

I. THE PATHOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE LATE
SIR WILLIAM OSLER AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY
—EARLY ACADEMIC INFLUENCES—MCGILL'S
HEROIC PAST. II. PERSONAL REMINISCENCE.

MAUDE E. ABBOTT, B.A., M.D.

Curator of the Pathological Museum, McGill University

PART I

*The Osler Pathological Collections at McGill University (1872-1884).
—McGill's Heroic Past.*

In the passing of Sir William Osler, the medical profession of North America has lost its most beloved and distinguished member; one whose name has been as a household word among us, whose scientific enthusiasm has leavened, and clinical acumen inspired, the medical teaching of the past three generations, and whose warm-hearted hospitality has been shared by the Profession of two continents these many years. Those portals now are darkened, and the light of mingled genius and human kindness that shone from those burning eyes has been forever quenched! To us there remains a great sadness, and an inheritance that is inviolate—the name of the great Canadian physician and the tradition of his early formative years.

At this time of retrospect it is of interest to know that there exists what may be termed a unique memorial of the first twelve years of his professional life in the Pathological Collections which he made in the autopsy room of the Montreal General Hospital, of which some 150 specimens have come down to us, which are now housed, in excellent preservation and with full records pertaining thereto, in the Pathological Museum of McGill University.

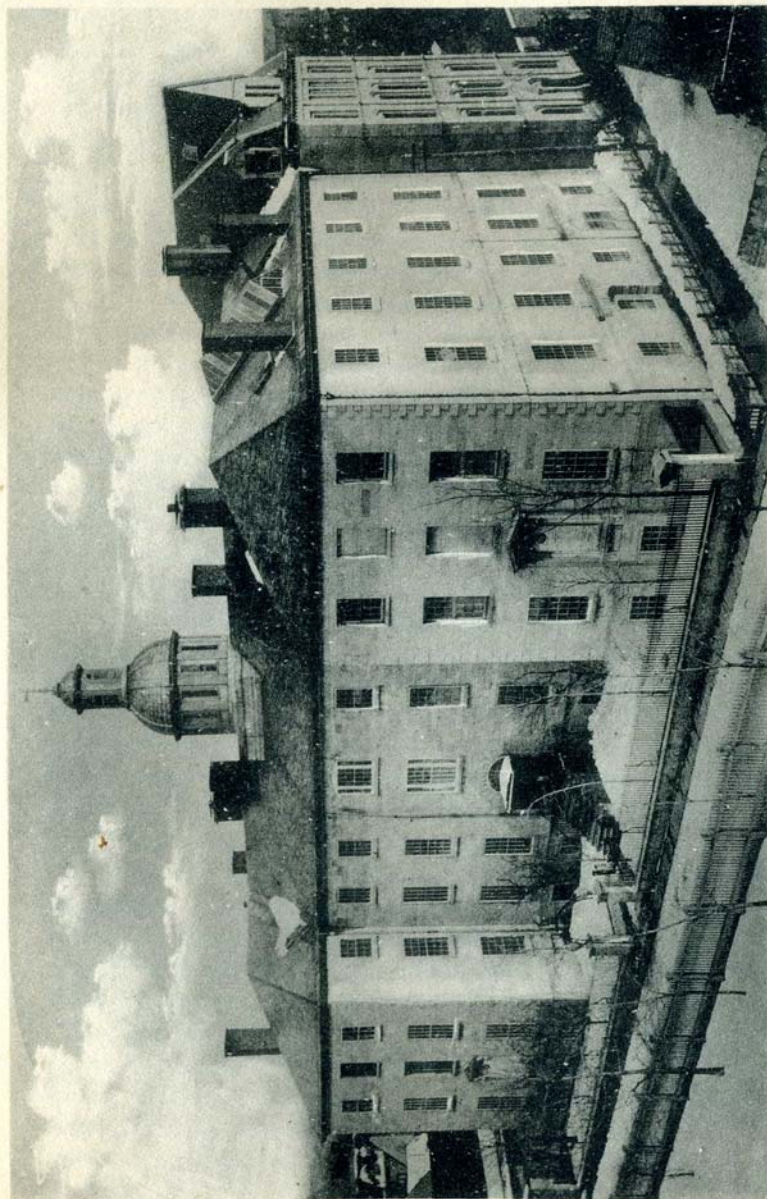
It is common knowledge that Dr. Osler, after graduating from McGill in 1872, spent two years in ardent post-graduate study abroad, and then, in 1874, was appointed to the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine at McGill, and held this post and that of Pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital until he left Montreal for Philadelphia in 1884. So that, as in the case of so

many of the great clinicians who went before him and whose lives he loved to study, the foundations of the skill and knowledge of his later life were based upon strenuous and studious early years, spent not only at the bedside, but also in the study and demonstration of the great science of pathological anatomy.

