



# THE OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 96 · 2001

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Summertime, and the family reunions are jumping! To celebrate this season of bonding with the old gene pool, the *Newsletter* is delighted to present another essay by one of its most prolific contributors, Dr. Richard Golden. Dr. Golden is a member of the Library's Board of Curators, and a passionate Oslerian. In this issue, he explores Sir William's own interest in matters genealogical, and his efforts to preserve precious family lore and memories.

The Osler Library itself often seems to be a kind of family. For many who are, or have been connected with this place, the attachment to this splendid collection and its founder is deep and lasting. Few people manifested this devotion more intensely than did Dr. Don Bates, who passed away August 5, 2001. This issue of the *Newsletter* which he founded contains a tribute to him, and is dedicated to his memory.✿

## THE OSLER GENEALOGICAL WORKS

Among the rare works of Sir William Osler that quicken the pulse of collectors and bibliophiles are: *Students' Notes. I. Normal Histology for Laboratory and Class Use*, by the young McGill professor; the neurological monographs, *The Cerebral Palsies of Children* and *On Chorea and Choreiform Affections*; the first edition, first issue of the *Principles and Practice of Medicine* with its "Georgias" error in the epigraph; *Incunabula Medica*, completed posthumously; and the seldom seen translations of the textbook, to name but a few. In the upper strata of rarity are those little known works devoted to the genealogy of the Osler family: *Records of the Lives of Ellen Free Pickton and Featherstone Lake Osler*; <sup>(1,2)</sup> *The Osler Family Papers*; <sup>(3,4)</sup> and *Index: Osler Family Papers and Letters*. <sup>(4,5)</sup>

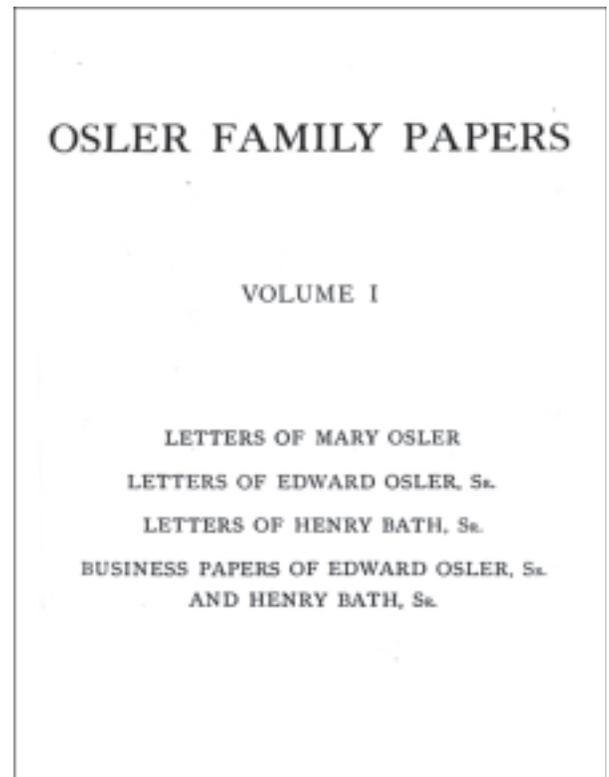
The idea for these genealogical works must have entered Osler's mind in that comparative calm prior to the onset of World War I when he held the Regius Professorship at Oxford. A fire in Dundas (Ontario) had previously destroyed a great deal of the family correspondence <sup>(6)</sup> when Osler, then in his early sixties, began to gather the remaining documents and letters for *The Osler Family Papers*. On September 3, 1914, about a month after England entered the war, he wrote to his brother Featherston – whose name, it will be noted, dropped the final "e" of the paternal "Featherstone" – in Toronto:

"Dear Fen: I have at last got the family papers together and put them in order, and they are at the binders. They form a very interesting series:

- I. Letters of Grandfather to Father; one letter of Grandmother's; letters of Henry Bath Sr. to Father and Mother; and some business ship-bills, & c., between Father and Mr. Bath.
- II. The letters of Father, most of which, with many other family papers, I got at Aunt Lizzie's.
- III. The ecclesiastical documents, which you sent over.
- IV. Mother's letters.
- V. A most interesting group of Uncle Edward's letters.
- VI. A miscellaneous group of Uncle Henry's, Edward Lake's, Proctor's and others.

by  
Dr. Richard  
Golden

Ill. 1. Index:  
Osler Family  
Papers and  
Letters



As to the custodianship of the family papers, Osler suggests that his brothers Featherston ("Fen") and Edmund ("E.B.") assume the responsibility. Featherston was Justice of the Court of Appeal of Ontario and Edmund (Sir Edmund Boyd Osler) a prominent Canadian financier who served as a member of Parliament.



It will make a collection of family documents of increasing interest and value as the years pass by. They should be kept in the safe under the care of yourself and Edmund, then should pass to the care of Hal and Gordon; after which, it would be better, as Edmund suggests, to deposit them in the Public Library.

E.B. seems much better. Grace and Revere returned by the same steamer. The whole country is ablaze here, and hoping for the best.

