



THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 95 · 2001

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

IN THIS ISSUE ...

For two days last February, the Department of Social Studies of Medicine was proud to host a visit and seminar by Prof. Vivian Nutton of the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College, London. Prof. Nutton is one of the foremost historians of ancient, medieval and Renaissance medicine active today.

His particular field of expertise is the work of Galen, and during the time at his disposal between scheduled events, he took the opportunity to examine some of the Osler Library's early printed editions of Galen's works. To his delight and our intense surprise, he discovered a mysterious and communicative 16th century reader of one of these volumes, who left a plethora of notes in the margins to puzzle and intrigue the modern historian.

Prof. Nutton introduces this Renaissance reader in the lead article of this number of the *Newsletter*. As an inveterate scribbler in books (my own, of course) who has often been chastised for this habit, the Editor confesses to a certain feeling of vindication. Perhaps some historian in the 25th century will find my marginalia just as fascinating as these are, and will ensure my immortality by writing about them!

This issue also contains a special contribution from a very distinguish Oslerian. On May 23, this spring, Professor Michael Bliss, author of *William Osler, A Life in Medicine* received an Honorary Degree from McGill's Faculty of Medicine. We are delighted to present his address to the graduating classes. ✱

MARGINALLY SIGNIFICANT

The comments made by readers in the margins of their books can often be as informative to the historian as the books themselves. At the very least they reveal what some distant owner or borrower thought of interest when perusing the page, and frequently they offer even more intriguing insights into the past. Why, one might wonder, should the sixteenth-century Italian who once owned, or at least read, the 1547 printing of Marcellus' *De medicamentis* later acquired by Sir William Osler, have deliberately tried to conceal the name of the German scholar and editor, Janus Cornarius?⁽¹⁾ No clue can be found in his other notes, or in those of the other scholars who scribbled in the margins of the volume. Their summaries, comments, underlinings, and marginal signs are typical in their total concentration on matters medical, and, in particular, on what might be of therapeutic use. Marks or comments draw attention to a drug for the stone (fol. 124r), or a treatment for lunacy (fol. 217v), or the fact that 'bryony cures sufferers from the stone' (fol. 218r).

Equally common in Renaissance printed books are the examples of an annotator setting out to summarise or to put into his own words large sections of the text in front of him. Sentences or whole

paragraphs are reduced to a few words in the margin, or even to diagrams and other mnemonic schemata favoured by medical students or those who were trained in the scholastic techniques of memorisation. Several good examples can be found among the Osler Library's Latin translations of Galen. For example in the 1519 printing of Linacre's translation of the *Method of Healing*, a learned

by
Prof. Vivian
Nutton

Illus. 1.
Title page of the
Aldine edition
of the works of
Galen 1525,
B.O. 350.

ΓΑΛΗΝΟΥ Α.
GALENI LIBRORVM
PARS PRIMA, QVORVM IN-
DICEM VI. PAGINA
CONTINET.



Ne quis alius imponeat Venetis aut usquam lu-
centur hoc Galeni libros imprimat, & Cl-
norum VII. Pont. Max. & Sena-
tus Veneti decreto cau-
tum est.



Not only does he gloss Greek words in the text with their Latin equivalents, or incorporate Galen's exact Greek wording into a Latin note, but he can begin a note in one language and end it in another.