The fact is not so well known, that during these years, and even earlier, in his student days, he was not only a pathologist, but also, essentially and to a remarkable extent, a Museum collector. Just as he was, throughout his life, to use his own words, a note-book man, jotting down for future reference, every point of interest as it occurred, so it was natural for him to set aside for preservation, as a permanent record of important facts, any remarkable material which he came across in his autopsies which illustrated points of teaching value, or which were to him of interest as a basis for intensive study. In this way he quickly assembled a collection which, while especially rich in specimens of cardiac and arterial, gastric and lung diseases, is representative also of the whole range of human morbid anatomy, as well as significant of his activities in veterinary* and medico-legal medicine. Each specimen has been neatly chiselled down to show the lesion freed from encumbering details, and remains of scientific interest to-day, bearing silent but emphatic witness to his skill in dissection and selective faculty. All are fully described in his hospital protocols of the seven hundred and eighty seven autopsies performed by him here, which filled five large volumes. Of these, two have come down to us. Written almost entirely in his own flowing hand, every page gives evidence of his powers of clear diction and minute observation. Viewed in the light of these records, these specimens undoubtedly present, in visible and tangible form, the first stepping stones in a great career. As such they are of the utmost biographical interest, and an asset of immense value in the history of modern medicine.

From his literary facility and his habit of communicating to others everything of scientific importance within his knowledge, it happens that nearly every object in the collection has been reported by him either in local Society Proceedings or Reports, or in the *Philadelphia Medical News* to which he was a constant contributor, while many have been made the subject of exhaustive

*For details on this subject, see the Classified Bibliography, in this Bulletin.



MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL
AS IT WAS AT THE TIME OF DR. OSLER'S SERVICE, SHOWING CUPOLA AND
SLOPING ROOF AS ERECTED IN 1822.

studies published in foreign or home periodicals. The origin of much of his later work is to be traced here, notably that on typhoid fever, angina pectoris, aneurysms, and cardiac lesions. His *Practice of Medicine* is literally built up out of his rich memories of these and similar cases and the foregoing clinical histories, accumulated both here and in his later Philadelphia experience, and it abounds in direct references to "that beautiful healed aneurysm," "that wonderful parchment heart," etc., which apply not only or always to his own material, but also to the older collection placed here by earlier members of the Montreal General Hospital staff before his time, with every specimen of which he was most intimately familiar. How deeply this familiarity had sunk into his consciousness, and become, as it were, a part of his personality and affections, is realized only by those who were privileged to share the daily round of his work in later years, and who heard the quotations from his McGill experience constantly upon his lips.

The early history of the Museum and of the Faculty and their condition at the time of Dr. Osler's sojourn as a student are in place here, for they are among the sources on which his genius fed and from which he drew his inspiration.

The oldest and the parent Faculty of McGill was its Medical School. Like the Medical Departments of the Universities of Edinburgh and Leyden, from which it, like that of the University of Pennsylvania, may be said to be lineally descended, this Faculty took its origin as an extra-mural body, which was later merged with the University proper. It was organized under the title of "The Montreal Medical Institution" in 1823-4, by the first Medical Staff of the Montreal General Hospital, an institution that had from its foundation in the year 1822, embodied in its constitution, as an essential part of its administration, the principle that clinical instruction must be continuously and actively conducted in its wards. Five years later, on June 29th, 1829, at the first meeting of the Governors of "McGill College," this young "Medical Institution," now "an active teaching body of established reputation," was "engrafted upon" the embryo university as its Medical Faculty, and, for nearly thirty strenuous years thereafter, it conducted practically all the academic work that was done in it. Its four Founders were all graduates of the great Scottish University: Drs. William Robertson and William Caldwell, British military surgeons of experience, Drs. A. F. Holmes

and John Stephenson, young Canadians, just returned from the courses of foreign study necessary to the overseas degree, and who subsequently attained distinction, the former as an internist and botanist of repute and the first Dean of the Faculty, and the latter as anatomist and surgeon, first University Registrar and the man whose labours, more than any other single factor, are said to have saved the bequest of James McGill to his University. All were men of vigorous personality and broad educational outlook, who brought to the accomplishment of their pioneer task the traditions and methods of the Edinburgh school, which taught its Medicine and Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, by direct observation at the bedside, in the light of the autopsy findings; and they made an up-to-date Medical Library, and a Museum that became the storehouse of many valued specimens, an essential part of their initial organization. They fostered too the growth of that Natural History Society that became such an important cultural influence in Montreal in Osler's youth. The great influx of immigration to Montreal in the second and third decades of the century, and the virulent epidemics that repeatedly swept the ranks of the immigrant poor, whose care was a part of the Hospital's special province, made imperative and almost limitless demands upon the charity and devotion of its Attending Staff; while the erection and defence of the proper standards for progressive medical education in a community in which quackery abounded and into which the institutions of the older French régime had introduced an element of apparent rivalry and at times of actual partisanship, presented problems that called for the highest qualities of zeal, constancy of purpose and astute wisdom. The heroic response of these early British Canadian physicians to the needs of their period is to be traced in the later status of their School. Their successors, through the next two generations, were mostly men of similar character and like educational ideals, who maintained the institutions and the clinico-pathological bias of their predecessors, and developed, both in wards and dead-house, a grade of instruction and of student work so high that it won universal recognition, and caused this to be designated, in the sixties, by the President of one of the Royal Colleges of Edinburgh, "the best and most complete medical university in America."^{*}

^{*}See *Can. Med. & Surg.*, 1861, II, 207.