I hope Phillip will return, as there is no reason why he should not, and it would be a pity to interrupt the splendid progress he is making.

Love to the family."

Affectionately yours,

Wm Osler<sup>(7)</sup>

In the letter Osler alludes to his respected English uncle, Edward Osler (1798-1863), physician, naval officer and author, whose daughter Marian married Henry Bath, son of Henry Bath Sr. of Rosehill, Swansea, England. Aunt Lizzie is Elizabeth Osler of Falmouth who never married, and uncle Henry is the Rev. Henry Bath Osler (1815-1902), who came to Canada in 1842 to study for the ministry. These were siblings of W.O.'s father, Featherstone Lake Osler. The Rev. Francis Proctor of Streatley, Beds., whose godfather was the Rev. Edward Lake, was a friend of Featherstone.

As to the custodianship of the family papers, Osler suggests that his brothers Featherston ("Fen") and Edmund ("E.B.") assume the responsibility. Featherston was Justice of the Court of Appeal of Ontario and Edmund (Sir Edmund Boyd Osler) a prominent Canadian financier who served as a member of Parliament. They were to be succeeded in the next generation by Henry Smith Osler ("Hal"), Featherston's barrister son, and Francis Gordon Osler ("Gordon"), Edmund's son. "Philip" may be a reference to Philip

Featherston Osler, Hal's thirteen year old son. <sup>(1)</sup> Sir William's wife, Grace Revere Osler, and their son [Edward] Revere had sailed to Canada aboard R.M.S. Calcarian on July 31, 1914, and Osler was to follow on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The advent of England's entry into the war on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919 changed all plans, and they returned almost immediately aboard the same steamer. <sup>(8,9)</sup>

Osler further corresponded with his brother on November 9, 1914:

"Dear Fen: The corrections will be all right. As I stated, it will be privately printed. It will make a very interesting record for the children and grandchildren. I thought that it would be nice to put in a list of the descendants in Canada of Grandfather and Grandmother. I think that you will be pleased with the way the binder has put together all the letters and papers. They will make five volumes. I have reprinted a few copies of the table of contents, which E.B. wishes distributed among the members of the family. He wishes to undertake the cost – but speak to him about any contribution – in which I would gladly join."

Affectionately yours, W.O. <sup>(10)</sup>

The original letters and documents form a unique five volume set, the *Osler Family Papers*, that was bound with a *Table of Contents* and *Note* by the Clarendon [Oxford University] Press, Oxford, and sent out to Toronto in 1914. Judging from the correspondence, Featherston may have acted as co-editor with W.O. <sup>(10)</sup> An editorial *Note* signed by Osler and his siblings, states:

"The letters of grandfather and grandmother and the early letters of father and mother, and many of the other papers, came from the Brook Street house, Falmouth, which was occupied by Aunt Lizzie.

The volumes are to kept in a fire-proof safe and are in the custody of Mr. Justice Osler [Featherston Osler,

K.C.] and Sir Edmund Osler. After their death they pass to the care of Henry Smith Osler and Gordon Osler. Subsequently, to ensure safekeeping, and that all members of the family could have access to them, the volumes should go to one of the public Libraries, preferably that of Toronto."

Featherston Osler  
Edmund Boyd Osler  
Charlotte Elizabeth Gwyn  
Francis Llewellyn Osler  
William Osler

October 1914 <sup>(3)</sup>

The five volumes were ultimately deposited in the Library of Trinity College in the University of Toronto by Francis Gordon Osler, Esq., in May 1941, where they were "placed for safe-keeping in a vault." This was acknowledged by a letter from the Trinity College Librarian, S.M. Adams, to Gordon Osler expressing "our appreciation for the compliment you pay us in placing these Papers in our care," <sup>(11)</sup> and in the annual report (1940-1941) of the Librarian. <sup>(12)</sup> Although W.W. Francis described this as "permanent" in 1941 <sup>(13)</sup> they were subsequently removed from this site to the custody of Mrs. Britton Osler of 67 Binscarth Road, Toronto. <sup>(14)</sup> A letter from Mrs. Osler to Dr. Wilder Penfield (Honorary Librarian of the Osler Library) suggested that she was going to deposit the papers with the Toronto Public Library <sup>(15)</sup> as had been originally proposed, but this never came to pass. <sup>(16)</sup>

The custodianship of the *Osler Family Papers* continued to be uncertain as shown in a postscript to a letter written in April 1951 by W.W. Francis, the first Osler Librarian, to Anne Wilkinson (Mrs. F.R. Wilkinson), <sup>(17)</sup> distinguished Canadian writer and great-granddaughter of Ellen Osler:

"Did you tell me that it is proposed to deprive Trinity of the 5 vols. of Osler Family papers and deposit them here [Osler Library]? I should

welcome them of course, and was never convinced that Trinity was the place for them. I thought, and still think, that they should have gone to the Tor.[onto] Public Library, as both E.B.O. and W.O. suggested, the latter in 1914 when he knew his own collection was coming to McGill. The *Note* in the printed "Index", 1914, also suggests 'one of the public libraries, preferably that of Toronto.' —" (18)

At present they reside in the Public Archives of Ontario (Toronto), where they were received as a gift from Mrs. Britton Osler on July 5, 1963. Additional records were received from her estate in 1970. (19,20) At first glance it seems strange that Osler did not designate McGill as the future recipient of the volumes to be housed with his own collection. It must be remembered, however, that it was evidently a joint decision of W.O. and his four surviving siblings, taking into consideration safety and accessibility, which led to the stipulation favouring the Toronto Public Library; a suggestion that was put aside in favour of Trinity College (Osler's old school) and ultimately the Public Archives of Ontario.