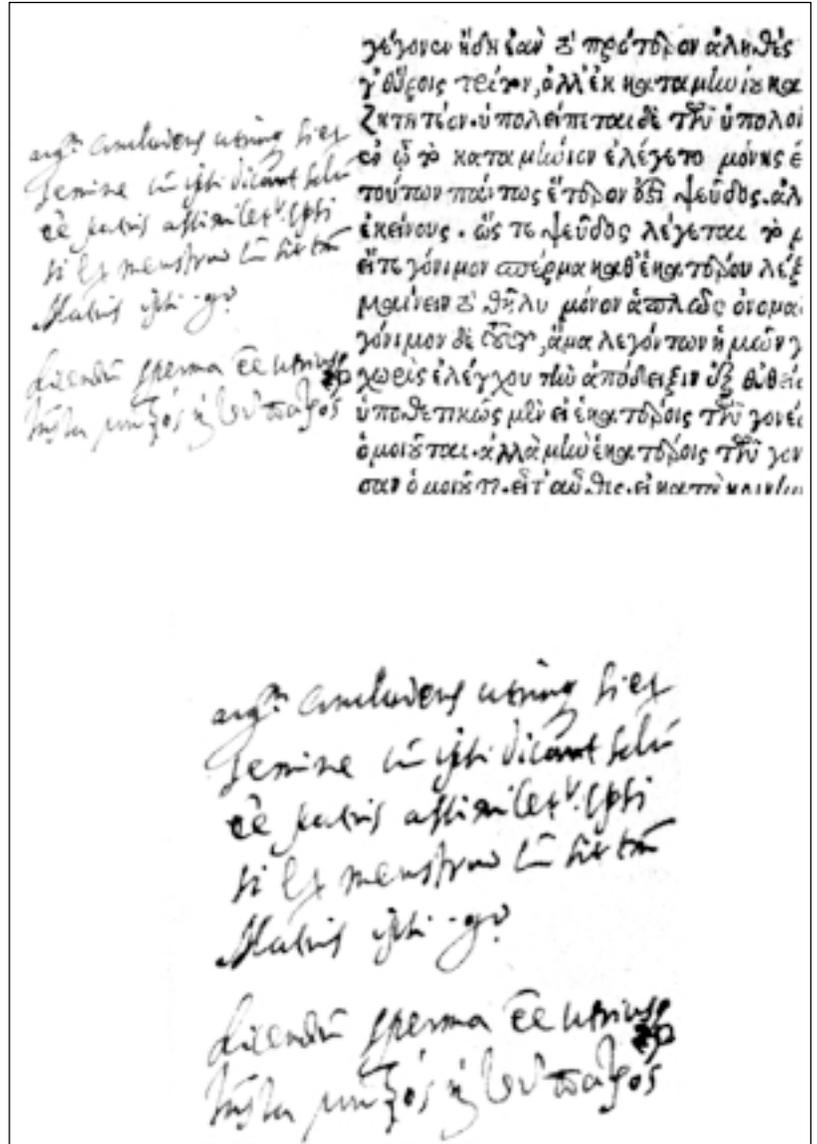


annotator made many summaries in the margin.⁽²⁾ He also added references to relevant passages in other authors, like Avicenna, or to other passages in the Galen corpus, even at one point adding a relevant Greek word that had been turned into Latin by Linacre unnecessarily.⁽³⁾ The annotator of the 1544 Basle edition of Galenica edited by the Englishman John Caius had to explain to his readers or remind himself that there were indeed universities at Oxford and Cambridge.⁽⁴⁾ His notes puncture some of Caius' pretensions to originality by pointing out that Galen's treatise *On Coma* had already been available in Latin as part of the plan of Agostino Ricci to publish a complete Galen. Ricci's revision of the medieval version by Niccolò da Reggio had appeared in 1541 in volume 4 of his complete edition of Galen in Latin translation. The same reader noted as well that Cornarius had also published a version of the new sections of *On the Opinions of Hippocrates and Plato* in 1549.⁽⁵⁾

Comments like this are relatively frequent in the margins of Renaissance printed books, and are mentioned here mainly as background to the extremely unusual set of notes in the Osler Library set of the five volumes of the 1525 Aldine edition of Galen (see Ill. 1).⁽⁶⁾ This, the first printing of the collected works of Galen in the original Greek, contained no Latin translations and hence could be read and used only by those with a fair command of the Greek language, a tiny percentage of the doctors and scholars of the day. The content of the annotations is, on the whole, unremarkable. There are very few corrections to the text, all of very obvious blunders, and, for the most part, the annotator attends to the content rather than the language of Galen.⁽⁷⁾ He notes, for instance, the gift of four hundred gold pieces made by Boethus to Galen for curing his wife, and approvingly comments that Galen

had done exactly what he had promised.⁽⁸⁾ He provides catchwords identifying certain treatments, as well as occasional cross-references to other works of Galen or to the *Materia medica* of

All these scholastic techniques can be found frequently in the margins of Renaissance medical books. Even allowing for their number, the annotations in the Osler Aldine of Galen would scarcely merit



Illus. 2. Vol. 1, fol. 112v: bilingual Greek-Latin annotation and enlargement.