The contemporary medical literature yields abundant evidence of these high standards and scientific proclivities. As early as 1824, Dr. Andrew Holmes, that gentle and ardent biologist and clinico-pathologist, published a classical study, with autopsy findings, of "An Unusual Case of Malformation of the Heart," in the *Transactions of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society** that remains unique in the literature; the remarkable specimen is still on the shelves of the Museum, in perfect preservation, the most historic object in this University. Later contributions by the same author, "Holmes on the Cases of Cholera Treated in Montreal" (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1833). "The First Two Applications of Chloroform in Canada" (1847), "On a Fatal Case of Jaundice with Remarks" (1857), "Lectures on Heart Disease" (1848); Badgley "On the Irish Immigrant Fever," based on twelve autopsies and a large clinical experience (1848); Crawford "On the Treatment of Aneurysm by Compression" (1854), and "Idiopathic Pneumo-Thorax following Acute Inflammation of the Arm: Autopsy by A. Long, House-surgeon"; Robert MacDonnell "On the Use of the Microscope" (1845), and "Contraction of the Pupil a Sign of Intra-thoracic Tumour" (1859); Scott on "Results and Modes of Treatment of Various Types of Fractures, Twenty-Seven Cases Tabulated" (1853); Howard on "Constrictive Disease of the Mitral Valve" (1853), and "Lectures on Aneurysm of the Aortic Arch" (1853); MacCallum on "Disease of the Suprarenals with report of Autopsy" (1857); Craik on "The Uses of the Microscope for Clinical Diagnosis" (1865); these are but a few examples of these really classic publications, which frequently astonish one by their clear insight and prevision of the knowledge subsequently laid bare by the discoveries of the latter half of the nineteenth century. Systematic clinical teaching, introduced by Dr. Crawford in 1845, was carried in the next twenty years to a degree of perfection so high that medical and surgical cases allotted to the student in his routine at the bedside were frequently worked up by him, with autopsy findings attached, to the point of publication, and as such appear repeatedly in the local journals of the fifth and sixth decades of the century. The surgical practice of the hospital, carried on as it was in those pre-asepsis days by all the members of the staff, was courageous, enterprising and up-to-date, usually skilful, and

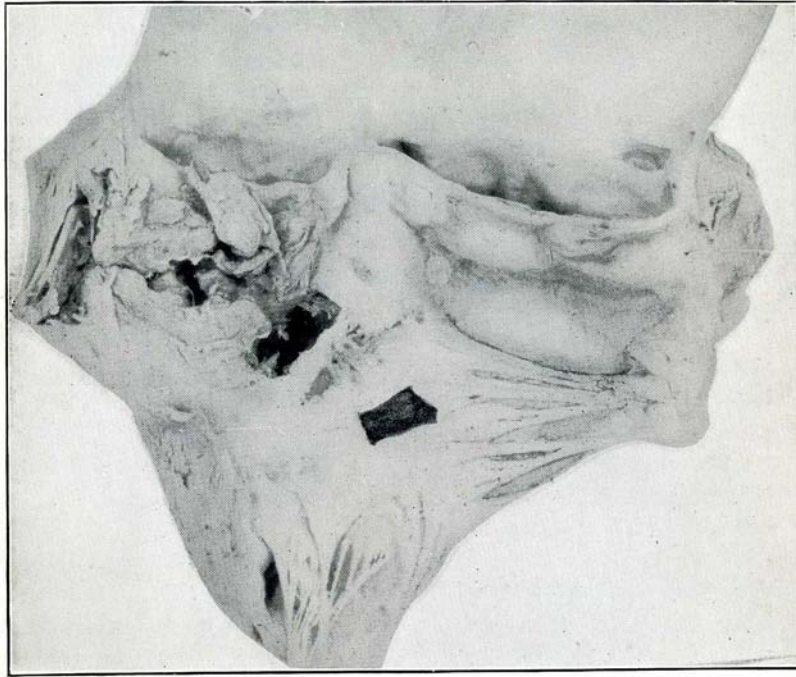
*For further details of this publication see Part II of this article.

in the hands of such men as Campbell, Fenwick and Sutherland, brilliant and conservative. The prolonged study at close quarters of ship-fever or typhus, cholera, and smallpox, revealed the necessity of the segregation of contagious cases and the purification of their clothing, long before the germ theory of disease was understood. In a time of relative illiteracy, the Medical Board maintained a fight for the high standard of the degree and the organization of the Profession throughout Canada, founded and supported the Medico-Chirurgical Society (1846) and Student Medical Society (1847), inaugurated a local medical journalism of classic type, (1847) and conducted from that time on what was for a number of years the only British-Canadian journal.

