



The Oslerian

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Osler's Compass. IV. Contemplation

Inside this issue:

President's Message (Continued) Pg 2

Calling all Artisans ! Pg 3

PHL AOS Schedule Pg 3

Register for AOS 2011 Pg 4

Sites to visit in PHL Pg 5

President's Message (Concluded) Pg 6

Med Maverick Note Pg 6

OBITUARIES

Bob Kimbrough Pg 7

Gerry James Pg 7

What's ahead in PHL Pg 8

Dear Fellow Oslerians,

"I like science and I want to help people." Only the most foolhardy applicant to medical school would fail to give the Admissions Committee some permutation of this simple statement. It hearkens back to the Hippocratic ideal that "where there is love of man, there is also love of the Art [of medicine]." Sir William Osler paraphrased it in his last major address, extolling the physician's "love of humanity associated with the love of his craft!—philanthropia and philotechnia—the joy of working joined in each one to a true love of his brother." The Osler hermyth, as I see it, consists of his reconciliation for his time of the old humanities with the emerging scientific basis of medicine. Our task as Oslerians, as I see it, consists of preserving this ideal and passing it on to the next generation.

Contemplation, our final point on Osler's compass, comes from the Latin *com* (with) plus *templum* (an open space for observation, such as a temple) (Figure 1)



FIGURE 1 — CONTEMPLATION

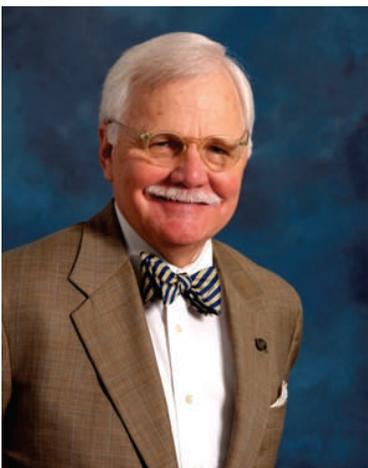
For many years I've preached to just about anyone who'd sit still for a moment the crucial importance of written goals predicated on written principles. The subliminal power of principles and goals, kept to oneself in a small notebook, cannot be overemphasized. Ideally, one should have goals in all of the major areas of life in order to maintain at least a simulacrum of balance (Figure 2).



FIGURE 2 – BALANCED GOALS

Ideally, one's goals should be built around a "major definite purpose"—one's existential answer to the question we routinely ask of patients: "Why are you here?" For many of us, at least for our professional lives, the major definite purpose consists basically of what we told the Admissions Committee. "I like science and I want to help people."

Principles and goals require constant upkeep and reinforcement. As members of the American Osler Society, we find reinforcement in the humanities. We find reinforcement



\Greetings, Oslerians!

President Charles Bryan, 41st President of the AOS, will preside at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, May 1-4, 2011

Please continue on Pg 2 →

President's Message (Continued from Pg 1)

in Osler's exhortation to "start at once a bed-side library and spent the last half hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity." Regular reading of edifying literature enhances sensitivity to the depth and breadth of the human condition. Medical biography enhances a sense of belonging to a profession that, we'd like to think, is not just another way to earn a living. Medical history enhances our obligation to those who went before, who placed their bricks in the wall of progress. Newer dimensions of the humanities applied to medicine, such as rigorous medical ethics and medical anthropology, enhance the clarity of our thinking.

I like to think of my professional identity as a series of concentric circles. At the core is my identity as a member of *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Encircling the core, I am a physician, then an internist, then an infectious diseases specialist. The humanities nourish the central core, at least for me.

"I like science and I want to help people." But is systematic study of the humanities essential for staying focused on one's noble intent before the Admissions Committee? The answer, for most physicians, is probably no. Moreover, we should not confuse "the humanities" (learning or literature concerned with human culture) with "humanism" (devotion to human interests or welfare, to use one definition). These terms are related but not synonymous. Nobody has shown convincingly that adding the humanities to the medical school curriculum makes for more humanistic doctors (for a recent and sobering review of the literature, see *Academic Medicine* 2010; 85: 988–998).