In contrast to this single five-volume document, Osler had the Clarendon Press reprint in 1914 what he tantalizingly called "a few copies" of the *Table of Contents* of each volume (together with the *Note*) for distribution to his siblings and their progeny. (10) (Ill. 1) This is usually referred to as the *Index*, although its proper title as given in the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* is *Index: Osler Family Papers and Letters*. (4) However, the unbound copies came with a paper wrapper with the title worded: *Osler Family Papers and Letters. Index* (7,21) and it appears in this form in the catalogue of The Toronto Public Library, to which W.W. Francis sent a "spare copy" when he discovered that it did not have one. (18) Dr. Francis also called attention to an error in the *Table of Contents* of volume 5 in which letter number 62 is improperly attributed to Captain [William] Powell rather than the Rev. George Bourn. (22)

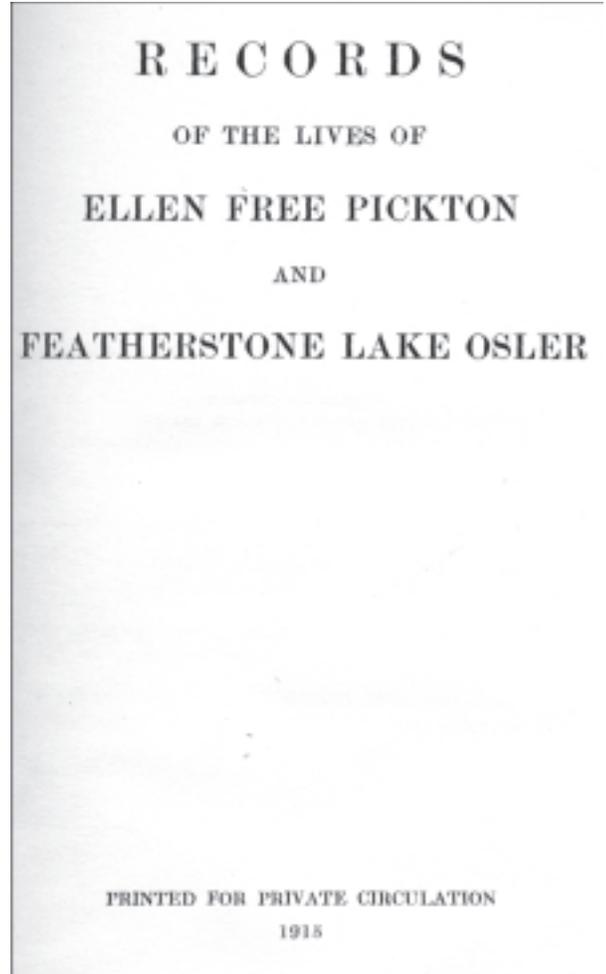
The number of copies of the *Index* is unknown. Osler referred to "a few," and W.W. Francis wondered "if there was anywhere a cache of the *Index*" that could be "distributed to libraries throughout the country." (18) The reality is that no such trove has come to light and that this privately issued work was strictly for members of the Osler family. Oxford University Press archives unfortunately have no surviving records of any of the Osler genealogical publications. (23) Considering all factors and that it is rarely, if ever, seen on the antiquarian book market, an issue of 100 copies or less might be a reasonable estimate; however, this is sheer speculation.

In January 1915, as the tempo of the war increased, the other half of Osler's genealogical efforts came to fruition with the publication of the *Records of the Lives of Ellen Free Pickton and Featherstone Lake Osler*. (1,2) (Ill. 2) This handsome, 257-page, octavo volume, compiled and edited by Sir William and his brother Sir Edmund Boyd Osler, (13) was printed by Oxford University Press and bound in full green linen with gilt title on the spine. An unsigned editorial *Note* states: "These papers are privately printed for the members of the family. The Journals are in the possession of the Hon. Featherston Osler of Toronto. The letters of Featherstone and Ellen Osler, with other family papers, have been collected and bound in five volumes, an index to which has been printed and distributed to their children and grandchildren. January 1915." (2,24,25)

On October 14, 1914, Osler wrote from Oxford to Edmund Boyd Osler:

"Dear E.B.: The photographs which came today are so splendid that I think it would be better to have them as full-page reproductions. Hurry Fen with the proofs. You will be delighted with the volumes.