All these activities may be said to have culminated, under the influence of such men as the late Drs. G. W. Campbell and R. P. Howard, in the early seventies, in what may be termed the Faculty's second period of clinical prestige and productivity (since the passing of its Founders marked the first). At this time, and within this atmosphere of fermenting intellectual activity, among and of the company of a bevy of youthful spirits of kindred mettle, all keyed to the joy of the working and fired by the opportunities for exact knowledge which the hospital afforded, there entered, in the year 1870, "attracted by the *clinical* advantages of McGill" as a student in the final year of his course, the youth of twenty-one years of age, who was destined to rank among the leaders of medicine.

We may picture him at this time, with his lithe, slight figure, and dark, almost Spanish colouring, alert, keen, enthusiastic, yet withal retiring, with the kindly whimsical humour that tempered his every thought shining in his eyes, and the fires of a passion for knowledge by direct observation, and of consecration to the day's work and to the service of distressed humanity aflame within him, replete with the charm that springs from a heart overflowing with affection and goodwill to his fellows and that made him at once the most human and most lovable of men,—so William Osler stood, on the threshold of the unknown future, at the parting of the ways!

His interest in the post-mortem room and his free use of the microscope, are among the most conspicuous facts in his history, revealing as they do, the quick grasp of essentials which was the outstanding feature of his genius. Already, in



MALIGNANT ENDOCARDITIS OF BICUSPID AORTIC VALVE
(GOULSTONIAN LECTURES SERIES)

*From a specimen in the Pathological Museum of McGill University,
presented by W. Osler, 1882.*

Note that a section has been cut out by him from the base of the mitral valve for
microscopic examination of the tissue beyond the seat of the vegetations.

1872, we find him, while still a student, assisting his Chief at the Medico-Chirurgical Society by the demonstration of pathological material,* and publishing, from a student-pen, his first classic case reports,** with autopsy findings. With characteristic simplicity of thought and direct action, he chose for his graduation thesis the broad subject of Pathological Anatomy illustrated by microscopical slides and specimens, some of which, those on typhoid fever, are preserved in the Museum collection to-day.***

Small wonder was it that, at this time, he attracted first the interest, and then the appreciation and affection of Professor R. P. Howard, who opened to him the doors of immediate advancement. In his introductory lecture, delivered in September, 1873, Dr. Howard made the following statement of his faith in and aspirations for the future of his young favourite:

"In connection with the new subject of scientific interest, the older students present, as well as my colleagues, will be pleased to hear that Dr. Osler, who graduated here in 1872, has just made a discovery of great interest, and that promises well for the future of our young countryman." "I wish some friend of the University would endow a Chair of Physiology and Pathological Histology, and that our young friend might be invited to accept the appointment, and devote himself solely to the cultivation of his favourite subject, and at the same time bring honour to himself and Canada."†

How quickly these hopes of Dr. Howard's were realized we learn from Dr. Osler's own Introductory Lecture to his practical course on the Institutes of Medicine,†† delivered by him in October, 1875. In it we find him instructing his students in the use of the microscope, and in the technique of preparing, staining and cutting their material for investigation, informing them that a supply of microscopes for their personal use had been ordered from Paris and Potsdam, promising them well-equipped physiological laboratories under his charge in the near future, and outlining the session's work in the following comprehensive, and, for that date, remarkable, synopsis, which covers in a single course, clinical and medico-legal microscopy, as well as microscopic technique and normal histology:—

SYNOPSIS OF THE COURSE‡

Demonstration I.—General description of the Microscope. How to clean it.

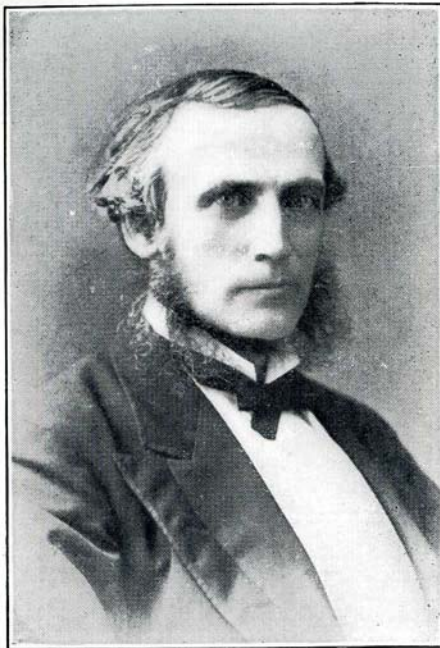
**Can. Med. & Surg. Journ.*, 1872, VIII, p. 408; also Bibliography, this Bulletin, Rubric I.