Dioscorides.⁽⁹⁾ He summarizes various sections, draws attention to points of importance, especially in therapy, and expresses approval of Galen's comparison of the human embryo to a plant.⁽¹⁰⁾ At times he resorts to diagrams or to schematic listings of the logical divisions advocated by Galen.⁽¹¹⁾

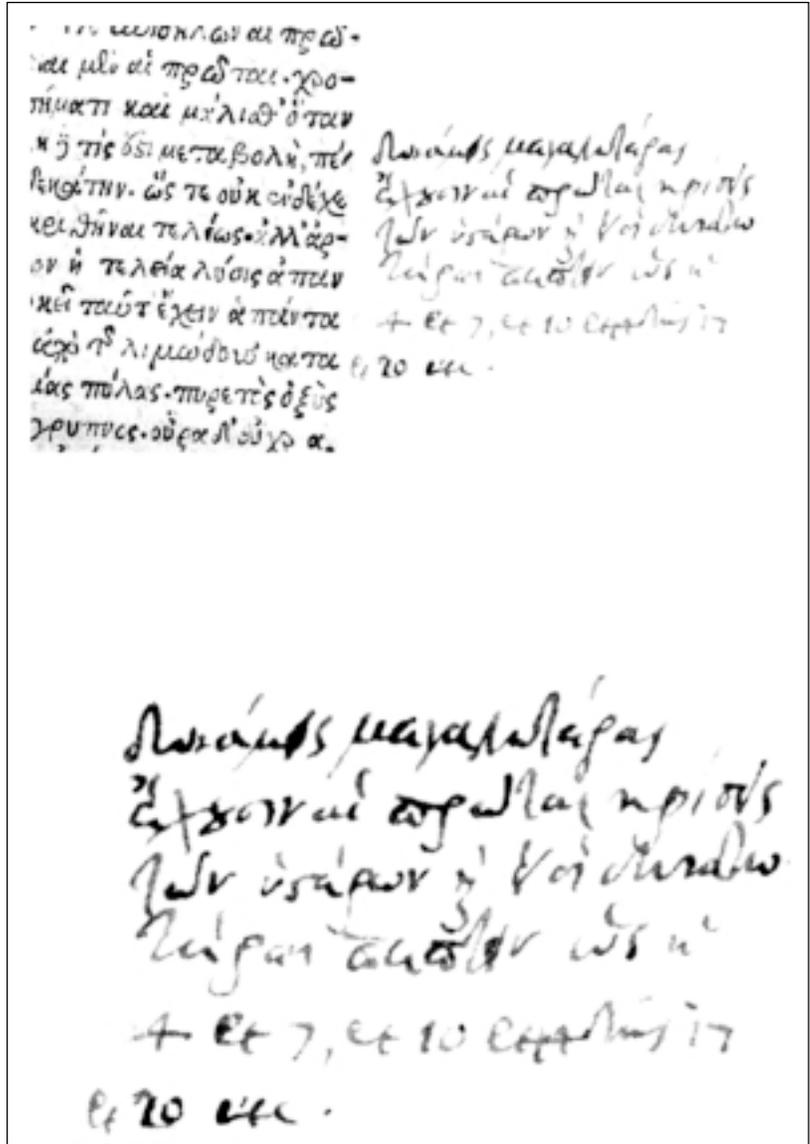
attention, were it not for one striking fact: they are for the most part written in Greek by a man trained to write fluently in Greek and familiar with the typical abbreviations of sixteenth-century Greek handwriting.⁽¹²⁾ Even remarkably, some of his notes are in Latin, and employ the same

scholastic techniques as any other Latin contemporary at medical school. But Greek was his first language, for he makes occasional slips in his Latin, and, particularly in the early volumes, the great