The patient reader who's persevered through these my messages may recall that in the first one (*The Oslerian*, June 2010) I quoted the French medical historian Danielle Gourevitch. She pronounced William Osler the last exemplar of "a noble-minded general medicine." She averred that it's pointless to teach the humanities to today's medical students. She predicted widespread replacement of physicians by technicians.

Why, then, the American Osler Society?

If pressed against a wall by a relentless why-pusher, I'd give this as my final response: *It's all about people.*

I feel fortunate indeed to have been touched by the many kindnesses of deceased members of the American Osler Society. A partial list would include (more or less in the order I met them) Victor McKusick, Palmer Fitcher, A. McGehee Harvey, Carwile Leroy, Robert Austrian, Chuck Roland, Earl Nation, Mark Silverman, and George Harrell. The only way I can even begin to repay their kindnesses is to carry on, to try my best to impart to others their commitment to those twin ideals—philanthropy and philotechnia—as illustrated and embellished by William Osler.

December 2010, the month of this my last allotted presidential message, has been a special time for contemplation and reflection prompted by the lives and examples of three followers of Oslerian ideals.

First, there was the holiday card from Susan Kimbrough, conveying the sad and shocking news that Bob (Figure 3) had died on November 24 after a brief illness. Robert C. Kimbrough, III, was surely one of our most dedicated members.

(Continued in next column)



FIGURE 3 – SUSAN & BOB KIMBROUGH

I knew him first as an infectious diseases specialist, then as a member of the AOS, and finally as a dear friend. He was the consummate clinician-teacher. Although heavy clinical and teaching loads precluded major projects in the humanities, he was certainly the world's expert on the various printings of the third edition of William Osler's *Aequanimitas* collection, which was distributed to some 150,000 graduating medical students by the Eli Lilly Company. One obituary noted that Bob, in both his personal and professional life, "cultivated 'the Art of Detachment, the Virtue of Method, the Quality of Thoroughness ... and the Grace of Humility, as articulated by Sir William Osler.'"

(Please continue on pg 6 →)

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, but became Philadelphia's most famous citizen. Visitors to PHL have many venues where Frankliniana are on display, including The Franklin Institute, Franklin Court, and the American Philosophical Society. He was the originator of many practical inventions, all of which he left in the public domain: he did not seek patents on them. Perhaps his most successful creation was *Poor Richard's Almanac*, and the witty sayings of Richard Saunders quickly made the rounds.

Some even sound Oslerian:

"One Today is worth two Tomorrows."

"The general foible of mankind is the pursuit of wealth to no end."

"Diligence is the mother of Good Luck."

"What maintains one Vice, would bring up two children."

"Little Strokes fell great Oaks."

"If you would be wealthy, think of Saving as well as of Getting."

CALLING ALL ARTISTS & ARTISANS!

to participate in

The 1st Annual AOS ART EXHIBIT

May 2-4, 2011 at the 41st Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Philadelphia, PA

Many Oslerians and their spouses are artistic or involved with various crafts. This year we will feature our first Art Exhibit and we encourage members and spouses to participate in PHL.

APPLICATION for 2011 AOS Members' Art Exhibit

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Type of work: (X out category)

painting/drawing (please specify medium: _____)

photography

sculpture (material: _____)

other (please specify: _____)

Title of work: _____

Size: _____

Brief description of work (optional): _____

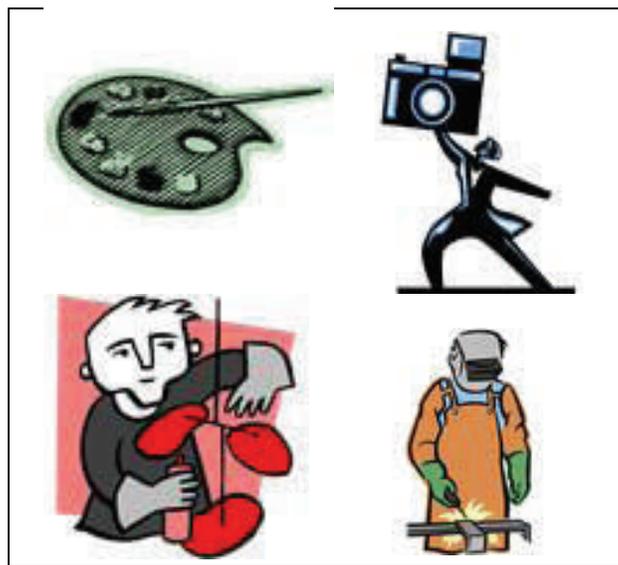
Special exhibition needs, if any ** _____