***Ibid.* p. 473.

*** Museum Specimen, Entry No. 1885.

†*Can. Med. & Surg. J.*, 1874, II, 208. ††*Ibid.* 1875-76, IV, 202.

‡From: Introductory remarks to, and Synopsis of Practical Course on Institutes of Medicine, by Wm. Osler, M.D. *Ibid.*, page 206.



DR. R. P. HOWARD, Dean of the Medical
Faculty of McGill University during
Osler's Montreal Period.

- How to tell its magnifying power. How to draw with it. Examination of dust, cotton fibres and air-bubbles.
- Demonstration II.—Protoplasm. Amoeba. Cyclosis in Anacharis. White blood corpuscles.
- Demonstration III.—Red blood corpuscles of Frog, Fish, Bird and Man. Haemoglobin crystals from Rat's blood. Haemin crystals. How to examine blood stains.
- Demonstration IV.—Epithelium: squamous, cylindrical, glandular ciliated.
- Demonstration V.—Connective tissues. Corpuscles. White fibrous and elastic tissues. Adipose tissue. Pigment.
- Demonstration VI.—Tendon, Cartilage, Bone and Teeth.
- Demonstration VII.—Muscle, voluntary and involuntary.
- Demonstration VIII.—Blood vessels. How to inject.
- Demonstration IX.—Method of hardening tissues. How to cut sections.
- Demonstration X.—Lung.
- Demonstration XI.—Alimentary Canal.
- Demonstration XII.—Kidney.
- Demonstration XIII.—Lymphatic Vessels. Skin.
- Demonstration XIV.—Nerves, Fibre Cells, Central Organs.
- Demonstration XV.—Examination of sputum and vomit, discharges from uterus and vagina.
- Demonstration XVI.—Pus and Tubercle.
- Demonstration XVII.—Examination of Urine. Casts.
- Demonstration XVIII.—Examination of Urine. Inorganic Deposits.
- Demonstration XIX.—Morbid Growths. Cancer Cells.
- Demonstration XX.—Parasites. Animal and Vegetable.

PART II

Dr. Osler's Later Relations with the Museum (1898-1913) *Personal Reminiscence.*

In the year 1898 the writer of this reminiscence was appointed to the care of the Pathological Museum of McGill University. Dr. Osler was at that time Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Medical School; but his affection for the scene of his old labours, and his vivid interest in all that pertained to his own collections and to those of his colleagues and predecessors here, led to the establishment of an intercourse which will be of interest to students of his life, in that it discloses, in a very real way, certain vital characteristics: his sustained interest in every subject which had once come within his range of study or observation; his capacity for seizing upon relevant facts, as illustrated in these old records, and applying them to the elucidation of the questions which absorbed his present attention; and last, but not least, that instantaneous response and whole-hearted sympathy and support with which he met every earnest worker in medical research, and by which he supplied a stimulus and an inspiration that saved many a virgin effort from failure and brought

to fulfilment the aspirations of hundreds of young lives throughout the length and breadth of this continent, during the twenty years that intervened between his McGill and his Oxford days; for these reasons, the necessarily personal nature of the following reminiscence will be excused.

My first meeting with Dr. Osler was in December, 1898, when I was sent by the Medical Faculty of McGill to Washington to see the Army Medical Museum, and other institutions *en route*. Arrived at Baltimore, and following the instinct that impelled nearly everyone where Dr. Osler was concerned, I sought him out, first, with my introduction. I found him, at ten minutes to nine, just leaving his lecture room for his ward-round, which I was invited to join, and to which I followed him with the usual crowd of students, internes and guests. The visit over, the procession had just left the wards when an unpleasant, but certainly fortunate, accident, befell me, which threw me suddenly into personal contact with him to an extent that even my connection with McGill was not likely to have done. Standing, for a moment, with my hand on the lintel of the half-closed door, someone swung the other heavy half-door to, crushing my finger and neatly extracting the nail. Dr. Osler's concern took the form, after the finger had been dressed by an interne, and a profitable morning given to me in the Pathological Department on his introduction, of an invitation to dinner that evening. "Come at a quarter to seven," he said, in the hospital lunch-room, where I had been conducted at his request, "and be sure to take a rest this afternoon." The appointed time saw me at No. 1 West Franklin Street and I was shown to Dr. Osler's study, where I found him alone among his books. After a few minutes I ventured to ask him if he would give me a reprint of his "Internal Medicine as a Vocation." "Oh, do you like reprints," he said, "come in here"; and he led the way into a small room off his study which seemed to me to be completely lined with reprints, arranged in piles on the shelves. "There you are,—and there,—and there," handing me one after the other, "Thomas Dover," "John Keats," "William Pepper," "Locke as a Physician," etc., etc., until I had a great pile. "And this," he said, handing me a blue pamphlet, "is the one I like better than anything else I have ever written." It was *An Alabama Student*. That night, alone at the Clifford, and examining my treasure-trove of reprints, I read for the first time that

charming essay, and caught in its familiar opening words a glimmering of insight into the simplicity of thought and springs of action of one, the secret of whose greatness lay in the fact, that, in a widely different age and scene, he was still, as it were, The Servant in the House, and the prototype of that divine Physician of whom he speaks, Who trod the streets of Nazareth, and wandered on the hillsides by the Lake of Galilee.

