



THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada

IN THIS ISSUE

THIS SPRING THE AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY held its thirty-fifth annual meeting in Pasadena, California, to honour the career of Dr. Earl Nation, urologist, medical historian, Charter Member of the American Osler Society, and a dynamic Oslerian who this year celebrates his 95th birthday. Long familiar to the Osler staff, Dr. Nation has published four books about William Osler, including the two volume *An Annotated Checklist of Osleriana*, plus about 300 articles on the topics of urology, chemistry, history and humanism. To underline his publications, Dr. John Carson recently compiled *An Annotated Checklist of Nationiana*. In our newsletter Dr. Nation turns his attention to a series of letters, (which narrowly escaped destruction) between Osler's biographer Dr. Harvey Cushing, (1869-1939) and Dr. Charles Camac, (1868-1940) who in 1896 became Osler's Assistant Resident in Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. These fascinating letters provide insight into how Cushing prepared for his biography of Osler and testify to his gratitude to Charles Camac for his help in the huge undertaking. ✱

Dr. Earl Nation received a "Carrie A. Nation" quilt stitched by Donna Hennessee Bryan at the annual American Osler Society banquet held at the Huntington Library. The pattern honours Dr. Nation's Great Aunt Carrie, redoubtable temperance and anti-tobacco crusader.



THE CUSHING – CAMAC CORRESPONDENCE

In 1980 Jack McGovern and I published a book we called *Student and Chief, the Osler-Camac Correspondence*. In the introduction it was explained that C.N.B. Camac's papers, collected in three large scrapbooks, are in the Huntington Library. In addition to the Osler letters, and many other things, there are several letters from Harvey Cushing. These reflect a friendship going back to their days in training at Johns Hopkins. Unfortunately, Camac kept few copies of his own letters.

One charming note from Cushing to Camac is not there but is found in John Fulton's biography of Cushing (p. 135). First, let us set the stage for it. Camac had succeeded William Sydney Thayer as Assistant Resident in Medicine at Johns Hopkins in 1896. Cushing had left Massachusetts General Hospital for Johns Hopkins in the fall of 1896 to become surgical resident under Halsted. Cushing was then 27 years old.

In September 1897 Cushing developed acute appendicitis. His account of his own illness and operation are told graphically by Fulton. On September 28, 1897 Harvey Cushing left a note in his friend Camac's room just before going into surgery for an appendectomy:

As I have often told patients, there is a certain amount of danger in all operations; similarly some danger in getting on to a streetcar – about even they are. *Quae cum ita sint*. I write you a small missive giving you the privilege of distributing my things, books etc. among the staff. 'Auf wiedersehen,' I hope.



Photograph of Harvey Cushing inscribed in December 1924 to Wilder Penfield.

Courtesy of Yale University, Harvey/John Hay Whitney Medical Library and Wilder Penfield Archive, Osler Library.

Despite a wound disruption Cushing was able to attend Camac's wedding in New York City two months later. At Christmas that year there came a copy of Shakespeare's sonnets, published by T.M. Dent & Co., Aldine House, London. Camac wrote "December 25, 1897" in it. Cushing appended a reference to sonnet XXIX, marked, "Mein lieblingsvers, H.W.C." This sonnet begins:

 McGill

... this
missive is to
let you know
that Lady
Osler has
shouldered me
with the
task of
undertaking
W.O.'s
biography. I
wi[s]h that
she had lit
upon you,...



*When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,
I all alone beweep my outcast state
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries
And look upon myself and curse my fate
Wishing me like one more rich in hope,*

After one year at Johns Hopkins, during which he also became well acquainted with William Osler, Camac moved to New York City to join his brother-in-law, Henry D. Nicoll in the practice of medicine. He later became director of the laboratory of clinical pathology in the Cornell School of Medicine.

