

# The Oslerian

## *A Message from the President*

By Clyde Partin, Jr.

### President's Message

Pages 1-3

### Montreal Preview

Pages 4-5

### History of Medicine Essay

Pages 6-7

### AOS History

Pages 8-9

### Poetry

Page 9

### Opinion - Book Review

Pages 10-11

### Looking Ahead

Page 12

## Osler's Death: His Enduring Legacy One Century Later

A trilogy of Oslerian anniversaries begins to align in 2019. Osler passed away 29 Dec 1919; The 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the American Osler Society celebrates with a meeting in Montreal; The Osler Library opened ninety years ago in May 1929. Much has been documented regarding Osler's final days and there has been considerable contemplation about his life in the century following his passing. The most reflective of that out-pouring is in the final chapter, Osler's Afterlife, of Michael Bliss's 1999 book, *William Osler: A Life in Medicine*. Bliss chronicles the last illness in the twelve pages that precede the seventeen pages that constitute his musings on Osler's afterlife. Cushing began the death vigil in late September, in Osler's biography, writing, "Osler, meanwhile, in bed with his cold . . ." (Cushing) Three months and fifteen pages later, "The end came at 4.30 on the afternoon of December 29<sup>th</sup>. Cushing, possibly fatigued from his biographical labors, devotes a tidy page and a half to the funeral service, ending with conjecture that Osler dreamt from a 'watching chamber,' lamenting many but especially the youthful pupils of his who had died young, and "had known the affection and warmth of the 'Open Arms.' – doubly

dead in that they died so young." Perhaps this was a veiled metaphor for Revere's death. "Death came peacefully, as he had taught that it does to most people, at about 4.30 that afternoon," was Bliss's version.

Jeremiah Barondess provides the most detailed account of Osler's slow descent to death, ravaged by post-influenza complications. Osler had travelled to Edinburgh in late September but his trip home was derailed by a railway strike. Osler found himself in Newcastle, 250 miles shy of Oxford. He located a car and driver and arrived home 29 September, with a "severe head cold." (Barondess) The illness, and associated cough, proved persistent and tenacious, prompting Osler to deposit himself in bed. Detailed daily notes that Osler and his attending physician Dr. A.G. Gibson penned, regarding the illness, are extant. (Gibson) "Never but one ending to these protracted influenza cases in old age," Osler sagely observed.

By 8 November, pleurisy had set in, with Osler describing his own audible friction rub, and *Haemophilus influenza* was isolated from his sputum. Tachycardia, tachypnea, fevers, and empyema ensued, as did a white count of 27K. (Photo 1) Thoracentesis was performed on 5 and 14 December. On 22 December, the right ninth rib was partially resected, "opening a large cavity



**President  
Clyde Partin, Jr.  
49<sup>th</sup> AOS President  
installed at the 2018 meet-  
ing in Pittsburgh, PA.**

## President's Message (Continued from page 1)

containing thick, malodorous, blood stained fluid." Miserable from paroxysms of coughing and vomiting, he exsanguinated from the surgical wound. Three months of illness, surgery, death, and then an autopsy by Gibson, all transpired in Osler's bedroom at Norham Gardens. The autopsy report, in addition to the anticipated pulmonary findings, was notable for a left anterior descending lesion, and a scar on the right pre-tibial area from a severe leg injury sustained in a rugby game. To the end, Osler maintained a cheerful demeanor, "often assuring visitors that he could 'smell the rose above the mould,'" quoting from Thomas Hood's poem, *Farewell to Life*.

In typical Osler industriousness, he read endlessly while ill and "managed to write a review of a biography of Victor Horsley," penned innumerable letters, and organized Revere's library. In late November, he sat for a photo in front of the fireplace. Osler opined, "I've been watching this case for two months and I'm sorry I shall not see the post-mortem." (Bliss) In early December, overcome by lassitude he "dictated his will and gave instructions about his books, his autopsy, and the disposition of his brain," a triad of items that likely had never before been assembled in the same sentence. He began to quote lines from Poe's *For Annie* and "there was always a plate of lemon slices beside him." The Christmas Eve tradition of Osler reading to Revere, Milton's *Hymn to Christ's Nativity*, was attempted but Osler fell asleep. Four days later, his vital signs deteriorating, he uttered his last words, requesting of a physician friend, T. Archie Malloch, who helped Gibson care for Osler, "Hold up my head."