Although this man is not the only writer to have left his mark in the Aldine's margins, there can be no doubt that this was a single individual, who wrote fluently in both languages. The hand is the

equivalents, or incorporate Galen's exact Greek wording into a Latin note, but he can begin a note in one language and end it in another.⁽¹⁴⁾ At vol. 1, fol. 112v, his brief comment on Galen's theory of human seed reads: *dicendum sperma est utrius / τῆς τε μητρὸς καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς* ['(Latin) seed is said to pertain to both/ (Greek) the mother and the father'] (see Ill. 2). The Greek words are not found in Galen's text at this point, and are the creation of the author, who slipped back into Greek as he moved from one line to the next. At vol. 4, fol. 49v, the note switches from one language to the other and back again as the writer explains the meaning of Galen's words, sometimes continuing his line of thought in Greek, but sometimes not. Except where he is explicating a Galenic word, the switch is almost always from Latin to Greek. The only instance of an almost subconscious switch from Greek into Latin in fact confirms the hypothesis that Greek was his first tongue: at vol. 3, fol. 109r, the Greek note changes to Latin when the writer comes to numerals, which are given in their standard Western form ('...4 et 7 et 10....') (see Ill. 3) rather than in the complex alphabetical numbering system of the Greeks, and then continues for the rest of the sentence in Latin.

Can one identify this bilingual annotator? ... He was writing between 1525 and 1550, to judge from the style of his notes, and he was a wealthy man.



Illus. 3. Vol. 3, fol. 109r: Latin numerals in a Greek annotation and enlargement.

majority of the marginalia are in Greek. Whether the near equality of the Latin and the Greek notes on the *Method of Healing* in vol. 4 signifies a growing expertise in Latin or a greater familiarity with Latin methods of interpretation remains an open question.

same, the ink is the same, the scholastic form of the notes remains the same, and, most telling of all, the annotator switches easily from one language to the other.⁽¹⁵⁾ A few notes in Greek may be followed by some in Latin, and then resumed again. Not only does he gloss Greek words in the text with their Latin

Can one identify this bilingual annotator? Unfortunately, there are no marks of ownership before the Baltimore professor Howard A. Kelly at the end of the nineteenth century, and only one comment that might help to give any precision.⁽¹⁵⁾ Nonetheless, certain conclusions can be drawn about the writer. He was fluently bilingual, a Greek speaker by preference but entirely at home in a Western environment. He was a doctor, although the lack of any reference to his own cases and the often basic character of his notes suggests that he was just beginning a medical career after studying at an Italian medical school. He was writing

...an extremely unusual example of a multicultural bilingualism in the medical Renaissance of the sixteenth century.



between 1525 and 1550, to judge from the style of his notes, and he was a wealthy man. The Aldine Galen was not a book to be purchased lightly by the impecunious. It cost Giovanni Albertoni in Rome in 1536 14 *scudi*, roughly equivalent to the 5 or 6 gold *sous* per volume paid in Paris in 1526 and 1534 or the 30 florins noted by Erasmus in 1525-6.⁽¹⁶⁾

All this points to a youngish, wealthy doctor associated with Venice and its colonies and contacts in the Greek-speaking world of the eastern Mediterranean.⁽¹⁷⁾ There was a large Greek community in Venice itself, although the annotator's preference for Greek suggests that he was a fairly recent immigrant rather than a member of a Greek family that had long been settled there.⁽¹⁸⁾ If so, it is a reasonable hypothesis that he came from a wealthy Greek family from the eastern Mediterranean to study medicine at the Venetian university of Padua, which attracted far more Greek students than its competitors, Ferrara, Bologna, or the degree-mill of the *Studio* of Venice. An examination of the records of these universities suggests at least three possibilities.⁽¹⁹⁾

The first is the otherwise unknown Nicolò of Candia (Crete), who graduated in medicine at the *Studio* of Venice in 1529, presumably after having studied elsewhere in northern Italy.⁽²⁰⁾ Another doctor of Greek origin, this time from Corfu, was Angelo Forte, who produced a series of little tracts on alchemy, astrology, medicine and natural magic between 1525 and 1556. But whether he ever attended medical school is unclear. When challenged to show his degree certificate, he claimed to have lost it in Corfu or in Syria. Certainly, his later attacks on Galen are at variance with the anonymous annotator's dutiful listing of that great doctor's theories and recommendations for treatment.⁽²¹⁾

A far more likely candidate is Secundus Thomas of Cyprus, who is recorded as a student at Padua from 1530 until he took his medical doctorate in 1532.⁽²²⁾ His Cypriot origin would fit very neatly with the note at vol. 2, fol. 15r, the only comment that hints at any biographical information: *μυρεψός est verbum nunc etiam cyprium significans pharmacopolas* [sic] ('*Myrepsos* is even today a Cypriot word for drug-sellers').