We opened the Canadian Contingent



Hospital near Folkstone last week with a large group of Belgian wounded. It is a very satisfactory place. All well.

Affectionately yours,

Wm. Osler

Love to Anna, Isobel and Di. I hope you are better." (26)

The photographs referred to include

Ill. 2. Title page: *Records of the Lives of Ellen Free Pickton and Featherstone Lake Osler*

two photogravure frontis portraits of Ellen Free Pickton Osler (Ill. 3) and Featherstone Lake Osler (Ill. 4) together with eleven other illustrations including ancestral portraits, tipped-in facsimile letters,

visitor to the "Open Arms" in April 1916. <sup>(31)</sup>

The *Records* is the major source of information on the early life of Ellen Free Pickton Osler, consisting of

the Barbados, West Indies. We suffered much, but were rescued by H.M.S. *Eden*, Captain the Earl of Huntington. When we thought our troubles were over, yellow fever in its most malignant form broke out

Ill. 3.  
Ellen Free  
Pickton Osler



Ill. 4.  
Featherstone  
Lake Osler



documents, and photographs of the church and parsonage in the township of Tecumseth (Osler's birthplace in the village of Bond Head). In addition, there is a 100 cm. x 25 cm. foldout genealogical chart delineating the Canadian descendants of Edward Osler and Mary Paddy, W.O.'s paternal grandparents, enhanced with footnotes.

Osler had been commissioned an honorary colonel of the Oxfordshire Regiment <sup>(27)</sup> and was deeply involved in war work that included the Canadian hospital units and service on the Committee for the Canadian Contingent Hospital. <sup>(28)</sup> His affectionate greetings were extended to his nieces. Isobel was Isobel Marion Osler (Mrs. Arthur Meredith), his brother Edward's daughter, who had recently visited Oxford. <sup>(29)</sup> Anna is perhaps, a diminutive for Annabel Margaret Osler (Mrs. Wilmot L. Matthews), E.B.'s daughter who was usually acronymically called "Amo." Di, a contraction of 'Dinah', is the sobriquet of Frances Marion Pauline Meredith (Mrs. James O'Reilly), the daughter of Isobel <sup>(30)</sup> and a future

twenty pages covering the years 1806-1838 that were "jotted down in odd moments by her niece Miss Jennette Osler [Edward Osler's daughter], as she sat by her aunt's side during the last year of her life." Ellen Pickton is described as "a very pretty girl, clever, witty, and lively, with a power of quick repartee, wilful but good tempered, not easily influenced, very faithful in her friendships, and of strong religious principle. Her future husband was a very handsome young man, frank, brave, and cheerful, full of energy and life, devoted to his mother, and a kind, affectionate brother. They were married February 6, 1837, in Budock Church, by the Rev. George Kemp." <sup>(25,32)</sup>

An autobiographical sketch of Featherstone and his Journals follow. In an excerpt from the former we learn something of his early life as a seafarer:

"I then joined the Royal Navy as a naval cadet, on board the *Cynthia*, a brig-of-war, and served on her until wrecked on the Cobbler Rocks near

amongst the survivors. Several died and we were sent to cruise as a pest ship. When the disease abated the survivors returned to England for the court martial, which is always held on the officers and men of a ship-of-war when lost by any cause. At the court martial we were all honourably acquitted, and were glad to hear the president say, 'Gentleman, take your swords.' " <sup>(33)</sup>

Featherstone's *Journal* describes some of the hardships that the newly ordained minister and his wife, endured during the Canadian winter of 1837:

"Was a very bleak day, and the roads were almost impassable, but necessity obliged me to ride to Bond Head, for we had scarcely anything in the house to eat. I believe we both felt heartily sick of our present abode, having only a kitchen and two bedrooms, and in consequence of a number of cattle being constantly about the door, it is scarcely possible to move a step without being over shoes in dung and dirt. My poor horse, too, in what is termed the

stable, is dripping wet from the snow which falls through the roof on him. Nothing has tended so much to dishearten me. Fatigue I do not mind, but to be all together in one room, no place to write or study in and surrounded with filth, I find difficulty in being reconciled to." (34)

In a post-publication commentary, Osler wrote to Featherston from Oxford on July 9, 1915:

"Dear Fen: I am glad you like the book. I think it makes a nice record for the children, and it will interest a good many people. Copies were sent to Carol and to Ferrar Davidson, so that by this time I am sure that they have got them. The copies have all gone now to Edmund; if they have not received copies he will, of course, be glad to send them.

I am sending you a copy of Professor Gilbert Murray's book on Sir Edward Grey, which is, I think, one of the best things we have published.

We have Norman and Campbell with us. The latter has just got his commission and is now quite well, and has gone back to Shorncliffe. Norman's leg is all right. He has gone back this week. We have Frank and Belle with us, the former in excellent condition, evidently taking good care of himself. Revere writes happily from near Etaples, about ten miles south of Boulogne. He is very busy but it is a first-rate job for him and will give him what he probably would not have been able to get – a thoroughly good business training.

Love to Marion and to the family.