The first Cushing letter to appear in Camac's collection is one written by hand in 1909. It followed the publication in that year by Camac of *Epoch-Making Contributions to Medicine, Surgery and the Allied Sciences*:

Dr. Harvey Cushing
107 East Chase St.
Baltimore,

Dear Charles,
The Epoch-making Contributions are bully – what a good idea it was! And you have gone about the matter with your usual delightful touch. I am so glad you sent me a copy and I expect you to inscribe it someday when you are hereabouts. I shall hand on the one I purchased to some other. Everyone ought to have a copy and I hope it will have a huge sale. But that is not why you did it, I know, and I envy you the fun you had 'a doing of it'.

1909
Ever affect.
Harvey Cushing

In 1905 Camac had published his *Counsels and Ideals From the Writings of William Osler*. There is no acknowledgement of this first edition of Camac's book at the time by Cushing, although he refers to it in the next letter in the collection. This followed the war years and the death of Sir William Osler. Meantime a shipment of Camac's book had gone down with a ship from England sunk by a German submarine and he was working on a new, enlarged edition which was finally published in 1921, with a second impression in 1929. Cushing mentions this in the next letter:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Huntington Avenue
and Francis Street
Mail address, Fenway Station
Boston 17

March 17, 1920
My Dear Charles;
It is long since I have written to you or heard from you. The occasion for this missive is to let you know that Lady Osler has shouldered me with the task of undertaking W.O.'s biography. I wi[s]h that she had lit upon you, for you are so familiar with his writing that you could have done it not only with much less labor but infinitely better. However, I shall have to do what I can with the help of his many friends.

Now, will you, when you have time, go over your letters and let me have every little scrap that you have from him, adding dates so far as you can, for he rarely put anything down except to enumerate the day.

Will you also, when you are going over his writings for the new edition of "Counsels and Ideals" which Mackall tells me you are preparing – will you, I say, bear in mind this matter and note down all things which are of biographical interest so far as he is concerned. He put a good deal of himself into his writings from time to time, and it will spare me enormously if while you are making this review you will keep his own biography, as well, in the back of your head.

I do hope that you have a large batch of letters and that there may be some long ones, though even bare notes on post cards are desired.

Always sincerely yours,
Harvey Cushing

A month later Cushing is returning to Camac the Osler correspondence he had sent in response to Cushing's request:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
721 Huntington Avenue, Boston 17,
Mass.

April 28, 1920
Dear Charles,
I am sending back your Osler letters by parcel post, insured. I hope this is not taking any undue chances with

them for they are a precious lot. I have taken the liberty of copying a few of them, and others have been of value in enabling me to locate him at various times and places.

Please look up in letter no. 91 and let me know what the joke was about "Counsels and Ideals". I cant [sic] read the second word.

What a ten-strike you made with the admirable selection of quotations a[n]d how pleased they both were with it. It must have been an enormous satisfaction to you. Mackall tells me that you are getting ready for another edition, which ought to have as great a success [as] the first. I am so glad you are doing it.

I must have written to you after Lady Osler asked me to attempt the biography, to jot down for me the things which you ran across of an autobiographical nature, such things as you might not be likely to utilize yourself for your own purposes.

You must be hard at it as the rest of us are trying to get reestablished after our army service period. I hope everything goes well with you, and I shall try and drop in on you any time I am in New York.

Always affectionately yours,
Harvey Cushing
PSS.

I am sending you a copy of the reprint of the Classical Association address. I wrote the preamble early in January at the request of Houghton Mifflin before I knew I was to be shouldered with this important task.

In the second paragraph of the letter above Cushing asks Camac to look up Osler's letter numbered by Camac "91". This letter is to be found in *Student and Chief* on page 71. It is dated Sept. 25 [08]. Toward the end Osler writes: "I am glad to see the "Counsels and Sidevils," as I heard it called, has reached a 4th impression, & such a success it has had."

On May 1, 1920 there follows another letter from Cushing, once again expressing his wonderment at having been chosen by Lady Osler to write the biography. The enigmatic reference to Camac's notes and reminiscences is not answered in Camac's papers. The letter follows:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
721 Huntington Avenue, Boston 17,
Mass.