Please complete & send no later than March 4, 2011 to:
 Dr. Herbert Swick 4 Brookside Way, Missoula, MT 59802

** It may not be possible to accommodate special needs, depending upon the nature of the request and the exhibit space.

Guidelines for submission of Artwork:

- Many art forms are acceptable: Visual, graphic, plastic, handwork, photographic
- All is work done by AOS members or spouses
- Each artist may submit up to three works of art
- Each work must be display-ready (framed or mounted), labeled with title and artist
- Maximum size is 24' x 30"
- AOS will not insure works of art but we will secure the display room after hours. We do not assume any liability for works displayed.
- Please submit one application (see below) for each piece of art to be displayed.
- Artists may submit up to three pieces, but please submit a separate application for each work
- Clip & mail the form below to Herb Swick, M.D. 4 Brookside Way, Missoula, MT 59802
- Deadline for applications is 4 March 2011
- Direct Qs to hmlswick@msn.com



LOOKING AHEAD to AOS 2011 PHL !

Sunday, May 1st at the Hyatt, Penn's Landing on the waterfront, will be held (as done in Minnesota) the sessions on **READINGS/RECITATION** [contact Frank Neelon at neelo001@mc.duke.edu] and **CREATIVE WRITING** [contact David Cooper at cooperdk@upmc.edu]. **Monday and Tuesday Mornings** have plenary Paper Sessions, and **Monday and Tuesday Afternoons** will have concurrent paper sessions (due to the large number of good abstracts this year). **Monday Evening** there's a champagne reception at the **College of Physicians of Philadelphia**, and on **Tuesday evening at the Hyatt** will be a reception before the Banquet and the President's Address. (Please see pg. 8 for information about these activities, and page 5 gives Information about the many historic sights in PHL available as part of the social program, including Websites to access them on the Internet.) A new feature, the **AOS Art Exhibit** will be situated in a separate, secure room just adjacent to the Registration Desk.

Registration Form for the 41st Annual Meeting of the American Osler Society

Sunday, May 1 to Wednesday, May 4, 2011 Hyatt Regency Hotel at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, PA

Name of Registrant: – first name, middle initial, and last name:

Special Needs: If you have special assistance needs or dietary restrictions, please describe here:

Degree – select all that apply

MD DO PhD Other-specify _____

Preferred Mailing Address

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip, Country: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ (Once processed, confirmation will be sent to this e-mail)

Name of Guest: _____

REGISTRATION FEES & SESSIONS	On or Before March 31, 2011	After March 31, 2011	TOTAL
Conference Registration (luncheon meals included) * Course Registration ~ May 1-4, 2011	\$300	\$350	
Optional:			
Monday Lunch for Guest ~ May 2, 12-1 p.m.	\$40	\$40	
Tuesday Lunch for Guest ~ May 3, 12-1 p.m.	\$40	\$40	
Reception & Buffet ~ May 2, 6:00 p.m.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee	\$75	\$75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	\$75	\$75	
Banquet ~ May 3, 7-9 p.m.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Attendee	\$100	\$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	\$100	\$100	
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED			\$

* The conference registration fee is waived for undergraduate and graduate students and residents and fellows.

Please mail this registration form and payment to:

Renee Ziemer
AOS Administrator
141 Co Rd 132 SE
Dover, MN 55929

Phone: 507-284-2585
Email: aosrenee@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: You will need to make **separate** hotel reservations at Hyatt. See Website www.hyattregencyphiladelphia.com where you can take a virtual tour of this attractive property. Call 215-928-1234 (FAX 215 521 6600). When you make phone reservations do mention AOS group rate of \$160 per night (includes parking and in-room internet). Rate's also good for 2 days before and after the meeting dates, so stay over and enjoy PHL's Historic Sites!