Affectionately yours,

W.O." (35)

The family history had been recorded for posterity and Osler seemed pleased with the result. Copies had been dispatched to Nicholas Ferrar Davidson, K.C., the husband of Featherston's daughter, Henrietta Amelia Penfold, and to Carol, possibly Osler's niece, Rachel Caroline (Mrs. Almon Abbott), daughter of his sister Charlotte

("Chattie") (Mrs. Herbert C. Gwyn). Gilbert Murray, the Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford, (36) wrote *The Foreign Policy of Sir Edward Grey*, published by Oxford University Press in 1919. Grey, known as Grey of Fallodon, served as foreign minister for an extraordinary eleven years beginning in 1905. (37) When Osler speaks of it as "one of the best things we have published" he is no doubt alluding to his position as Delegate to the University Press. (38)

Norman and Campbell were W.O.'s nephews, sons of his sister Charlotte. Dr. Norman B. Gwyn, a member of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and his brother C. Campbell Gwyn, a Canadian infantry officer were recuperating at the Osler home, Norman from a broken ankle and Campbell from a chest wound. Campbell returned to Shorncliffe, the site of the Queen's Canadian Military Hospital at Beechborough Park (Kent), and was killed at the front in 1917. (39,40) Osler's brother Frank (Francis L.), the family wanderer, also visited with his second wife, Belle. It was not without good reason that the Osler home at 13 Norham Gardens, Oxford, was known as the "Open Arms."

Revere, the Osler's only surviving child (a younger brother died in infancy), had received a commission in the Canadian forces and was serving with the McGill Unit as assistant quartermaster. (41,42) This brought some comfort to his parents but strained Revere's conscience. He soon sought a greater combat role by transferring to the British Artillery in 1916. The following year, while serving as an artillery officer, he was mortally wounded at the Ypres salient; a blow from which Osler never recovered. (43,44)

The *Records* is well known in the Canadian Osler family, but appears very infrequently on the market, and must be considered among the rarest of Osler's publications. A printing of 100 or less copies appears to be a likely, although undocumented, estimate. William Osler had a deep and abiding interest in his family's history and origins culminating in the

wartime publication of these rare genealogical tomes that have provided information and insights that would have been otherwise lost to posterity.✱

## References

1. Osler, W., Osler, E.B., eds., *Records of the Lives of Ellen Free Pickton and Featherstone Lake Osler*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1915.
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3. Osler, W., ed., *Osler Family Papers*, 5 vol., Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1914.
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5. Osler, W., ed. *Index: Osler Family Papers and Letters*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1914.
6. Bliss, M., *William Osler: A Life in Medicine*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1999, 506.
7. Letter, William Osler to Featherston Osler, September 3, 1914. Inserted in B.O. 3593, Osler Library, McGill University, Montreal.
8. Cushing, H., *The Life of Sir William Osler*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1925, II, 421-423.
9. Howard, R.P., *The Chief: Doctor William Osler*, Canton, MA, Science History Publications, 1983, 72.
10. Letter, William Osler to Featherston Osler, November 9, 1914. CUS417/118.107, Archives, Osler Library, McGill University, Montreal.
11. Letter, S.M. Adams to Francis G. Osler, May 26, 1941. Inserted in B.O. 3593, Osler Library, McGill University, Montreal.
12. Personal communication, Linda Corman, Chief Librarian, Trinity College, Toronto, July 7, 1999.
13. Francis, W.W., Osler Librarian, holographic annotation to "Note", B.O. 3593, May 1941.
14. Wainwright, B., typed note inserted in B.O. 3593, May 8, 1970.
15. Letter, Mrs. Britton Osler to Wilder Penfield, cited in #13.
16. Personal communication, Christine Mosser, Librarian, Special Collections, Toronto Reference Library, June 28, 1999.

*William Osler had a deep and abiding interest in his family's history and origins culminating in the wartime publication of these rare genealogical tomes...*



happen for 25 years; he was the architect of the Guidelines which define the jurisdiction of the Library's Board of Curators, and secured their formal recognition by the University; and much, much more.

In many unobtrusive but significant ways, Don demonstrated his devotion to the Library and its mission. For example, he served as academic mentor for Osler Library Student Fellows; he spearheaded the creation of a Standing Committee of the Board of Curators to watch over the affairs of the Library between annual meetings of the Curators; he raised funds, made contacts, and always kept a weather-eye open for potential trouble. He religiously inspected every book the Library purchased, and always kept us informed of new and unusual titles. Don Bates was passionate about the Osler Library, and though not a classic Oslerian, passionate about Osler too. In collaboration with Dr. Edward Bensley, he published studies of Osler's life and works; but he also understood that the Library derives its special character from the character of its founder, and of his concept of history of medicine within medical education. The kind of history of medicine which Don taught and practiced was very different from Osler's, but it was conducted with similar intentions: to foster a more reflective medical practice, grounded in an understanding of society. In season and out of season, he reminded us all that the Library and the academic enterprise of medical history were two sides of a single coin, and he reinforced this message with his unique brand of thorough, unflagging, and sometimes even ferocious attention to our welfare.