"Chief among the hard sayings of the Gospels" it begins, "is the declaration,—he that loveth Father or Mother, or son or daughter, more than me, is not worthy of me. Yet the spirit that made possible its acceptance and which is responsible for Christianity as it is, or rather perhaps, as it was, is the same which in all ages has compelled men to follow ideals, even at the sacrifice of the near and dear ones at home. In varied tones, to all, at one time or other, the call comes: to one to forsake all and Follow Him; to another, to scorn delights and live the laborious days of a student; to the third, to renounce all in the life of a Sunnyside. Many are the wanderers, few are the mystics, as the old Greek has it, or in the words which we know better,—many are called, but few are chosen. The gifts were diversified, but the same spirit inspired the flaming heart of St. Theresa, the patient soul of Palissey the potter, and the mighty intellect of John Hunter."

Dinner over, the great experience of the evening came, for this was one of Dr. Osler's students' nights, in which I had been invited to participate. Seated at the head of the long dining-table, now covered with a dark cloth, with nine young men and three young women ranged around it and me beside him at the end, and with a little pile of books before him, he began by introducing four rare editions from the classics of medicine to his hearers, with a few wise words of appreciation on each. Then followed a delightful talk upon points of interest or difficulty in the week's work, for these were all his clinical clerks, the reporters of cases in his hospital service. "Well, Miss—, what is your trouble this week?" he began. "And yours?" turning to another. And then, as I sat there with heart beating at the wonderful new world that had opened so unexpectedly before me, he turned suddenly upon me, "I wonder, now, if you realize what an opportunity you have? That McGill Museum is a great place. As soon as you go home look up the *British Medical Journal* for 1893, and read the article by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson on 'A

Clinical Museum'.* That is what he calls his museum in London and it is the greatest place I know for teaching students in. Pictures of life and death together. Wonderful. You read it and see what *you* can do." And so he gently dropped a seed that dominated all my future work. This is but an illustration of how his influence worked in many lives.

The next episode came in the following year, that of 1899, when, in working over the collection, I came upon a remarkable three-chambered heart with pulmonary artery given off from a small supplementary chamber placed at the right upper angle of the common ventricle. No information about it seemed available, until enquiry by letter from Dr. Osler elicited the statement that he remembered the specimen perfectly, having often demonstrated it, and that it had been presented before the Edinburgh Medical Society by Dr. Andrew Holmes, first Dean of the McGill Medical Faculty, and was reported in one of the very early Edinburgh Medical Journals. An examination of the literature revealed the case fully published with a fine copper-plate engraving of the heart in the *Transactions of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society* for 1823,† at which time it had been obtained by Dr. Holmes from an autopsy done by himself, in the presence of the other Founders of the school.

The renewal of Dr. Osler's active interest in the Museum may be said to have dated from this time, and a succession of kindly notes of help or encouragement began then, which culminated, in the years 1904 to 1906, in an active correspondence and substantial support, which it is my purpose to retail here.

A word upon the condition of the Pathological Museum at this time and my own relations with it is in place. Founded as the School was upon the Edinburgh tradition, which stressed the correlation of the pathological findings with the clinical features of the case, the Museum had been from the first the repository of cherished specimens obtained by the early members of the School, often at the cost of much personal exertion, and its contents had been largely augmented by Dr. Osler himself, during his period

*See The Clinical Museum: an Explanatory Address, by Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., *British Medical Journal*, 1893, II, pp. 1295-1296.

†A Case of Malformation of the heart, by A. F. Holmes, M.D., Montreal, Lower Canada. Communicated by Dr. Alison, March 5th, 1823. *Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh*, 1824, p. 252. Republished by M. E. Abbott, *Montreal Medical Journal*, July, 1901.

as Pathologist to the Montreal General Hospital. It was thus a collection of much historical, as well as pathological value. Up to this time, however, the office of Curator had been a purely honorary one, and no systematic cataloguing had been done. It had now become my task to assemble the archives of the collection, and I began by a search of the Montreal General Hospital Autopsy Records and of the contemporary Medical Journals, in which many of these specimens had undoubtedly been recorded.

The real interest of this search began with the discovery, among the Montreal General Hospital Records, of two volumes of Dr. Osler's own post-mortem notes. I shall never forget the impression which these clearly written pages and accurately portrayed descriptions, and above all, the exquisite orderliness of this, the unseen daily task of his youth, made upon me at this time. Genius was written broad upon these pages, and there is no joy given to us greater than that of the first moment of recognition of the Master Mind.