Whether or not Secundus Thomas is the author of these notes must remain an open question in the absence of more definite information, documentary or codicological. But a failure to identify the anonymous writer does not detract from the significance or interest of these notes, which are an extremely unusual example of a multicultural bilingualism in the medical Renaissance of the sixteenth century.✱

Notes

I am grateful to Don Bates, Faith Wallis, and the staff of the Osler Library for their hospitality, and to Cornelius O'Boyle, Annaclara Cataldi Palau, Richard Palmer, and Nicolai Serikoff for suggestions.

1. *Medici antiqui omnes* (Venice: Aldus, 1547) fol. 81r Bibliotheca Osleriana 3374.
2. Galen, *Methodus medendi*, tr. T. Linacre (Paris: G. Hittorp, 1519) Bibliotheca Osleriana 366; good examples at fols. xxxi r.; lxxv r.; cxxii r.
3. Respectively, fols. cxviii r. and clxiii r.; Galenic parallels, fols. lxx r., lxxii v.; Greek, fol. Clxxv r.
4. J. Caius, ed., *Galenii Libri aliquot graeci* (Basle: H. Froben and N. Episcopus, 1544) Bibliotheca Osleriana 359, sig. *3v.
5. *Ibid.*, sig. *1v (Ricci), referring to his *Galenii Opera omnia* (Venice: ex officina Farrea, 1541-1545) fol. 337v (Cornarius), as part of the 1549, Basle, Froben, edition of the *Opera omnia* in Latin translation.
6. *Cl. Galenii Opera omnia*, 5 volumes (Venice: Aldus, 1525) Bibliotheca

Osleriana 350. The annotations are recorded by R. Virr, M. Vlach, *Apud Aldum. Marginalia V. Aldines in the Libraries of McGill University* (Montreal: McGill University Libraries, 2000) nos. 43-47, and plate xxiii, but they do not make it clear that the Greek and Latin annotations are, for the most part, by the same person.

7. There are corrections at vol. 1, fol. 10v, line 36; vol. 3, fol. 122r, line 19; and vol. 5, fol. 108r, line 3. (Within the volumes, folio numbers often begin again with each class of medical text.) For emendations in Renaissance marginalia, see V. Nutton, 'Comment évaluer les annotations médicales des humanistes', in A. Garzya, J. Jouanna, eds, *Storia e ecdotica dei testi medici greci* (Naples: D'Auria Editore, 1996):351-361.
8. Both at vol. 3, fol. 139r.
9. Catchwords, vol. 2, fol. 10r; references, vol. 1, fol. 112r; vol. 2, fol. 26r; vol. 4, fol. 49v; 51v.
10. Respectively, vol. 1, fol. 98r-99v (on the foetus); vol. 4, fol. 17v, (on a tooth-whitener), and fol. 46r (on an arterial repair); vol. 1, fol. 99v.
11. Vol. 5, fol. 113r, gives a nice listing of pathognomonic signs.
12. Leaving aside quotations, collations of manuscripts and emendations to the Greek text, I have come across only one other Renaissance medical book with Greek marginalia, the Wellcome Library copy of the 1500 Venice edition of Galen's *Method of Healing*, published by Callierges and Blastos. But its three or four words cannot compare with the several hundred notes of the Osler Galen.
13. The comment on Galen's mention of Moses and the Christians at vol. 3, fol. 12r, seems to be in a later hand.
14. For glosses and explications, e.g., vol. 4, fol. 13r; fol. 43r; for citations, vol. 3, fol. 25r.
15. I have been unable to identify his distinctive handwriting among the plates in E. Gamillscheg, D. Harlfinger, *Repertorium der griechischen Kopisten, 800-1600* (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1981-1987). But anonymous may have been too wealthy or committed to medicine to make money as a professional scribe.