Don Bates was a faithful and generous friend, and the Library owes him a lasting debt of gratitude. Typical of his commitment to the Osler Library, Don Bates asked that those interested in making a donation to his memory, should do so to the charity of their choice or to the Osler Library.✱

*Faith Wallis  
Pam Miller*

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## WAYNE LEBEL RETIRES FROM THE OSLER LIBRARY

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Many of you will be as surprised as we were to learn of the retirement of Wayne LeBel in August of this year. Wayne has been with the Osler Library for 16 years and has not only dedicated himself to the Library, he has built up a devoted band of happy researchers. There is almost nothing



that Wayne will not do to serve the Osler Library's patrons and they and we will miss him sorely. Always good-humoured, he takes with him language skills, a gift for proofreading and a detailed knowledge of the Osler Library's collections. He will be hard to replace.

Wayne will continue to be busy. The day after he leaves the Osler Library he will begin a series of visits across the country, assisting his wife, Lorraine Dubreuil, Map Curator of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at McGill University on her sabbatical research project. The aim of the project is to compile a directory of Fire Insurance Plans (maps) holdings in Canadian libraries. Lorraine and Wayne will be travelling to libraries across the

country verifying their holdings of these informative maps. We wish Wayne the very best of luck in the next phase of his career.✱

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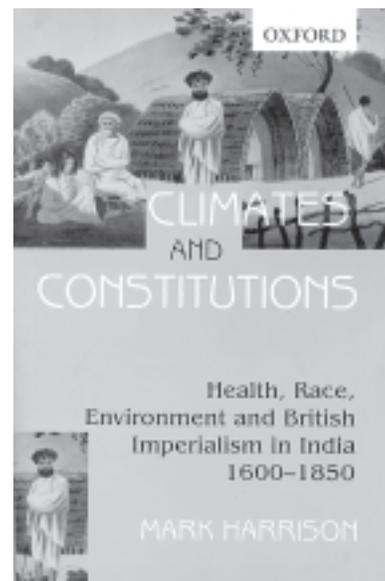
## A REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF THE OSLER LIBRARY AND AN APPEAL

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Barely a day goes by without a "news" item on a topic related to health issues. Whether it is a breakthrough in research, the cost of healthcare, or environmental problems, the public is expected to be informed about an array of questions affecting how we care for ourselves and our society. The Osler Library plays an important role by providing the latest publications on a range of subjects which go right to the source of how and why many of these issues have arisen, in a word, their history.

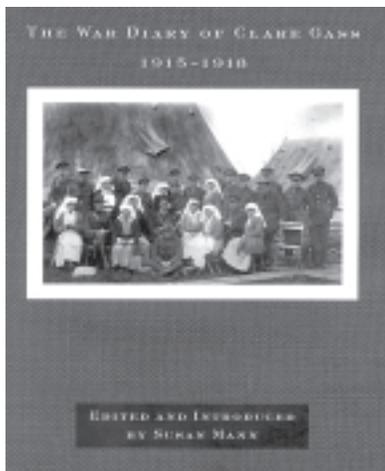
The Friends have helped us acquire titles from the growing field of the history of medicine. We have collected books ranging from the visually gorgeous to the deeply



The Friends have helped us acquire titles from the growing field of the history of medicine. We have collected books ranging from the visually gorgeous to the deeply disturbing. The following gives you a brief glimpse of a few of our latest acquisitions.



disturbing. That is what a good research library aims for and with your help we continue to assemble an impressive collection. Mary Simon regularly publishes complete lists of the new arrivals on our web page.



"In the poppy fields" photo taken by Clare Gass (by permission of John Gass)

The following gives you a brief glimpse of a few of them.

Gayle Greene has published a gripping biography entitled, *The Woman Who Knew Too Much: Alice Stewart and the Secrets of Radiation*, University of Michigan Press, 1999. This work tells the story of the Oxford Survey of Childhood Cancer of 1956 and moves through Alice Stewart's career to her part in the investigation of the Atomic Energy Commission's study of American nuclear workers. Her conclusion that the industry is about twenty times more dangerous than the public is being told, challenged the worldwide guidelines for radiation exposure for workers and the general public. Alice Stewart was 93 at the time of publication. Her 23,000 research files on the Oxford Survey are housed at the University of Birmingham. The questions she raises concern us all.

Other issues covered by our recent acquisitions include: sex and disease, mental illness, corporate medicine, anorexia nervosa, drugs, AIDS, asbestos, troublesome children, abortion, thalidomide, alcoholism, and the Human Genome Project. On

that topic, Richard C. Lewontin, who was last year's Osler Lecturer at McGill, has just published, *It Ain't Necessarily So: the Dream of the Human Genome and Other Illusions*, New York, 2000. British Imperialism is studied in Mark Harrison's *Climates and Constitutions: Health, Race, Environment and British Imperialism in India, 1600-1850*, Oxford University Press, 1999. The author takes a thorough look at how

doctors theorized about climate and disease prior to 1850 and the effect of their theories on Imperial policy.