May 1st 1920

Dear Charles,

Thanks for your letter of the 20th. I think we all more or less share in this same feeling and it was because of it that I submitted to Lady Osler's request. I can't imagine why she singled me out unless it was for some sentimental feeling owing to my having been with Revere at the end. It meant a great deal more to them than I could possibly have realized.

I should greatly like to have the notes you jotted down subsequent to his talks. Never mind if they are incomplete.

What a curious reminiscence you have closed with. If it had come to you to be my executor in those days you would have found very poor pickings.

Always Yours,
Harvey Cushing

The next holograph letter from Cushing to Camac is dated October 21, 1921:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
721 Huntington Avenue, Boston 17,
Mass.

October 21st 1921

Dear Charles,

Thanks so much for your postal and for its note regarding the Charaka Club dinner of March 4th, 1905. I do wish that you would let me see the material, and the letter to Dana.

Can you give me Miss MacDonnell's address? I suppose it is Richard MacDonnell's sister, and I do not find that I have ever corresponded with her, although I have a few letters from William Osler to her brother though how in the world I got them I can[sic]t imagine, unless they were sent to me by Shepherd.

Always sincerely yours,
Harvey

P.S. I am obliged for your hint to appeal to Blackader once more. He finally sent me some letters which I was very glad to have.

Cushing later wrote to the secretary of the Charaka Club, Dr. Ward A. Holden, about these matters:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
721 Huntington Avenue
Boston 17, Mass.

September 2, 1922

Dr. Ward A. Holden
8 East Fifty-fourth Street
New York City.

Dear Holden: (referred to me as secretary)

I want to bring the Charaka Club into the Osler biography. I find to my distress that I do not have Vol. I and II of the proceedings. Do you suppose I can get them anywhere?

Have you minutes of the meetings, and could you let me know, (1) when W. O. was elected a member; (2) the dates of the meetings he attended, if any, and (3) the dates and titles of the papers he read, if any?

I will be hugely obliged; and will you answer on this same sheet below to save us both some trouble.

Very sincerely yours,
Harvey Cushing.

The Charaka Club was organized in 1898 by a group of medical men of New York City "who were interested in the literary, artistic and historical aspects of medicine, and who hoped to find some recreation if not profit in dealing with this, the less serious side of their art." Volume I of their proceedings was published in 1902. In it Osler is listed as an honorary member. In Volume II, published in 1906, he is listed among the 16 regular members. Charles L. Dana was one of the three members of the Committee of Publication. He presided at the dinner at the University Club honoring Dr. Osler on March 4, 1905. There were numerous speeches, much honor and the affair closed with the long poem by S. Weir Mitchell, entitled, "Books and the Man." The account of the meeting in Vol. II of the Proceedings closes with: "Dr. Osler's speech in acknowledgement of the ovation given him was in the nature of a short story of his professional life, told simply and eloquently, and ending with warm appreciation of the

friendship and good fellowship shown him. It was a heart to heart talk which won him applause and congratulations."

Osler's only paper published in the Proceedings is the long one on "Fracastorius." It appears in Vol. II. Talks given by him and not published were: "On Linacre;" "Oxford;" "Imaginary Libraries;" and "Libraries of France and Italy."

The Richard MacDonnell referred to in the second paragraph of Cushing's letter of October 21st, was an old friend of Osler. He beat out F.W. Campbell as Osler's successor on the Board of the Montreal General Hospital when Osler resigned in 1885. Dr. F.J. Shepherd was Osler's student-days friend and later a distinguished Canadian surgeon.

In response to Cushing's request for Camac to send him anecdotes relating to Osler, Camac responds with the following:

Dear Harvey,

You asked for anecdotes – these lose so much in the recording that I doubt their value for your purposes – they must be told in conversation – and the audience must be sympathetic and the occasion suitable. Have you the "Born again to the microscope" and the "etwas Anders" stories? Then there is the deaf guest at No. 1 Franklin Street.