To the Hyatt from the airport use **Lady Liberty Shuttle Service** - \$11.00 per person. Proceed to a phone in baggage claim area and dial 27 for pickup for Ground Transportation. Van makes multiple stops, runs every 20 minutes from 5:30a.m. to 12:00a.m. Or call them @215-724-8888.] **If driving a rental car**, come 7.5 miles North on I-95 and take Exit 20, getting off at Columbus Blvd. Turn left and proceed 0.9 miles north to the entrance to the Hyatt Hotel.

SOCIAL PROGRAM SITES TO VISIT AOS 2011 PHL

(We suggest spouses go to the websites below to select sites worth visiting in PHL; because most Oslerians attend the sessions, why not stay over a day to enjoy some sites together?)

[Note: ♠ = These venues are described on website tour: www.ushistory.org.tour]

(# indicates site is an easy walk from the particular stop on the PHLASH Bus map)

\$ = Entrance fee charged; otherwise the sites below are free

SITES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE (of Penn's Landing ♠ [from Hyatt Hotel])

♠\$ Independence Seaport Museum @ ♠ Penn's Landing [Next Door to Hyatt]

♠ The Athenaeum of Philadelphia [via Walkway over BLVD 219 So 6th St]

♠ Pennsylvania Hospital [8th and Spruce Sts.]

Antiques Row Shops [Between 9th and 12th on Pine] nice antique stores

SITES ACCESSABLE VIA PHLASH BUS FROM THE LANDING (# = BUS Stop see ♥↓)

♠ Christ Church (#2)[2d.& Market Sts]; ♠ C.Ch Burial Ground is @ [5th & Arch Sts]

♠ Am. Philos. Soc. Library & Museum (#3) [104 So 5th St. behind Old City Hall]

♠ \$ National Liberty Museum [321 Chestnut St]

♠ United States **Mint** (#3) [5th & Arch Sts]

♠ National Museum of American Jewish History (#3) [55 N. 5th St]

♠ Arch Street Friends Meeting House (#3) [320 Arch Street]

♠ Independence Visitor Center (Nat'l Park) (#3) [6th & Market St.]

♠ Independence Hall ♠ Liberty Bell ♠ Betsy Ross House

♠ Carpenter's Hall ♠ New Hall Military Museum

♠ Free Quaker Meeting House [SW Corner 5th & Arch]

♠ Franklin Court [On Mkt St, between 3d & 4th Sts]

♠ African American Museum (#4) [NW Corner 7th & Arch]

♠ \$ National Constitution Center (#5) [6th & Arch Sts]

♠ Edgar Allen Poe Nat'l Historic Site (#5) [Taxi or SEPTA Bus 47 N on 7th St.]

♠ Atwater Kent Museum (#6) *In renovation; opens Spring 2011; Ph215-685-4830*

Mario Lanza Museum (Short Taxi ride) see www.mario-lanza-institute.org

Reading Terminal Market (#7) see www.readingterminalmarket.org/

\$ Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (#8) see www.pafa.org/ (closed Mon.)

Rodin Museum (#12) see www.rodinmuseum.org/ (closed Mon.)

♠ \$ Eastern State Penitentiary (#12) [22d St. & Fairmont Ave; 6 blocks N. of #12]

\$ Philadelphia Museum of Art (#s 13&14) www.philamuseum.org/

\$ Philadelphia Zoo (#17) [3400 W Girard Ave] see www.philadelphiazoo.org/

\$ Franklin Institute (#11 or #20) [222 N 20th St] see www2.fi.edu/

\$ Academy of Natural Sciences (#21) [1900 B.F. Parkway] see www.ansp.org/

♥ — Also please note regarding the PHLASH Bus service:

Service begins daily at 10:00 AM from Penn's Landing from May 1

Last service loop about leaves ~ 5:45 PM

Fare is *free* for Seniors (show Medicare card); is otherwise \$2.00

Also – PHL SEPTA Busses & subway are *free* to Seniors showing MC card

SEPTA and PHLASH Bus route maps available at Registration Desk

You can also see the PHLASH Bus route at www.phillyplash.com

(Pres. Address cont. from pg 2)

Next there was an e-mail message from Cristina Fuster of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, bearing the sad news that her father, Dr. Manuel Fuster Siebert died two years ago. (Fig. 4)