Osler lay in state in his bedroom before being transported to Christ Church for the New Year's Day Funeral Service. Bliss cryptically notes "an unusually high number of the mourners were women." Music at the service included *Oh God Our Help in Ages Past*, a Latin rendition of *O quanta qualia*, and ended with Mendelssohn's *Funeral March*.\* Osler's favorite edition of *Religio Medici* rested on his coffin - the same copy would reside upon Grace Osler's purple pall in 1928. The next day the body, accompanied by Malloch, went by hearse to the Golders Green Crematorium. The ashes made their way back to Christ Church and eventually to the Osler Library at McGill.

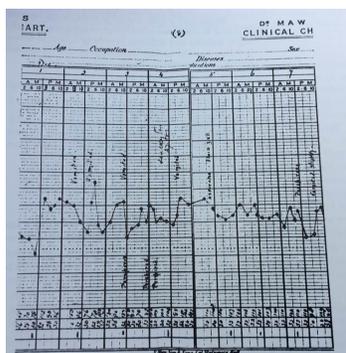


Photo 1: Temperature graph and clinical notes from early December 1919. Note Osler's name is absent.

Did he ever really die? "It is simply astounding. People come in here and talk about him as though he would soon walk in," Grace observed. (Bliss; GRO) Cushing soon undertook his Herculean effort of writing the Pulitzer prize-winning (1926) biography. Yet the tome was considered by many to be a "plodding, reverential, year-by-year 'life and letters' . . . dense with half-edited chunks of Osler letters and speeches." (Bliss) The biography was successful but considered overly hagiographic and lengthy. The million word manuscript, chiseled to 600,000 words and 1400 pages was twice as long as a biography of Christ that had just been published, some noted. Echoing Grace's sentiments, the biography made "Osler speak again." The austere Baltimore sage, H.L. Mencken, had positive sentiments regarding Cushing's effort, "The curious enchantment that he {Osler} worked upon all who had any sort of contact with him is visible on every page." (Bliss)

Libraries world-wide maintain Oslerian collections, but the majority of Osler's books and papers, under the meticulous and loving guidance of Osler's nephew, W.W. Francis, MD, (Photo 2) found their way to the most enduring Oslerian monument, the Osler Library at McGill. Osler's memory perseveres in other eponymous ways, in varying levels of prominence and obscurity. These include syndromes, diseases, a ship (the S.S. William Osler, eventually scrapped in Portland, Oregon in 1969), parasites, and postage stamps (Rosencrantz/Bryan). As of 2011, twenty-nine known societies, in honor of Osler, had come into existence. (Partin/Lella) The first of those was the Osler Club of London, convening in 1928, whose objectives included "keeping green the memory of Sir William Osler." (Franklin) Thousands of articles written about him also serve to perpetuate his legacy as does *The Persisting Osler* series, now at four volumes.



Photo 2: W.W. Francis near the Vernon plaque in the Osler Niche. (Photo by K. McLennan)

The duo of Osler's brain and astral self provides the Oslerian legacy with its most tantalizing contributions. Rodin and Key point out that Osler's brain is extant in two ways: (1) the products of his brain, namely his extensive medical works and his literary essays; (2) his actual brain, preserved at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy in Philadelphia. In 1892, Osler and others formed the Anthropologic Society, agreeing to "bequeath their brains." (Rodin) As re-

## President's Message (Continued from page 2)

quested, Dr. A.G. Gibson harvested Osler's brain and entrusted it to Thomas McCrae, who hand-delivered it to the Institute 17 May 1920. In 1959, the Canadian neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield, in exchange for giving a talk, was allowed to transport Osler's brain to the Montreal Neurological Institute for microscopic examination. Their neuropathologist, G. Mathieson, found no "significant pathologic changes." The brain was returned to Wistar, to reside in Oslerian perpetuity.