The Chief told the "somewhat Anders" story at a little luncheon I had for him at the University Club [with Hopkins staff and house officers as guests also – 1903 – the occasion when Osler was presented with the newly completed 63 volume *Dictionary of National Biography*]. You have no doubt heard him tell it. It may not be wise to publish this as Anders is living and his book is still going.

Then the novice intern (who was myself) pressing him for details of treatment in a heart case on whom the Chief had just finished a brilliant clinic which left the listeners deep in thought regarding the pathology of valve lesions and the delicate mechanisms of compensation. The intern, being ward physician, was by the side of his chief at the head of the large audience as we moved from the bed side. In a quiet voice the intern repeated his question

I can't imagine why she singled me out unless it was for some sentimental feeling owing to my having been with Revere at the end. It meant a great deal more to them than I could possibly have realized.

Have you the "Born again to the microscope" and the "etwas Anders" stories?

...for it was evident that on that afternoon this particular young man had been the individual object on whom the great master teacher had poured his marvelous influence.



regarding treatment and in an even quieter voice The Chief said "give him strychnia." But the novice pressed further as to the dose; the Chief almost whispered "oh give him a grain, but ask Thayer first." The intern was aroused and when later he asked Thayer the novice had awakened fully to his opportunities and the significance of this gentle method of mind opening. I saw this method employed many times on all sorts of conditions of men in after years, the last being in the Radcliffe Infirmary. I was visiting a visiting guest. The Regius Professor was being attended by an intern whose mind seemed to be engaged in contemplation of the trees, as he gazed languidly through the open window. The case under study at the time was one of cervical adenitis, which the intern voluntarily and with air of bored finality had diagnosed as "tuberculous." "Had the blood been examined?" "No." "Would it not be interesting to look at the blood?" "Possibly." Then followed the clinic. I watched the intern. The trees lost their charm, the languid attitude was passing, there was a light beginning to come into the dull eyes of the intern. It was a fascinating process, this mental awakening. There were the three of us besides the nurse at the bedside, so there could be one object only in this painstaking, searching clinic. As we left the ward, the Regius Professor took up some other hospital matters and the intern excused himself, to return later, just as we were leaving the building. An alert, bright-eyed, somewhat flushed young man whom one would accurately believe to be the same, who had met us an hour or so before addressed us. "I beg your pardon sir, but would you mind having a look at some blood specimens, which I have stained, from the case which you were demonstrating to us?" The intern, being an Englishman, was suppressing his emotions, but with poor success, for it was evident that on that afternoon this particular young man had been the individual object on whom the great master teacher had poured his marvelous influence.

You and I, Harvey, used to talk over these subtle influences which pervaded the atmosphere about the

Chief, but will those who did not know him feel the same? However, I am glad you asked me, for it has done me good to express some of these thoughts. Do with them as you think best.

Yours affectionately,
C—
Sept. 8 '22

Cushing thanks Camac three days later in a typewritten letter:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
721 Huntington Avenue
Boston 17, Mass.

September 11, 1922.
Dr. C.N.B. Camac
76 East 56th St., N.Y.

Dear Charles:—
Thanks hugely for the anecdotes. The "born again to the microscope" I do not know, nor "The deaf guest at 1 West Franklin Street." The "Osler mit etwas Anders" was Charles Martin's title of his review of Anders' book.

Your stories about his method of 'mind opening' are excellent and I hope I shall be able to work them in. But do give me the deaf guest and the microscopes stories.

Always yours,
H.C.

In a footnote on page 473 of Vol. I of *The Life* Cushing explains the Anders reference:

Naturally it [*The Principles and Practice of Medicine*] was the source of imitation, but by his revisions Osler kept well ahead of them. His friend James M. Anders of Philadelphia had issued, through a rival publishing-house in 1897, a 'Text-book of the Practice of Medicine' arranged in similar lines. Some wag wrote a review of it, under the title *Osler mit etwas Anders*.