FIGURE 4
Dr. Manuel Fuster Siebert

Dr. Fuster, an eminent pediatric cardiologist, contacted me about seven or eight years ago with an Osler-related query. I sent him several volumes of *Osleriana* and placed him on the mailing list for *The Oslerian*. He sent me a beautiful book about his home town, a popular destination for pilgrims and surely one of the prettiest cities in all of Europe. He later sent

me his translations into Spanish of *Aequanimitas* (2004) and Michael Bliss's biography of Osler (2006). His daughter informed me that she'd put the finishing touches on his last effort along these lines, the forthcoming *Un Estudiante de Alabama y otros Ensayos Biográficos*. The Eli Lilly Company has committed to purchasing 15,000 copies for medical students. Does this sound familiar?

Finally, there was the invitation to give internal medicine Grand Rounds at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, to speak in the auditorium (Hurd Hall) where I'd felt insignificant as a student. I insisted on a special occasion to give the medical archivists at Johns Hopkins something they probably wanted, but I didn't tell them what it was. What I had were two of the few surviving charts from the hospital's storied early years (1889–1900). Larry Kirkland (Figure 5), now of Atlanta, Georgia, had entrusted them to me! Working under the loose supervision of Victor McKusick, Larry had spent the summer of 1963 examining the original charts in the scorching-hot basement of the Welch Medical Library. They were soon thereafter destroyed after being copied onto poor-quality microfiche! Larry, who



FIGURE 5
Dr. Larry Kirkland

was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Alabama, is indeed a living example of Osler's "Alabama Student." Paraplegic since his early thirties as a result of a fall, Larry has soldiered on in the Oslerian tradition as persistently and enthusiastically as anybody I've ever known. What a privilege it was to present these records to the Hopkins archives!

These three experiences remind me that we are, as Larry Longo put it, a "family," a worldwide kinship of like-minded souls.

These experiences also remind me of the truism that love, expressed as small acts of kindness, is the only investment that routinely pays a dividend of 30 percent or greater.

Words cannot express my feelings when told by Susan Kimbrough that I'd been an important person in Bob's life. (I'd arranged to get his paper on *Aequanimitas* published, had co-sponsored his fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and had sent him some words of comfort and gratuitous advice after he received a raw deal from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center earlier this year.)

Words cannot express my feelings when told by Cristina Fuster that the books I'd given her dad had helped her understand Osler and persevere with getting his last work published. (She specifically mentioned *Osler: Inspirations from a Great Physician* and *the Quotable Osler*. She said I'd be mentioned in the preface.) I only regret that we never met.

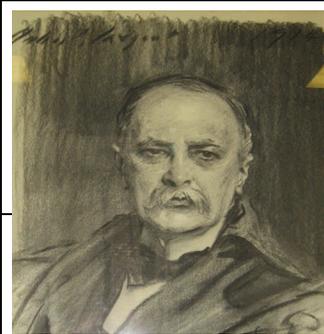
Words cannot express my feelings when told that Larry Kirkland had donated another batch of rare books to the History of Medicine Room at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. (I'd helped Larry get his paper on "Osler's Service: A View of the Charts" published; it had been previously rejected six or seven times before Larry and I got in touch by dint of my sympathetic evaluation as then-anonymous "Reviewer A".)

When I contemplate the lives of my good friends Bob Kimbrough and Larry Kirkland and of Manuel Fuster Siebert, I contemplate the great physicians who made our profession what it is today—Hippocrates, Boerhaave, Sydenham, Osler, and many others. Truly self-actualized people, you see, visualize their lives and careers as being in the service of causes and ideals far greater than themselves.

"I like science and I want to help people."

Pass it on.

— Charles S. Bryan
cboslerian@gmail.com



This 1914 charcoal drawing of Sir William Osler by John S. Sargent was given by Lady Osler to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. It hangs in the office of CPP Director George M. Wohlreich, M.D.