Case after case was recorded here by the name or hospital number which the specimens bore and many others apparently referred to specimens without reference. So also the old *Canada Medical and Surgical Journals*, the *Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society* and the *Montreal General Hospital Reports*, were freely interspersed with communications by Dr. Osler bearing directly upon these very specimens and upon many others without reference-number attached which were set out by me for his identification when a chance visit from him might bring the opportunity.

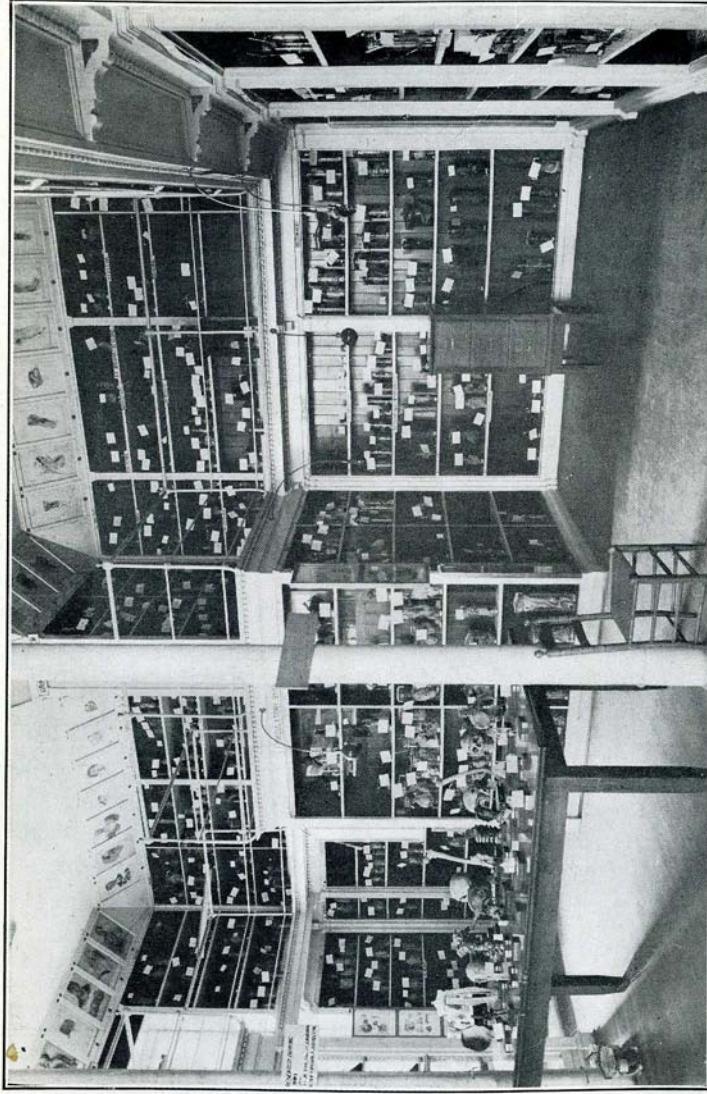
In the Spring of 1904 he came, for the first time in my Curatorship. Five years had elapsed since I first saw him in Baltimore, and much progress had been made in the museum, for the Faculty had actively supported its development, and the seed which he had himself implanted in my mind, of the value of correlating clinical data of importance with the findings shown by the pathological specimens, had borne ample fruit. All the specimens of the old collection, for which a reference had been obtained stood, with full clinical history inscribed upon their catalogue sheets, among the new material, and a plan of "collaboration with clinicians" and experts had been evolved, under which the cataloguing of the various sections was proceeding, and an active system of museum teaching had grown up, which owed its vitality largely to the

correlation of the "clinical aspects" with the pathological features of the case.

The whole met with Dr. Osler's approval, and his enthusiasm was great over the fact that a catalogue of his own beloved specimens and of the older part of the collection had at last been placed on paper. Dropping into a chair, and fingering with tender affection the old autopsy books and journals, he began rapidly eliminating uncertainties with characteristic running comments as he did so. "That fellow, now, I remember well," scribbling rapidly on a card belonging to a large aneurism of the ascending arch of the aorta that was innocent of any trace of laminated clot, and that had ruptured into the right pleura. "It took a long while before the diagnosis was made, but he came back to the hospital at last with a pulsation in the second and third right interspaces. So we put him to bed and tried to cure him with big doses of Pot. Iodid. He got 120 grains a day, and the pulsation had disappeared. We were talking of discharging him in triumph, when one day he died suddenly, and we found—that" "And this," seizing suddenly upon a small unlabelled specimen which had completely mystified me, for it represented a small piece of apparently quite healthy thoracic aorta with a round hole in its wall leading into a sac the size of a tangerine orange, which lay between it and the oesophagus and opened into this by a small jagged tear. "This is that extraordinary case of mycotic aneurism of the aorta rupturing into the oesophagus. She died suddenly without any warning at all. It is reported by me in the *International Clinics*. There is a beautiful coloured frontispiece of it done by old Mr. Raphael. Have you any other cases of mycotic aneurism to go along with this?— Oh that one, that's a new specimen, magnificent,—whose is it?— McCrae's—I say McCrae," turning to Dr. John McCrae who stood among the little throng of chosen ones who were following him in his peregrinations through college and hospital, "You'll report this case, won't you? It will be one of the best in the literature." And John McCrae did report it.*