On September 12 Camac responds to Cushing's request for more stories:

September 12th, '22

"Born Again to the Microscope"

At a medical meeting (place, date and society unknown to me) an elderly

member of the profession rather eloquently, deplored the loss of bedside acumen and underrated the microscope and laboratory aids in general. It was at a time, in medical progress, when the clinical laboratory and clinical pathology were struggling for recognition against the opposition of the older but still influential members of the profession. The opposing ones were those who "were not awake with the dawn" and who, being unfamiliar with the newer methods in diagnosis, sought to justify their unfamiliarity by disclaiming and in some cases deriding these newer methods. From the eminence of the position of some of these opponents, clinical pathology was experiencing unnecessary difficulties from lack of equipment, laboratory space and appropriation. At the meeting referred to, the speaker had made some impression by his eloquence and rebuttal was in order. The Chief rose and, after a few remarks about the value of the clinical laboratory studies concluded his discussion by stating that the last speaker — and those who felt as the speaker did "should be born again to the microscope." The effect on the audience was instantaneous and the story of the former speaker lay shattered like dead leaves after a brisk autumn breeze.

I was not present at this meeting, but the distinguished practitioner, to whom this remark was addressed, came to see me a few days later, and asked me to come to the institution (in which he had administrative influence) for the purpose of looking over his building to select space and to discuss ways and means for the establishment of a clinical laboratory. Regeneration had, to a certain extent taken place, through the Chief's quiet baptizing.

Have you "the drag net method of diagnosis?" I think it occurred in the discussion, by the Chief, of Solis-Cohen's article on vaso-motor diseases presented before the Assoc. Am. Phys.

I just recall my visit to old Mrs. Osler shortly before the Chief was to leave for Oxford. He went to bid her "good bye." Her parting admonition was, "Remember, William, the shutters in England will

rattle as they do in America." Mrs. Osler was nearing her 100th year.

I am looking up the Charaka minutes for you. Did you get the Charaka volumes nos. 1 and 2 from Dr. George Walton in Boston?

[There was no other mention of the blind guest at No. 1 Franklin Street story.]

The next Cushing letter in the collection is dated August 2, 1923:

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
721 Huntington Avenue
Boston 17, Mass.

August 2, 1923

Dear Charles:

Of course! How utterly stupid of me. I was trying to read something quite different into the epigram of Ellen Pickton Osler. It is, as you say, epitomized philosophy. They both had plenty of it.

Thanks for your good wishes. I am having the usual amateur's difficulty in eliminating what, to me, are precious and illuminating things. I wish you could come on and spend a few days with me, and help me to boil them down.

Always yours,
Harvey C.

In this letter Cushing gives a hint of the problems he is having in composing *The Life*. He once said that with the experience of Volume I behind him, Volume II came more easily and was therefore better. He was not able to devote himself completely to the biography at this period. Fulton says that between 1920 and 1924, when the last of the manuscript went to the printer, Cushing turned out an average of one paper a month.

There is a hiatus of ten years in Cushing's letters to Camac. The next is dated July 23, 1933, the year Cushing was 64:

Dr. Harvey Cushing
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital
Boston, Mass.

July 23rd, 1933

Dear Charles,—

So nice of you! I am glad you liked my sketch of Councilman. It was written *con amore*. Can't we love a person for his faults as well as his merits? Certainly he had both in abundant measure.

My plans? To go to New Haven in the autumn if I can finish a book this summer — not so easy to do as when we were younger. Don't you find that this is so, increasing difficulty in sustained labor? And what a transplation will do to me at our late time of life is uncertain — even of younger people like Counce — even of you and me almost as long ago.

But at least it will bring me nearer to New York and I hope I may see more of you than has been possible these past years.

Affty,
H.C.

William T. Councilman had died on 26 May and Cushing had written a warm appreciation.