16. V. Nutton, *John Caius and the Manuscripts of Galen, Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society, Supplementary Volume 13* (1987):48, n. 31.
17. One cannot entirely exclude Sicily and S. Italy, where there were native speakers of Greek, but the more educated classes there favoured Latin.
18. D. J. Geanakoplos, *Greek Scholars in Venice* (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 1962):53-70; G. Fedalto, 'Stranieri a Venezia e a Padova', in G. Arnaldi, M. Pastore Stocchi, eds, *Storia della cultura veneta. 3: Dal primo Quattrocento al Concilio di Trento* (Vicenza: N. Pozza, 1980):499-535, esp. 503-514.
19. There may have been others not recorded as coming from the East or, if Venetian Greeks, with names that do not indicate clearly a Greek origin. It is also possible that the notes were made by a much older doctor, like John of Cyprus, MD at Padua around 1504, or Rames Balienuus of Cyprus, who studied there in 1506.
20. R. Palmer, *The Studio of Venice and its Graduates in the Sixteenth Century* (Padua: Edizioni Lint, 1983):87. For the education patterns of Venetian graduates, see pp. 14-20, and for the lower degree prices at Venice, pp. 31-34.
21. G. Legrand, *Bibliographie hellénique des XVe et XVIe siècles* (repr. Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose, 1962) 3:339, 381-384, 429-430; R. Palmer, 'Pharmacy in the Republic of Venice', in A. Wear, R. K. French, I. M. Lonie, *The Medical Renaissance of the Sixteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985):100-117, esp. 111-113. Palmer's discoveries in the archives are unfortunately unknown to E. Peruzzi, s.v. Forte, Angelo, in *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani* v. 49 (Rome: Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana, 1997):111-112.
22. E. Martellozzo Forin, *Acta graduum academicorum ab anno 1501 ad annum 1537*, (Padua: Antenore, 1970) nos. 1666-7, 1670, 1777-9.

OSLER'S FAMILY

*Remarks at McGill Convocation
By Michael Bliss, CM, Ph.D.,
F.R.S.C., University Professor,
University of Toronto*

Congratulations to you who have earned your degrees, this year's graduates in medicine. What a wonderful accomplishment. This is a day to be very proud of yourselves, for your family to be bursting with pride at your achievement, and for you to be proud of their support over a very long haul.

Thanks to McGill for allowing me to be part of this day by bestowing on me a degree I haven't earned, but do accept with the same pride you feel, for many reasons, some of them deeply personal, many relating to the excellence and traditions of this historic Canadian university. For one with a University of Toronto education to receive an honorary degree from McGill is very similar to the situation president John F. Kennedy found himself in when he got an honorary degree at Yale and told their convocation that he now felt perfectly qualified, having a Harvard education and a Yale degree. You see where that goes. Those here today who remember the 1950s will also understand when I say that even though ours has been a mid-week trip from Toronto for this ceremony, this is nonetheless the perfect "McGill weekend".

I'm here as an unsatisfactory stand-in today for the man who should give every year's convocation address to McGill medical graduates, and who would happily attempt to do it had he not been dead since 1919. I'm referring of

course to McGill's greatest medical graduate, its greatest faculty member, and the man who became the patron saint of the coming of modern medicine, Sir William Osler. In following Osler through the corridors of McGill and out into the world, you follow in one of the most shining of all medical traditions. McGill in Osler's day was one of the leading North American medical schools, and it remains so in your day.

But when we think of what Osler might say if he were here today to give his blessing to you, we run into another serious problem. Osler lived in a slower-paced society in which convocation speeches, like sermons, were ornate and very long. Thirty minutes would be a warm-up, sixty minutes a shortish talk, ninety minutes adequate for a full treatment. In the ten minutes allotted for this address poor Sir William would barely have time to make his introductory jokes, one of which might be about how when he entitled one of his talks "The Fixed Period" – he never expected the period to be quite so short.

So I don't have time this afternoon to give you a full-blooded Oslerian talk about how to live the rest of your lives, about the pride you should take in your profession, about medicine's achievements and challenges, about nurses, hospitals, books, and delivering babies. In the time left to me, really all I can do is give you a list of some of Osler's better talks, with a ten second commentary on each. You might want to look them up some day (perhaps after you've read the better biographical literature on Osler).

Some of Osler's addresses might not appear be relevant for you any more. If you haven't read Osler's famous essay, "The Student Life", for example, you may think it isn't necessary now – except that one of Osler's themes in that talk was that truly professional medical men and

But when we think of what Osler might say if he were here today to give his blessing to you, we run into another serious problem. Osler lived in a slower-paced society in which convocation speeches, like sermons, were ornate and very long.

So browse through the Osler literature in leisure hours during the summer, and as you grow older and wiser in medicine, which will happen, reflect more often on your Oslerian heritage...



women must remain students for the rest of their lives.