His interest took the practical form, too, in the autumn of 1904, of raising, by means of a printed circular issued by himself to McGill graduates and their friends, funds for the publication of the first part of the catalogue, and himself revising every sheet

*"A case of Mycotic Aneurism of the Aorta with Malignant Endocarditis," by John McCrae, M.D., M.R.C.P., *Journ. Path. and Bact.*, 1905.



The old Pathological Museum of McGill University (burnt down in 1907), as it was when Sir William Osler worked over his collection in 1905. Many of the specimens on the shelves were placed there by himself in 1877-84.

of that portion of it then being prepared for the press. More than forty letters written by him during the year 1904-1907 on these subjects have been preserved, and with the notes inscribed by him on the manuscript of the catalogue, remain to attest these activities. Always short and to the point, overflowing with his lively and persistent interest in all that had once attracted his observation, and with the encouragement and the stimulating suggestions with which he invariably directed the energies of the younger generation to fresh sources of information and research, these letters form an eminently characteristic record. A short quotation here must suffice. "I see you have a specimen of calcification of the pericardium. It would be well to speak of it in the introduction. There is a very good article two or three years ago in the *Pathological Society's Transactions*." "I have read the Endocardium section with the greatest interest. Something should be said of foetal endocarditis, just to clear the minds of the students." "Remind me, please, to go over the Aneurysm cases in my Post-mortem notes. There are twenty-nine or thirty of them. No. 180, I see, is perforation of the pulmonary artery." "It would be well," writing on the Section on the Myocardium in December, 1905, "to include a paragraph on the fibres that minister to the rhythmicity and conductivity of the heart, the so-called bundle of His, which has just been described by Tawara, working in Aschoff's Laboratory."

The climax of his benefactions may be said to have been reached in his relations with this Association. In January, 1906, he encouraged and assisted in the Proceedings preliminary to its organization, and later, in the same year, sent in the formal support of Oxford University, signing the organization circulars issued from the Army Medical Museum in duplicate for himself and Professor James Ritchie. In the spring of 1907, on the occasion of his return to Canada from Oxford, he attended the first regular meetings of the Association at Washington, and himself laid down, as an essential principle, that the Association should publish a Bulletin and aim at the establishment of an Index Pathologicus. In 1911, on the occasion of a visit of the writer to Europe, he called a meeting of British Pathologists at the Royal College of Surgeons, with himself and the late Sir Jonathan Hutchinson in the Chair, which meeting resulted in the organization of the British Local Section; and then, at the close of this meeting, arranged, in truly

Oslerian fashion, that the writer accompany that venerable scientist, "the greatest Museum genius alive to-day," to use Sir William's own words, to his beautiful home in Surrey, where, on a never-to-be-forgotten Sunday morning, he demonstrated to me the treasures of his historic and scientific collection and his great Museum of the local fauna, flora, and archaeology of the district. Then came, in 1913, the last International Congress of Medicine and his final benefaction, when, at the close of our successful organization of the Section of Museum Technique of the Congress Museum, carried on again under the stimulus of his presence and approval—he supported the appeal of this Association to Lord Strathcona which resulted in its acquisition of the nucleus of an Endowment Fund.* His final letter in regard to this benefaction reads:

"I have written to Lord Strathcona telling him about the work of the Museum and the Association, and thanking him for his support. That you should have this money means, I know, all the difference in the world—only you deserve a larger sum!"

The veil, by which intimacy of contact and innate modesty of heart screen the personality of the truly great from the full vision of their contemporaries, has been lifted for us now by the hand of death, and we see William Osler among those whom Carlyle has called the heroes of the race. His exact position in the history of medicine is for posterity to adjudge; but the revelations made by his pioneer work in pathological anatomy as shown in his collections and early publications, and his perennial interest in the facts of nature which this work had declared to his searching gaze, yields no uncertain forecast. Where the palm is given to versatility of genius and power of expression, unfailing accuracy of observation, instantaneous recognition and correlation of significant data, and that all-embracing creative faculty which forms, out of the multitudinous details of a crowded experience, new, fresh, and clear concepts of humanitarian value,—there the name of William Osler will be written large, beside that of Rudolph Virchow, the apostle of his youth, and Jonathan Hutchinson, the enthusiasm of his maturer years.

*\$5,000.00 donated by Lord Strathcona to this Association on September 26, 1913. See Bulletin V., p. 166.