As for the astral self, Osler, in an EYD essay, *Burrowings of a Bookworm*, mused about placing a "few books in an alcove of a fire-proof library in some institution that I love; at the end of the alcove an open fire-place and a few easy chairs, and over the mantel piece an urn with my ashes and my bust or my portrait, through which my astral self . . . could peek at the books I have loved, and enjoy the delight with which kindred souls still in the flesh would handle them." (Fiendel) Osler's urn was placed in the Niche, behind the Vernon plaque, in the Osler Library, in the Strathcona Medical Building. After the McIntyre Medical Sciences building opened in 1965, the urn was relocated to the reassembled Osler Niche. Osler's "astral self" gained even more credibility when astronaut Dafydd Williams, a McGill medical school graduate, took into space, on an International Space Station mission, a postcard featuring a photo of the Niche. (Osler Library Newsletter)(**Photo 3**) Bliss recounted the story of working at Osler's desk in the library and watched as a McGill medical student "quietly slipped into the inner sanctum, and in an act

of secular worship, placed at the foot of the Osler plaque a bouquet of flowers and a card asking for Osler's blessing in his studies." (Fiendel/Bliss)

Several decades ago, I had the honor of caring for a lady who had married into the extended Osler family. One day her son came with her to an appointment. His resemblance to William Osler was startling. As Grace had mentioned, I felt as if Osler had just walked into the room.



Photo 3: Canadian astronaut & McGill Medical School graduate Dafydd Williams took into space, in 2007, a postcard of the Osler Niche,

\*Accomplished Oslerian and former AOS President Mark Silverman had arranged for Mendelssohn's *Funeral March* to be played at his own funeral service in 2008.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Michael F. Lubin, MD, and Pam Miller, for editorial review of manuscript.

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**Rodin AE, Key JD.** Osler's Brain and Related Mental Matters. Published in *The Persisting Osler II*. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar Florida, 1994. Pp. 303-312. Originally published in the *Southern Medical Journal*, 1990; 83:207.

**Rosencrantz E.** Posthumous tributes to Sir William Osler. *Archives of Internal Medicine*. 1949; 84:170-98.

## AOS Montreal 2019 Meeting May 12-15

The 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Society will be convened at Montreal, Quebec, from May 12 to 15, 2019. It will be held at the Hotel Omni Mont Royal in the middle of downtown Montreal, just next to McGill University and within 5 – 10 minute walking distance of all meeting events.



As most of you are aware, a fire occurred on the roof above the Osler Library on the evening of last July 13. Fortunately, the Osler collection itself was unharmed. Unfortunately, water and smoke damage to the building itself necessitated removal of all the Library's contents for storage during reconstruction. This reconstruction will not be completed in time for us to have the visits to the Library which we had originally planned for the meeting. Despite this, we will be holding a number of special events to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Osler's death.

Two exhibits will be mounted at the Osler Library's temporary location on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the main McGill Library (two minute walk from the meeting Hotel). They will be available for viewing throughout the meeting, and tours of each will be given on Tuesday after the proffered sessions. The first - *Osler, the Man you Didn't Know* - will be hosted by Pam Miller and will likely have some surprises for even the most knowledgeable Oslerian. The second - *William Osler's Leonardo da Vinci Collection: Flight, Anatomy and Art* - will be curated by Rolando Del Maestro and will contain items from his personal collection, including drawings from Leonardo's pupils and followers.

Guided tours of the Maude Abbott Medical Museum - which showcases many of Osler's 1876-1884 Montreal General Hospital autopsy specimens - will be available on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Sunday afternoon arrivers will be able to choose between the Frank Neelon literary gathering and a tour of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital (including visits to Dr. Wilder Penfield's operating room and the Neurosurgical Simulation Research and Training Centre where you can perform

virtual reality brain and spinal surgery while your performance is assessed by Artificial Intelligence).

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

You will have received an invitation to contribute a book suggestion to this special collection and several of you have already done so. For those of you who have not gotten around to it, please consider doing so today in order that we may have a collection representative of the AOS membership for this 100-anniversary year.

Evening events during the meeting include a Monday reception at the McCord Museum of Canadian History (during which you will be able to visit some of the Museum's collections) and our annual banquet at the beautiful McGill Faculty Club. We hope that several members of the extended Osler family will be present for at least part of the meeting.

And, last but of course not least, are our five daytime sessions during which you will hear a variety of educational and entertaining presentations on medical history and related topics. Our McGovern Lecturer, Marie Wilson, one of the three commissioners of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2009-2015), will enlighten us on the legacy of Residential Schools to the evolving fabric of Canada's First Nations. In addition to the Bean Student Research lecture, we will have presentations from the three medical student finalists of the 2018 William Osler Medical School Essay Awards at McGill.

The weather in Montreal in May is usually excellent - sunny and around 20 degrees Celsius (68 F°) as an afternoon high. There are many other things to see in the City if you have a few extra days to spend before or after the meeting, including the historic Old Port, several interesting Museums [such as the Pointe-à-Caillière (Montreal archeology), Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Canadian and Quebec Art and a beautiful Napoleon Collection), and the Redpath Museum (natural history)], Mount Royal Park (designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect of New York's Central Park), Notre Dame Basilica, the world famous Botanical Gardens and St. Joseph's Oratory.

