In addition to our usual stimulating papers, there will be special visits to the Osler Library as well as events related to the man and medicine in Montreal in the 1800 and 1900s. Members of the extended Osler family are hoping to attend. The weather here is usually perfect at this time of year and the exchange rate means everything you buy is at a discount! Save the date now!

Call for Abstracts for 2019 Annual Meeting in Montreal, May 12-15, 2019

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to aosrenee@gmail.com and must be **received by 15 November 2018**. Abstracts submitted by e-mail will be acknowledged. 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, and e-mail address. This should be followed by a two to three sentence biographical sketch indicating how the author would like to be introduced. (This will probably be your entire introduction. Don't be modest!) 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.

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," "discuss," "examine," "evaluate," "define," "contrast," or "outline"; avoid noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate"). The learning objectives are required for Continuing Medical Education credit.

Each presenter will have a 20-minute time slot, which will be strictly enforced. Presenters should rehearse and time their papers to 15 minutes, in order to permit brief discussions and to be fair to the other speakers. Although 20 minutes might seem quite short for a paper in the humanities, our experience with this format has been overwhelmingly favorable.



The AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY exists to bring together members of the medical and allied professions, who by common inspiration are dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness, and the ethical example of Sir William Osler, who lived from 1849 to 1919. Its *OSLERIAN* is published quarterly.

We're on the Web!

√ us out at: www.americanosler.org

AOS Members — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another as well as "Opinions and Letters". - MHM
(mmalloy@utmb.edu)