Councilman had admired Cushing since the Hopkins days and was credited with having brought Cushing to Harvard. In October 1921 Cushing had reluctantly agreed to prepare an address for Ether Day. It was designated as "The personality of a hospital," and many considered it one of Cushing's finest addresses. He extended his allotted twenty minutes to forty-five. Councilman later responded with a long, complimentary letter to "My dear Cushing." Among other things he said, "I think it was the best address of the kind I ever heard and it made me feel that I possibly may be regarded as an inconspicuous brick in a good building."

The story of Cushing's move to Yale as professor of neurology in the fall of 1933, at the age of 64, is well known. Fulton wrote: "His departure from the institution which he had served for twenty years passed unnoticed."

The last surviving letter from Cushing to Camac is written in the fall of 1933, following the move to New Haven:

Dr. Charles
N.B. Camac



Yale University
The School of Medicine
333 Cedar Street
New Haven, Connecticut

November 21, 1933

Dear Charles;

I am just back from abroad and find your letter about the disposition of your Osler documents. I think it is altogether the proper thing that they should go to McGill. I have sent a great case of papers and documents and copies of letters up there myself. It is best that everything should go to one place, and the Osler Library is the natural depository for them. I shall pass the word around to everyone I see. Just how this ought to be made known I don't foresee. It is possible that if some such suggestion should be made public, it might merely serve to make other institutions, Osler Clubs, academies and so on to go gunning for Osler documents on their own.

*I am having
the usual
amateur's
difficulty in
eliminating
what, to me,
are precious
and
illuminating
things.*

... your letter about the disposition of your Osler documents. I think it is altogether the proper thing that they should go to McGill. I have sent a great case of papers and documents and copies of letters up there myself.



So perhaps the best thing to do is to spread the word around, and I shall bear it in mind myself.

I am glad that you ran across Sigerist at the Academy before writing – but this was way back in October. He is coming here to give an address Friday. He does these things so gracefully, and apparently without effort. For my part, I find that as I get along in years composition becomes more difficult and preparing things for societies and meetings more laborious by year.

Always affectionately yours,
Harvey Cushing

Alas, Cushing's admonition to Camac concerning disposition of his Osler documents did not come to pass, although there is evidence that it was his intention at this time to give everything to the Osler Library. Camac, during the last years of his life, was hoping and planning, however, to first assemble the Osler correspondence for publication. The "flighty purpose" intervened. He died Sept. 27, 1940 without achieving either aim. As happens all too often those who remained had no appreciation of what they were left with. Only the foresight of an antiquarian book dealer-friend in Pasadena prevented Camac's letters from Osler and Cushing ending up in the dumpster. ❀

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FRANCES PENNEY

Dr. Norman Bethune (1890-1939) needs no introduction to readers of this Newsletter. The same cannot be said about his wife, Frances Penney. During the 2004 meeting of the American Osler Society, the History of Medicine Librarian was fortunate enough to meet Professor Terrance Ryan, Director of the Osler-McGovern Centre at 13 Norham Gardens, Oxford. During the course of the conversation he related the following story about Frances Penney, whom Bethune married and divorced twice, first in 1927 and then again in 1933. Although Bethune continued to write to her after their divorce, and her marriage to A.R.E. Coleman, little information has survived about her life following Bethune's death. According to a letter in the Osler Library archives from Frances' nephew Michael Campbell Penney written in 1975 (MS 679), she returned to Britain after World War II, lived in London with her favourite brother and then following his death, moved to Edinburgh where she lived

in the circumstances described below in a letter from Professor Terrance Ryan:

Frances Penney (Bethune) c.1891-c.1964

In the 1920s there was a formality about the "best" Edinburgh families that included nannies, (known by the surnames of the families by whom they were employed) governesses, and other below stairs personages. When Frances twice married a wild Canadian Communist the family were appalled. The nanny circuit of Nanny Penney, Nanny Fraser, Nanny MacDonald, and Nanny Mac-everything else, meeting, perambulating or chatting at Nanny MacLoughlin's weekly tea party, were less inclined to cut off relationships. In the 1950s "Ducky" the most intellectual and well read of the nannies, who could recite long tracts of Walter Scott, told me in secret that I, as a prospective member of the Penney family, could (should) join her on a weekly visit to Aunt Frances who lived alone in poorish circumstances in an Edinburgh back street. Frances was an elderly and most attractive little lady dressed in pinks and mauve with lace trimmings. She spoke with a soft and refined

Dr. Norman Bethune c. 1938 typed reports, articles, appeals for funding and supplies, and letters to friends during his service with the 8th Route Army in China.