We are all excited by the educational sessions and special events for this landmark Osler year, and look forward to seeing many of you soon.

**Montreal Local Organizing Committee**

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

\* Medical student members of the McGill Osler Society

*Pointe-à-Caillière*



**American Osler Society Committee Membership  
2018-2019**

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

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE ESSAYS

**Osler's Legacy**

By Burke A. Cunha

Sir William Osler is revered as a consummate clinician, extraordinary teacher, caring mentor. As importantly, he advocated and practiced humanistic medicine. Osler thought that, in the golden age of Greece, medicine had a relationship with humanities. Since Osler, many have attempted to define or teach the medical humanities to medical students, residents and even practicing physicians. Humanities in medicine has many potential aspects. The whole point of exposing medical residents and practitioners to humane medicine is to foster empathy in patient care. Without compassionate caring, i.e., if no one cares about caring for patients medicine loses its nobility and soul. Clinical excellence and compassionate care should be what medical care is about.

Several approaches have been tried at different learning levels from medical humanities courses in medical schools to arts & humanities programs in teaching hospitals. Such approaches are variably effective in emphasizing the importance's of empathy in patient care. Without caring, there is no humanistic patient care. Besides preferentially selecting medical students with backgrounds likely to eventuate in compassionate and empathetic physicians, what can, if anything, be done during residency and practice? In addition, to compassionate care, Osler believed that reading in the humanities contributed to the "education of the heart." *"Nothing will sustain you more.. than the power to recognize the true poetry of life – the poetry of the common place, of the ordinary man, of the plain, toilworn woman, with their loves and their joys, their sorrows and their griefs."* (Osler)

As always, Osler has pointed the way, always leading by personal example. The best overview on Osler is Dr. Bryan's "Osler: Inspiration from a Great Physician." In practice, Osler combined clinical excellence with humanistic patient care. He recognized the importance of virtue in physicians. To develop clinical excellence, he stressed careful observation as the basis of insightful experience leading to knowledge and later to wisdom. He appreciated the three steps needed to achieve clinical excellence, i.e., beginning with in-

formation, then to medical knowledge, to and finally to achieving clinical wisdom. Most learners today are enamored with instant information access, but give little consideration to it's usefulness or clinical relevance. There is little insight into the difference between information, knowledge and wisdom. In the era of instant information access and impersonal electronic medical record (EMR) centered care, the main threat to clinical excellence and compassionate patient care are metrics and money. The EMR distances the doctor from the patient. Compassionate care and clinical excellence are not valued anymore nor is teaching excellence.

Osler understood that clinical practice leaves precious little time for personal development. Osler's practical solution for himself and his students ("latch keys") was reading classics. He taught bedside medicine on the wards by day, and read in the humanities by night. His bedside library consisted of 10 books (Osler's 10) which he particularly selected to understand the human condition. Osler suggested nightly reading in the humanities to "commune with the Saints of Humanity a half hour before retiring. Nightly reading in the humanities was Osler's solution for increasing awareness about the human condition.

There are no "must reads," each physician should select their own bedside library with their own selections that have personal interest or relevance. It matters less which books are in the physician's bedside library, but it does matter, that to be of any benefit to the physician or patient, the books must be read! Virtue and empathy cannot be taught, they can be demonstrated by personal example as done by Osler. Osler led the way in suggesting a practical solution for busy practicing physicians to enhance empathy for more compassionate patient care by reading in the humanities!

*Excerpted from: Connecticut Medicine 83:41-46, 2019.*

**Osler's Bedside Library (10)**

Plutarch's Lives	Marcus Aurelius
Religio Medici	Epictetus
Shakespeare	Oliver Wendell Holmes
Don Quixote	Bible
Emerson	Montaigne