When Osler opened a new medical building at the University of Toronto in 1902 he gave another famous (and very long) talk, "The Master-Word in Medicine". What's the master word in medicine? For Osler it was work. You know a lot about work now, and most of you will go on to learn a lot more about it in the rest of your medical lives. We don't need to say more about work today, which is surely a day off.

Similarly, this is the one day you don't need to cultivate Osler's most famous virtue, "Aequanimitas," or imperturbability. Forget equanimity on graduation day.

More seriously, we could devote many hours to discussing Osler's meditations on "Recent Advances in Medicine". There were a lot even in his time, and have been a lot more in ours. And think of all the discussion we could have about Osler's call for "Unity, Peace and Concord" among those who work in health care, a group far larger than just your crop of graduates in medicine.

I'm sure that McGill has already stamped into your soul – if it hasn't it should have – the view that in entering medicine you have chosen what Osler in his great convocation address to Yale students called "A Way of Life", and I will quote the three simple ideals he enunciated in this and many of his other addresses, including his farewell talk in North America, entitled "L'Envoi":

I have had three personal ideals. One to do the day's work well and not to bother about tomorrow.

The second ideal has been to act the Golden Rule ... towards my professional brethren and towards the patients committed to my care.

And the third has been cultivate such a measure of equanimity as would enable me to bear success with humility, the affection of my friends without pride and to be ready when the day of sorrow and grief came to meet it with courage.

These are not bad maxims. I don't know whether you'll remember them half an hour from now, for like Osler and maybe like you I've developed a certain moderate cynicism about some of these ceremonial occasions. Osler would steal a fellow speaker's text if he could get away with it, and sometimes his own text wasn't terribly interesting – you'd learn a lot more following Osler around the wards than listening to him at graduation. In my biography of Osler, after describing a real clunker of a graduation address he gave to Johns Hopkins nurses, I ask "who ever listens carefully to commencement speeches?" (I had a personal reason too for that comment, because at my own graduation in arts many years ago the speaker, a former governor of the Bank of Canada, gave a gloomy talk predicting years of hardship for the country, when in fact it turned out to be on the brink of the longest economic boom it had ever experienced).

So browse through the Osler literature in leisure hours during the summer, and as you grow older and wiser in medicine, which will happen, reflect more often on your Oslerian heritage, and when you come back to McGill – maybe even before you leave – do be sure to make your pilgrimage to the heart of McGill medicine, which is the Osler Library.

And if you haven't listened carefully to me so far, here's a final attempt to give you something worth remembering – and it's not drawn from Osler, though it's a sentiment that Osler as a prolific medical writer and speaker would heartily

endorse. This is advice the Canadian-born economist John Kenneth Galbraith always used to give to students. It is that whatever else you take away from your education, work very hard at learning to speak and to write well.

Galbraith always used to say that he was a good example of how if you could talk and write skillfully you could get away with having a lot of strange ideas. Galbraith would say that, for his training was in the strange discipline of economics. Your McGill training in medicine means that you have a lot of good ideas. You're going to be good gps, good specialists, good researchers, good teachers. And when you add to your knowledge of the art and science of medicine, the ability to talk and write fluently about medicine, to celebrate your expertise in words as well as deeds, you will have the potential to be powerful instruments for doing good, for advancing your profession, and for improving our world.

Thirty years and more from now some of you will be using those talents on this platform to help transmit your generation's values to a future generation of McGill graduates (though by then the fixed period for commencement addresses will probably be down to two minutes).

Here's a last thought on a day to celebrate family achievements. Osler's only son was killed in World War One, a huge blow to his parents, and of course the end of his direct line. But all his life Osler, who loved large families, had treated his medical students as his surrogate children, and had almost literally embraced them as family. It's a nice thought that as graduates of McGill medicine you are, in a very special way, William Osler's sons and daughters. He too would have been proud of you, his descendents. This is an occasion for family pride in every sense. ✱

NOTES FROM THE OSLER LIBRARY

by Pamela Miller

Renovations at The Osler Library

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. John McGovern, eagerly anticipated renovations to the Library are scheduled to begin in May 2002. Montreal Architect Julia Gersovitz of Fournier, Gersovitz, Moss and Associates has drawn up plans which maintain the integrity of the Osler Room designed in the 1920s by Percy Nobbs, Director of McGill's School of Architecture, and of the Wellcome Camera which opened in 1966. Consultation with the Canadian Conservation Institute has ensured that the results will be safe for the books and convenient for researchers. By autumn when work is completed, the Library will have larger, more secure and environmentally stable facilities.