Several new works on nurses and war have appeared in the last year covering the American Civil War and the First and Second World Wars among others. Of special interest to this Library is *The War Diary of Clare Gass*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000, edited by Susan Mann, in the McGill-Queen's/Associated Medical Services Studies in the History of Medicine, Health, and Society series. Clare Gass served in the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) and on her return to Montreal, after the war, began a new career in social work at the Western Hospital. Some of the detailed research for the publication took place at the Osler Library which holds a number of books and archival fonds pertaining to those who served with the unit. Professor Mann places the diary in the context of women's education and work in Canadian society, setting the stage for the poignant stories to come. She and four brothers enlisted. One brother and the man she probably hoped to marry, died in the war. Clare Gass,

## Defeated Flesh

Medicine, Welfare, and Warfare  
in the Making of Modern France



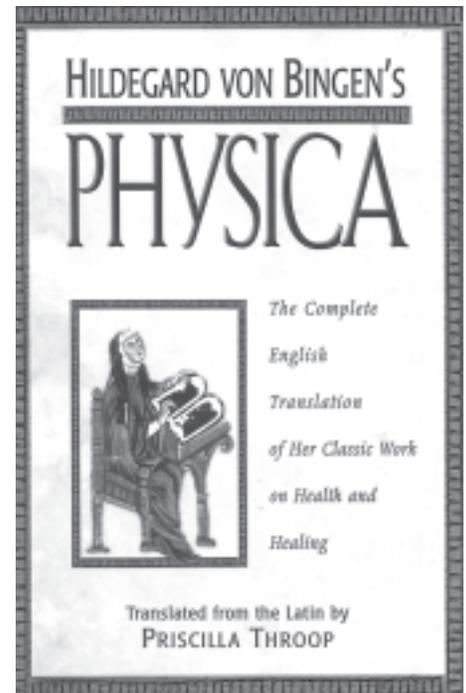
BERTRAND TAITHE

against regulations, kept her camera with her. Some of her excellent photographs are published in the book and yes, she briefly mentions Sir William Osler's visit to the unit where so many of his colleagues (and for a short period his son, Revere) were serving.

*Archives of the Scientific Revolution: the Formation and Exchange of Ideas in Seventeenth Century Europe*, Boydell Press, 1998, edited by Michael Harper, contains papers published at a conference held in London on this topic and gives a fascinating description of how the papers of famous figures such as Galileo and Newton survived politics and time down to the present. The book also discusses the papers of the doctor and economic theorist Sir William Petty (1623-1687) and the physician Giorgio Baglivi (1668-1707) portions of whose archives, you will not be surprised to learn, were acquired by Sir William Osler.

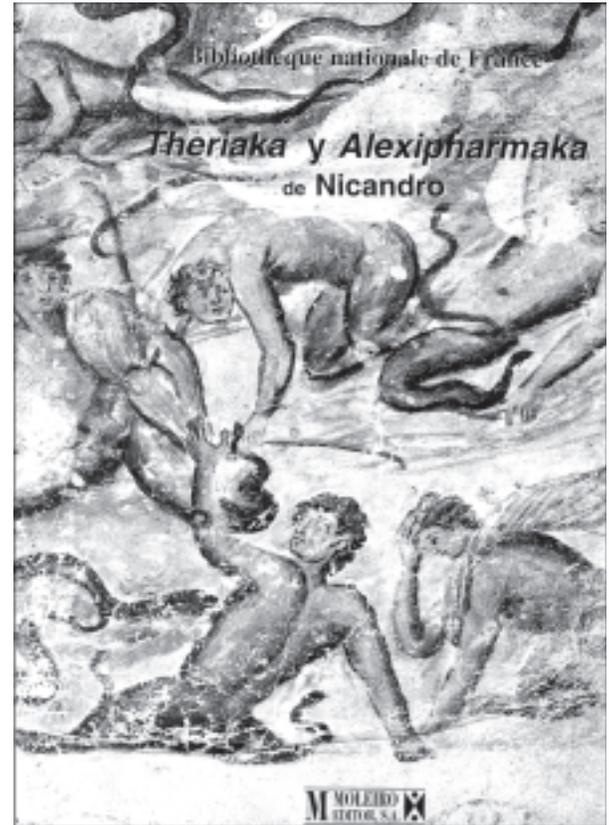
Medicine in art or an artistic view of medicine can be found in *Die Zahnheilkunde in Kunst -und Kulturgeschichte*, Köln, 1999, by Heinz E. Lässig and Rainer A. Müller, a highly illustrated historical look at dentistry. *Medicine Ave.: the Story of Medical Advertising in America*, Huntingdon, N.Y., 1999, by the Medical Advertising Hall of Fame, shows how effectively art has been used to market medication. *Books of the Body: Anatomical Ritual and Renaissance Learning*, by Andrea Carlino translated by John and Anne Tedeschi, Chicago, 1999, examines Renaissance anatomy in detail, touching on art, theory, practice and religion.