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE ESSAYS

### Cunha's Suggested Bedside Library 5 from Olser's 10

**Plutarch *Essays*** Kidd I. Penguin Classics, London 1992.

**Montaigne *Essays*** Montaigne M. Frame D. AA Knopf NY 2003.

**Marcus Aurelius *Meditations*** Hays G. The Modern Library 2002.

**Epictetus *The Art of Living*** Lebell S. Harper Collins 1994.

**Rapho Waldo Emerson. *Essays and Lectures*,** Library of America, 1993.

### Morning Bedside Inspiration

**A Year in a Painting a Day.** Prestel-Verlag, Munich 2006.

**Grace Notes. *A Book of Daily Meditations.*** Stoddard A. Harper Collins Publisher. NY. 1993.

**Calendar of Wisdom. *Daily Thoughts to Nourish the Soul.*** Tolstoy L. Scribner, NY 1997.

### Aphorisms for Midday or Anytime

**A Dictionary of Classical Greek Quotations.** Yeroulanos M. IB Tauris. London. 2016.

**The Beginning of all Wisdom.** Timeless Advice from the Ancient Greeks. Stavropoulos S. Marlowe & Co. NY. 2003.

**Heraclitus. *The Collected Wisdom of Heraclitus.*** Haxton B. Viking. NY. 2001

**The Art of Wordly Wisdom. *A Pocket Oracle.*** Gracian B. Doubleday. NY. 1992.

**The Adages of Erasmus.** Barker W. University of Toronto Press. Toronto. 2001.

**The Bed of Procrustes.** Taleb N. Random House. NY. 2010.

### Nightly Bedside Reading

**The Echo of Greece.** Hamilton E. WW Norton & Co. NY. 1957.

**The Ten Golden Rules.** Ancient Wisdom from the Greek Philosophers on Living the Good Life. Soupios MA, Mourdoukoutas P. Hampton Roads. 2009.

**The Eight Pillars of Greek Wisdom** What you can Learn from Classical Myth and History. Bertman S. Barnes and Noble. NY. 2003.†

**A Small Treatise on the Great Virtues.** Comte-Sponville A. Henry Holt. NY. 2001.

**Examined Lives. *From Socrates to Nietzsche.*** Miller J. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. NY. 2011.

**Reverence. *Renewing a Forgotten Virtue.*** Woodruff P. Oxford Univ Press. 2001.

**The Book of Dead Philosophers.** Critchley S. Vintage Books. NY 2008.

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**How Rembrandt Reveals your Beautiful, Imperfect Self. *Life Lessons from the Master.*** Housden R. Harmony Books. NY. 2005.

**A Scream Goes Through the House. *What Literature Teaches Us About Life.*** Weinstein A. Random House. NY. 2003.

**Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart. *Thirty True Things Your Need to Know Now.*** Livingston G. MJF Books. NY. 2004.

**Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life.** Armstrong K. Alfred Knopf. NY. 2011.

**Morning Noon & Night. *Finding the Meaning of Life's Stages Through Books.*** Weinstein A. Random House. NY. 2011.

**The Wisdom of the Myths.** Ferry L. Harper. NY. 2014.

**Pursuits of Wisdom. *Six Ways of Life in Ancient Philosophy.*** Cooper J. Princeton & Oxford 2012.

**Meditations for the Humanist.** Grayling AC. Oxford Univ Press. 2002.

**Nobility of Spirit. *A Forgotten Ideal.*** Riemen R. Yale Univ Press. New Haven. 2008.

**Where Shall Wisdom be Found?** Bloom H. Riverhead Books. NY. 2004.



## American Osler Society Presidential Addresses—Last Installment 1980-1989

1990/20	Baltimore	Richard Golden	Osler's Legacy: The Principles and Practice of Medicine	<i>The Persisting Osler II</i> , 1994, pp. 47-59
1991/21	New Orleans	Jack Key	Through the Magic Door	About Sherlock Holmes? No data.
1992/22	San Diego	Paul Kligfield	From the Bed to the Dead-House	No data
1993/23	Louisville	Alvin Rodin	Aequanimitas Revisited: A Reprise	No data
1994/24	London/Oxford	Robert Rakel	Compassion and the Art of Medicine: A Way of Life	No data
1995/25	Pittsburgh	Ken Ludmerer	The Coming of the Second Revolution in Medical Education	<i>A Time to Heal: American Medical Education from the Turn of the Century to the Era of Managed Care</i> by Kenneth M. Ludmerer
1996/26	San Francisco	Charles Wooley	R. Tait McKenzie and the Oslerian Heritage	No data
1997/27	Williamsburg	Billy Andrews	Wilburt C. Davison: A Disciple of Osler	No definitive article. See <i>The Oslerian</i> Aug 2007, Vol 8 (2) pp 5-6
1998/28	Toronto	Eugene Conner	"...from the horn of Amalthea..."	No data. Topic was about?
1999/29	Montreal	Richard Kahn	The Hospital Ship Maine: A Gender Agenda	Manuscript requested University Club, 1905 farewell dinner recreated E Tues-sat Th day 3of 5. Kahn, R. J. (2001). "Women and men at sea: gender debate aboard the hospital ship Maine during the Boer War, 1899-1900." <i>J Hist Med Allied Sci</i> 56(2): 111-139.
2000/30	Bethesda	Dee Canale	A Case Report from the Civil War and More	Manuscript requested
2001/31	Charleston	William Harvey & Mark Silverman	<i>De Motu Cordis</i>	Manuscript requested
2002/32 T-Th W/2	Kansas City	John Carson	A Personal Oslerian Odyssey	Unpublished manuscript requested.
2003/33 W-Sa 1	Edinburgh	Larry Longo	"Lessons: .. from the history of Medicine? An Oslerian Perspective"	Where did all the Professionalism Go? Perspective: Teaching and Mentoring the History of Medicine: An Oslerian Perspective. Bryan A et al. <i>Academic Medicine</i> 2013; 88(1):97-101. Reviewed by Jennifer Koestler
2004/34	Houston/Galveston	Marvin Stone	Thomas Hodgkin: Medical Immortal and Uncompromising Idealist	Marvin J. Stone (2005) Thomas Hodgkin: Medical Immortal and Uncompromising Idealist, Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings, 18:4, 368-375, DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/08998280.2005.11928096">10.1080/08998280.2005.11928096</a>
2005/35	Pasadena	Chester Burns	Where Shall Medical Wisdom Be Found? Some Answers From More Than a Century of Value-Centered Teaching at the University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston	<i>Handbook of Texas Online</i> , Chester R. Burns, "UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON," accessed July 14, 2018, <a href="http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kcu29">http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kcu29</a> .  Cannot say for sure this is his talk but possibly similar.

## AOS HISTORY &amp; MEDICAL HUMANITIES

2007/37	Montreal	Jock Murray	The Images of Medicine and Healing in Stained Glass Windows	No data
2008/38	Boston	Frank Neelon	A Lonely Impulse of Delight	Unpublished.
2009/39	Cleveland	Joseph Lella	A Doctor's Religion	Manuscript requested
2010/40	Rochester	John Noble	??????	??????
2011/41	Philadelphia	Charles Bryan	The Courage Befitting A Man	Manuscript requested
2012/42	Chapel Hill	Michael Bliss	Medical Exceptionalism	Bliss, Michael (2012). Medical Exceptionalism. <i>Perspectives in Biology and Medicine</i> . 55 (3):402-408.
2013/43	Tucson	Sandra Moss	An Ornament to the Profession	No data
2014/44	Oxford	Pamela Miller	Stir Up The Brethren	Stir up the brethren": a frank and forthright Osler letter. (PMID:18833678) PMID:18833678
2015/45	Baltimore	Herbert Swick	Tradition and Change? With-er the AOS?	Manuscript requested
2016/46	Minneapolis	Paul Mueller	Reflections on Osler's Visit to Minnesota, His Essay "Teacher and Student," and the AOS	Manuscript received
2017/47	Atlanta	Joe VanderVeer	William Osler's Winter Coat	Manuscript requested
2018/48	Pittsburgh	Laurel Drevlow	What is Your Opus? (Title not in program)	TBA



## POETRY CORNER

**I Hear America Singing**

First published in Whitman's 1867 edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

BY WALT WHITMAN

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,  
 Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,  
 The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,  
 The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,  
 The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck,  
 The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,  
 The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at  
 sundown,  
 The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,  
 Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,  
 The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,  
 Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was a patient of William Osler's for about a 5 year period from 1884 to 1889. A book by Philip Leon, *Walt Whitman and Sir William Osler: a poet and his physician* (ECW Press, 1995), describes the relationship as one, "not made in heaven." Jock Murray reviewed the book and his review is posted in *Med Hist* 1997;41(1):120-121.