Beginning in April, every item in the Osler Library, from books to pencils will be packed and placed in storage. The logistics of carrying this out with the least inconvenience to our researchers are complex but manageable. The summer time-slot was chosen as being the least inconvenient time in the University schedule, but we realize that the renovations will cause problems for a few and we will be as accommodating as we possibly can be. We do recommend that those planning summer research projects perhaps consider carrying them out at an earlier or later date, as once stored, the books will be unavailable. As well we will not be offering the Osler Library Fellowship during this time.

We are most grateful to Dr. McGovern for enabling us to carry out these much needed changes and we will keep everyone posted as the renovations progress.*

American Osler Society

The thirty-first annual meeting of the American Osler Society was held in the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina from the 17th to the 19th of April. Meetings took place in the recently renovated original home of the 19th century Citadel Military College, now the Embassy Suites Hotel. Thirty-five presentations kept members busy and stimulated. The speakers' subjects included specific medical discoveries of the past century, the importance of the humanities in medicine, the lives of major historical figures of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and major themes of American medical education.

Unusual and amusing topics included an analysis of Osler the athlete and an examination of Osler's connection to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Dr. Kenneth M. Ludmerer gave the John P. McGovern Lecture entitled, "Reflections on American Medical Education" in which he reminded the audience of the centrality of the patient's needs in today's medical environment, a thought provoking talk which Osler would have heartily endorsed.

The banquet was held at the Gibbes Museum of Art after which Mark Silverman, dressed in period costume, gave a reading of William Harvey's *De Motu Cordis*, enhanced by 20th century visuals! The conference finished off with a tour of the spectacular gardens of Middleton Place and a Low Country picnic on the property. Those who could stay on until Friday were invited to attend a



Members of the American Osler Society ready for a Low Country picnic at Middleton Place.



Pencil drawing of William Osler playing golf, commissioned by Clyde Partin for his presentation to the American Osler Society, April 2001 and drawn by Kaorliina Korkeila.



review of 1800 cadets (with bagpipes and band) at The Citadel, the current home of the Military College of South Carolina.

All of us here who work on reference questions realize the amount of preparation that goes into these presentations. It is rewarding to hear the final product. And every year there is something new to look forward to.

Congratulations to Dr. William Feindel

On Wednesday, May 16, members of the Molson family, colleagues and friends gathered at the Jeanne Timmins Amphitheatre at the Montreal Neurological Institute to celebrate the inauguration of the chair honouring the dedication of Dr. Feindel in treating brain tumour patients.

The chair is funded through the generosity of the Clive Baxter Memorial Endowment Research Fund and specifically through the generous support of Cynthia Baxter, her sons and family. Mrs. Baxter spoke movingly of her journalist husband's commitment to writing about his condition to inform the public about the lethal disease and to encourage research in the hope of someday finding a cure. Dr. David Kaplan is the first recipient of the Feindel Chair.

Work in the Archives

The Osler Library Archives has recently received a grant from the Canadian Council of Archives to prepare a guide to 18 metres of papers comprising the Arthur Vineberg fonds. Dr. Vineberg (1903-88) was a Montreal cardiologist who became senior cardiac surgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital, taught at McGill University and developed the "Myocardial Revascularization – Vineberg Procedure" for which he

received awards and much attention. We have, in addition, received a grant from Young Canada Works, to enable us to establish a retention schedule and



Dr. William Feindel, Baxter Family and Chair.

bring more order into the administrative records of the Osler Library.

Good News From 13 Norham Gardens

The enclosed letter from the Warden of Green College, Oxford, contains exciting news regarding the future of the Oslers' much loved home in Oxford.✻



*Editorial Committee for the Newsletter
Faith Wallis, Editor; Pamela Miller, Acting Head of the Osler Library and Assistant Editor; Wayne LeBel, Assistant History of Medicine Librarian and Assistant Editor; Lily Szczygiel, Editorial Assistant.*

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