Wonderful and sometimes colourful facsimiles with commentaries have been added to our collection. They give the public access to material which they would otherwise rarely see. In *A Soup for the Qan: Chinese Dietary Medicine of the Mongol Era as Seen in Hu Szu-Hui's Yin-Shan Cheng-yao*, London, 2000, the Chinese text is published along with the English text and commentary. The book is part of the Sir Henry Wellcome Asian series. We have purchased two magnificent



facsimile publications from the Spanish publisher M. Moleiro. An original manuscript dating from the second half of the 10th century held by the Bibliothèque Nationale (France), *Theriaka y Alexipharmaka*, by Nicander of Colophon, Barcelona, 1997, reproduces an illustrated manuscript which describes the bites of venomous animals and their treatment. *Libro de los Medicamentos Simples*, Barcelona 2000, by Mattheus Platearius is a full-colour facsimile of the 15th century French manuscript copy held by the Russian National Library at St. Petersburg.

We continue to add valuable microforms to our collections. The Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions has published its catalogue of medicine and health items produced in Canada until 1900. The Osler Library has been a valuable source for many of the scarce publications reproduced in this work and is happy to contribute to this important national project. Twelve new reels of microfilm of Mediaeval and Renaissance manuscript collections at Oxford Colleges relating to medicine and natural sciences



provide an excellent easily accessible source for research in this field.

The Library has been fortunate in receiving generous donations of books. Dr. W.H. Feindel has given five works by Thomas Willis. Dr. Sean Murphy has given us three rare works on ophthalmology. Dr. Ken Marshall, who taught Family Medicine at McGill before moving to Stratford, Ontario where he wrote *The Family Practice Sourcebook*, gave us his collection from the Classics of Medicine Library. Julie Allan is adding to her father Ted Allan's archives at the Osler relating to his biography of Norman Bethune. Among other material she sent us are two pamphlets about Norman Bethune's activities in Spain. *The Crime on the Road Malaga-Almeria*, written by Norman Bethune with photographs by Hazen Sise was published by Publicaciones Iberia and is a photo story of the evacuation of 150,000 civilians from Malaga during the Spanish Civil War. *Listen In! This is Station EAQ Madrid Spain*, Toronto, 1937, published by the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, is a condensation of some of the short-wave radio broadcasts from Spain



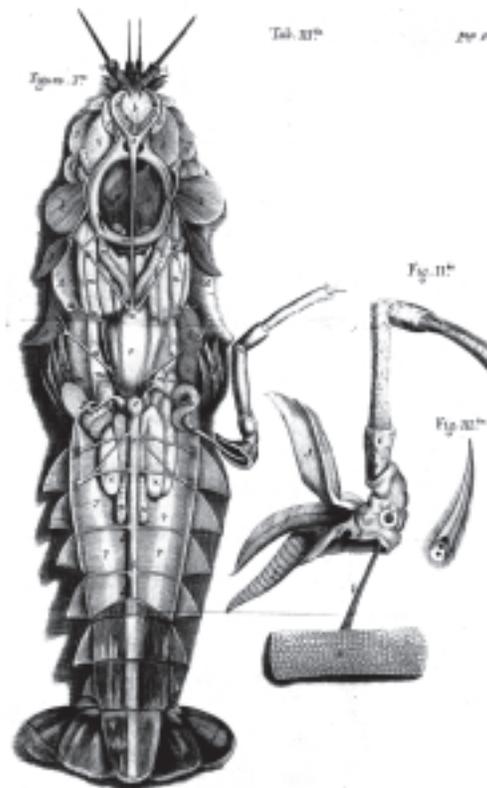
given by Dr. Bethune, Professor J.B.S. Haldane, and Hazen Sise. These pamphlets evoke a tragic time in history and the efforts of medical men to arouse public opinion to fight oppression. Finally, Dr. Shigeake Hinohara has just presented us with his really exciting Osler's "A Way of Life" and Other Addresses, with Commentary and Annotations, edited by Shigeake



Hinohara and Hisae Niki, with a forward by John P. McGovern, Duke University Press, 2001. Osler drew from a wide array of classical and contemporary sources of inspiration for his talks. The editors explain each and every one of them, so that in case you have forgotten who "the great Stagirite" was, you are reminded that it was Aristotle who was born in Stagira. It is a wonderful reference work for skilled and unskilled Oslerians.

Students, professors, visitors, delegations, and crews filming Osler-related topics visit the Library continuously. Each year a few of our older works are sent to the conservator for restoration. Our loan of books to the exhibition *Meditations on Piero* at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, enabled the works requiring treatment to be restored. Behind the scenes two archives projects are going on, and we begin to prepare for our renovations for May of 2002. Think of us. We will be packing up about 55,000 books, 350 metres of archives plus prints, photographs and artifacts. We will keep you informed as the project develops. This brief report launches our annual appeal. Thank you for your enthusiastic support. You help us to keep our public informed.✱

Anatomy of a female lobster from Thomas Willis' *De Anima Brutorum...*



Pamela Miller

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The appeal for the 2001-2002 academic year is made in this issue, No. 96-2001.

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