## OPINION

## Osler's Death, My Father's Death, My Cat's Death and Life

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

The American Osler Society (AOS) meets in Montreal this May to commemorate the 100th year since the death of Sir William Osler. Although most historical figures are celebrated on the year of their birth, it seems only appropriate that the Society which has taken his name would remember him a century from his year of death, given that his favorite author, Sir Thomas Browne, wrote a memorable meditation on the remnants of life in Browne's 1658 essay, *Hydriotaphia—Urne-Buriall: or a Discourse of the Sepulchral Urnes lately found in Norfolk*. According to Osler in his address to the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital in London, October 12, 1905 and published in the *British Medical Journal* 1905,ii:993-998, Osler remarks:

“Naturally, when an unusual number of funeral urns were found at Walsingham, they were brought to the notice of Browne, the leading antiquary of the county. Instead of writing a learned disquisition upon their date—he (Browne) thought them Roman, they were in reality Saxon—with accurate measurements and a catalogue of the bones, he touches upon the whole incident very lightly, but, using it as a text, breaks out into a noble and inspiring prose poem, a meditation upon mortality, and the last sad rites of all nations in all times, with learned comments on modes of sepulchre, illustrated with much antiquarian and historical lore. Running through the work is an appropriate note of melancholy at the sad fate which awaits the great majority of us, upon whom ‘the iniquity of oblivion must blindly scatter her poppy. The greater part must be content to be as though they had not been, to be found in the register of God, not in the record of man.’”

Thus, how appropriate that the AOS meets to commemorate Osler's 100th year since dying and to have an opportunity to view the urn in which Osler's ashes reside at the McGill Osler Library.

My father, Papa (91 years old), died November 26, 2018. In contrast to Osler who left a legacy of writings, photos, and namesakes that trail behind his material existence, Papa, except in the hearts and memo-

ries of those immediate family members he left behind, will share the fate that Browne described for most of us, that is, “to be found in the register of God, not in the register of man.” Papa, was a wonderful man. He was born and raised in the coal mining area of Pennsylvania; found his way South after serving in WW-II in Germany; travelled the U.S. as a transport engineer (18-wheeler driver); learned the pipeline valve sales trade; raised a family; and boated and skied on every body of water in Texas.

O Papa dear, O Papa dear,  
A friend to every person.  
A friendly smile with dimes to spare,  
Boat captain, transport engineer.  
He loved good steaks and ice cold beer,  
Sweet memories of a life so dear.

And then, my old cat Fuzzy (20 years old), had to be put down December 18, 2018. An orange tabby, the runt of the litter obtained from the Animal Shelter, he lived a life ruling the house and backyard until a second cat was adopted some 14 years ago and Fuzzy was relegated to the backyard due to an incompatibility issue with the newly adopted kitten. Fuzzy was the dominant animal in the back yard until about 2 years ago. Birds and rodents did not dare venture therein. However, the last couple of years he lost interest in hunting, could care less about grooming himself, and shared his food dish with a possum. The last days of his life he looked so miserable, as opposed to most humans who get shipped off to the intensive care unit to die, we relieved him of the burden of life with a quick injection. His ashes now sit on our bookcase in a handsome mahogany box with his name emblazoned on a bronze plate.

And such are our endings. We come from stardust and return to it after that brief interlude we call “life”.

Michael H. Malloy

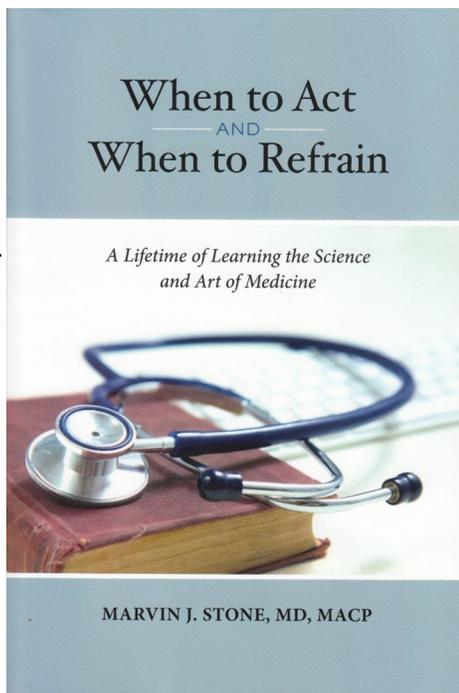
## BOOK REVIEWS-NOTICES

***When to Act and When to Refrain. A Lifetime of Learning the Science and Art of Medicine*, by Marvin J. Stone, MD, MACP. 264 pages. Available from Amazon.com: \$25.99, paperback; \$43.13 hardcover. Reviewed by Charles S. Bryan**

Marvin Stone prefaces this engaging autobiography by stating his purpose “is to convey to anyone interested in a medical career the excitement and fascination intrinsic to becoming and serving as a physician.” As autobiographies go, it is an easy read and remarkably uplifting. Like the man himself the text is straightforward, orderly, engaging, and kind. It will appeal to a broad readership and will be of value to future historians seeking to understand what will perhaps be designated “the golden age of cancer therapy,” the decades during which clinical oncology came of age.