Scots accent characteristic of Edinburgh and her conversation was "bookish". I thereafter played for her on the piano, especially Debussy, and would browse through her books. I visited Frances shortly before her death, as a demented but sweet old lady sitting up in bed with well groomed long grey hair and a shawl in an old persons home. Ducky was certain that the past was responsible for her present illness, and as I noted as a visitor to one of Nanny Macloughlin's tea parties, the past was the only topic of conversation. After Frances died, Ducky told me to take any books of interest and I chose books in which Norman Bethune had written comments, such as, "In Memory of Knareborough". Later in my career as a visitor and role player in China, I have gradually given these books away. The first was to the Lebanese born and Buffalo trained George Hatem (Ma Haide, 1910-1988 veteran of Mao's Long March, with whom Bethune corresponded) when he visited my home in Oxford to discuss his huge public health program. One of the books nearly got me into trouble when the senior Chinese lady to whom I had given it, presented it to the women of China at a crowded ceremony in The Great Hall of The People. She said that she had noted it was about a woman and that any woman that Norman Bethune was interested in, she would wish to emulate. The book was *Madame Bovary*, Flaubert's courtesan!

Most recently I have signed a contract for the training of one million Chinese Village Doctors by "The International Foundation of Dermatology" and a training centre at Ma Haide's onetime department in Nanjing will need a centrepiece. I have persuaded Frances' nephew to give the centre Norman Bethune's typewriter to be a symbol of the role of non-Chinese in the building of a great nation.

Terence Ryan, Emeritus Professor of Dermatology Oxford University ❀

CHRISTOPHER LYONS – ASSISTANT HISTORY OF MEDICINE LIBRARIAN

by Pamela Miller

In mid-December 2004, Christopher Lyons assumed the position of Assistant History of Medicine Librarian at the Osler Library after a rigorous search process. This is cause for celebration as he immediately made his presence felt within the Library's walls and in the larger community.

Chris comes to the Osler Library with a background in undergraduate and graduate work in Canadian History, teaching elementary and adult education and with three years of experience in the Canadian International Development Agency in Ottawa. During the course of his Masters Degree in Library and Information Studies at McGill, he focused on archival work, rare books and historical research. He has also worked in several departments of the McGill Library system and so he has had no trouble fitting into the McGill library milieu.

Throughout our search, we emphasized the need for an assistant who would make our resources more widely available, taking advantage of the latest developments in electronic resources. Chris has risen to the challenge and in a short period has taught classes, compiled bibliographies, put the finishing touches on the on-line guide to our archival resources and is re-building our web site. Judging from the students' evaluations of his classes, his efforts are greatly appreciated and he will be in great demand when classes begin in September.

This spring Chris represented the Osler Library at the Canadian

Society for the History of Medicine meeting in London, Ontario. In October he will travel to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to deliver a paper on Canadian library history at the



American Library Association's Library History Seminar XI.

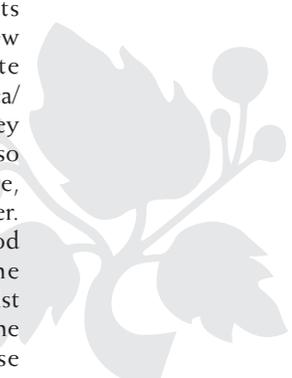
It is with great pleasure (and relief) that we welcome Chris to the Osler Library. ❀

NOTES FROM THE OSLER LIBRARY

Osler Library Archives now Searchable Electronically

Since its opening in 1929, the Osler Library of the History of Medicine has collected archival material. For the past few years, the goal of the library has been to make these holdings better known by having information about them available on the world wide web. The Library now has a database of almost all its archival holdings hosted on the new Osler Library Archives website [<http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/archives>]. The database is key word searchable, but one can also browse a list of the holdings by title, subject heading or retrieval number. For those who want to get a good overview of the what is in the archives, there is also a browsable list of titles with short abstracts. The Osler Library Archives database consists of records that describe

Chris has risen to the challenge and in a short period has taught classes, compiled bibliographies, put the finishing touches on the on-line guide to our archival resources and is re-building our web site.





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individual collections of material, usually called fonds. These normally bear the name of the person or organisation that created the records. The database does not list individual files or items within each fonds, such as every letter. The abstracts or the "Scope and Content" section of each detailed record however, should give one some idea of what is in each fonds. The Library staff will be happy to provide more detailed information.

The archives are felt to be of interest to historians in a number of fields. One of the strengths, not surprisingly, is in Sir William Osler and his circle. Material by and about Sir William can be found in the Sir William Osler Collection (P100) and the Harvey Cushing Fonds (P417), amongst others. The early history of the Osler Library is documented in the voluminous correspondence of W.W. Francis, Osler Librarian from 1929 to 1959, held in the W.W. Francis Fonds (P155).

Another significant area of collecting is the papers of notable medical practitioners. The Wilder Penfield Fonds (P142) contains 80 meters of material from the founder of the Montreal Neurological Institute. The Archives also has the papers of such well-known medical figures as Maude Abbott (P111), Edward Archibald (P88) and Harold Nathan Segall (P109).

The pedagogical side of medicine is represented, in part, by medical student notes, primarily from McGill

University. The archives contains course notes that span the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. These can be found by searching for "student notes" as a subject term.

For those interested in McGill and Canadian medical history, the site also provides links to other archival repositories.

The Osler Library has been fortunate in receiving some much appreciated help in completing this project. We would like to thank Caroline Cholette for her outstanding work producing the archival descriptions, and the Young Canada Works project of the Government of Canada, for funding her effort. A great deal of help was also given by David Crawford, Librarian Emeritus of McGill University. Larry Deck and Simon Barry have also provided valuable assistance.

The site is an on-going project. There is still material waiting to be described, for example. We invite everyone to visit the new site at <http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/osler/archives> and give us any comments you may have.

Biography of Dr. Edward Archibald (1872-1945)

Edward Archibald, Surgeon of the Royal Vic, Martin A. Entin, Montreal, 2004. A few months before his death in May of 2004, Dr. Martin Entin learned that his biography of Dr. Edward Archibald (1872-1945) was

in the final stages of editing for publication. With the editorial assistance of McGill Librarian Lonnie Weatherby, the work covers the life, times and career of one of McGill's foremost surgeons and teachers.

The book is number XVI in the Fontanus Monograph Series and is available from the McGill University Bookstore. (\$60)

75 Books from the Osler Library

Visitors to the Osler Library continue to be impressed by our 75th anniversary publication. For those of you who are unable to visit or do not have access to our web page "Osler Library Shop", we are including a printed order form for your temptation.

**War, Bones and Books
 The McGill Medical Museum and the American Civil War**

The exhibit, which will open in September 2005, centres on a collection of skeletal specimens derived from soldiers of the American Civil War that was donated to the McGill Medical Museum by the United States Army Medical Museum in 1907. Included in the exhibit are a number of poems describing the wartime experience of Walt Whitman – who was a one-time patient of William Osler – as well as books and illustrations documenting in graphic form some of the injuries underlying the specimens on display. ✱

From the exhibit "War, Bones and Books" which will open in September 2005. Courtesy of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Washington DC



Tibia/Fibula. The leg was amputated following a gunshot fracture of ankle, Fort Wagner July 18, 1863.