A take-home message for young people might be “follow your bliss, and take your time.” As a newly-married first-year medical student at the University of Chicago, Marvin asked himself, “What am I doing here?” Two early mentors—Joseph J. Ceithaml (1916–2013) and Robert W. Wissler (1917–2006)—excited him about medicine’s possibilities and steered him toward research. He never looked back.

At two critical junctures Marvin made the same key decision: Why not take an extra year to do what I really want to do? As a sophomore medical student at the University of Chicago, he chose to take a year off to extend work he had begun with Wissler in pathology. This resulted in his entrée into investigative oncology. As a clinical associate at the National Institutes of Health, he chose to spend an extra year (beyond the obligatory service requirement then in place) to consolidate work he’d begun with a Waldenström protein despite an early disappointment when he was not listed as a coauthor on a major paper. His research clarified the number of antigen-binding sites (valence) of immunoglobulin M, presaging his destiny as a world authority on Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia, multiple



myeloma, amyloidosis, hyperviscosity syndromes, and cryoglobulinemia.

At a third critical juncture, Marvin chose to do a third year of residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas rather than serve as senior resident at Barnes Hospital (Washington University) in St. Louis. Eight years later, in 1976, he made yet another key decision: to leave UT Southwestern to become founding director of the Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. He had no experience or training in administration but, judging from the results, was a “natural.” Through the years he trained 53 fellows, directed a research program, ran a busy clinical service, and somehow found time to supervise the clinical clerkship for third-year medical students.

Osler figures prominently among the epigraphs that preface the book’s chapters, which cover such familiar topics as medical education, bioethics, professionalism, and the role of the humanities in medicine. The last chapter is on “The Future of Medicine.” Here, Marvin makes some bold predictions. For example:

Hospitals will decrease in number; many of those that remain will become giant intensive care units. Rehabilitation and assisted living units will proliferate. Telemedicine and virtual doctors’ visits will increase and expedite patient care. Whether quality of care will improve as a result remains to be seen. Concierge medicine will increase for those who can afford it.

Yes, young people, medicine will change, but no other profession matches medicine for the dizzying speed at which new advances benefit humankind. Marvin concludes by appealing to time-honored ideals and principles, for there will always be the need for judgment to help doctors decide “when to act and when to refrain.”

### **Paul Mueller, M.D. named Regional Vice President for Mayo Clinic Health System – Southwest Wisconsin**

Dr. Mueller has been an exceptional leader within Mayo Clinic for more than 20 years. For the past nine years, Dr. Mueller has served as chair of the Division of General Internal Medicine (GIM) at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is a professor of Medicine and Biomedical Ethics. Under his leadership, GIM has experienced remarkable growth and transformation across all three shields; it is a division widely recognized for innovation.

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Looking Ahead to Montreal



**Call for Art for 2019 Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. May 12-15, 2019**

*William Osler once said that “no man is really happy or safe without a hobby.” He also counseled doctors to “have a hobby and ride it hard.” Many Oslerians do indeed have artistic hobbies, and in Montreal will have a chance to show their stuff. Again this year at the Annual Meeting, Herbert Swick has organized an Art Exhibit where we can share our creations. Please use the form below to contact him to arrange to show your work when we meet in Montreal.*

**2019 AOS Art Exhibit Application Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work: (please check)

painting/drawing (medium: \_\_\_\_\_)

photography

sculpture (material: \_\_\_\_\_)

other art form (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dimensions in inches)

Brief description of work (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Special exhibition needs, if any \*\*

**Deadline for applications is March 22, 2019.**

**Please submit applications to:** Herbert Swick, 4 Brookside Way, Missoula, MT 59802 or by e-mail to [hmlswick@msn.com](mailto:hmlswick@msn.com). Please direct any questions to him at that address, or call him at 406-542-6560.

\*\* It may be possible to accommodate special needs, depending upon the nature of the request and the exhibit space.



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

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**AOS Members** — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another as well as “Opinions and Letters”. - MHM ([mmalloy@utmb.edu](mailto:mmalloy@utmb.edu))