AOS 2012 DURHAM, NC



AOS 2013 TUCSON, AZ



Robert C. Kimbrough, III

IN MEMORIAM

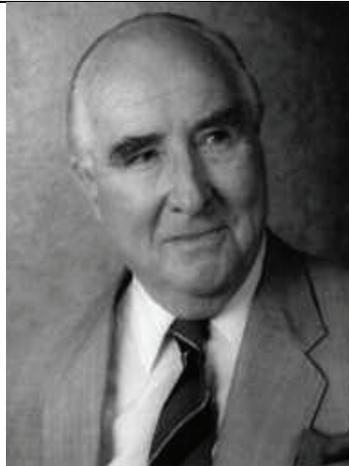
On pg. 2, President Bryan alluded to the death at age 68 of **Bob Kimbrough**. His passing will be mourned by his many friends in the American Osler Society.

Born in 1941 at Walter Reed in D.C. of parents who were both physicians, Bob moved about, attending high school in Lawrence, KS

and graduating from UK in 1963 and their medical school in 1969. He did an internal medicine residency at Baylor and an infectious disease fellowship at the University of Oregon. He stayed in Portland for fifteen years practicing and teaching in infectious disease, before moving to Springfield, MO for four years. His last teaching position was as Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Texas Tech U. where he served 17 years until his death on November 24, 2010.

Dr. Kimbrough was a Master in the ACP, a Fellow of the RCP (Edinburgh) and a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. He was elected to AQA and throughout his career received many teaching awards in Oregon and Texas, and authored over 50 peer reviewed journal articles and 10 book chapters.

Bob was an avid antiquarian book collector, wine enthusiast and trap shooter. As Oslerian Jim Young has said, He will be missed sorely for his grand smile and infectious laughter, *joie de vie*, and incredible devotion to the Oslerian ideals of the "Art of Detachment, the Virtue of Method, the Quality of Thoroughness, and the Grace of Humility."



DAVID GERAINT JAMES

The Society also mourns the death in London on October 22, 2010 of member, **David G. James**, internationally known for his research work on sarcoidosis, an interest first whetted when he served as a house officer with Professor John Guyet Scadding at the Brompton Hospital for Chest Diseases, after serving in the Royal Navy.

Known to his friends as Gerry, he met Sheila Pat-

ricia Violet Sherlock in 1949 and they were married two years later. (They have two daughters, Amanda and Auriole. Their marriage lasted for 50 years until her death in 2001.)

In 1958, he invited a group of international doctors to the Brompton for a meeting on sarcoidosis. That meeting lasted for three days. Gerry had sown the seeds of a movement that led in 1987 to the formation of the World Association of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous disorders (WASOG), in Milan, Italy. Gerry was its Founder President. Soon after, the journal *Sarcoidosis*, became the official voice of WASOG.

He was a consummate historian whose medical heroes were William Osler, William Harvey, and Jonathan Hutchinson, men about whom he wrote and lectured throughout his life. Although he was not able to attend AOS annual meetings regularly, He embodied the best qualities of leader, mentor, loyal family man, a dependable and generous friend who will be missed by those in the society who knew him.

A note to my Fellow Oslerians from a Medical Maverick

As you read this you will receive a copy of a collection of essays entitled ***Notes of a Medical Maverick***. Let me explain why.

About 15 years ago I experienced a life-altering event while attending an annual meeting of the AAHM. I emerged from a rather brain-numbing session of abstracts, and with no special plan in mind, I stumbled into another meeting room where I found something quite different. The subjects covered were much closer to my areas of interest, the speakers much better prepared, and the ensuing discussions both lively and informed. I found I'd entered a session of the American Osler Society, also holding its annual meeting at the same hotel. I pledged myself then and there to the AOS.

I soon became a member and haven't missed an annual meeting since. Over the years I've found the AOS means much more than a professional society to me. When Charley Bryan described us as a family, he expressed it best.

Thank you all for the many exciting intellectual experiences you have given me; the opportunity to share with you my own creative efforts; and, equally important, simply the pleasure of your company. Please accept ***Notes of a Medical Maverick*** in appreciation for all the AOS has meant to me.

— Oslerian Allan Weisse

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Aequanimitas

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.

We're on the Web!
√ us out at:
www.americanosler.org

What's in Store for the 2011 Annual Meeting in PHL, PA, May 1-4, 2011



Thomas D. Mütter



Monday Evening, May 1, 2011 is a champagne reception at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (CPP).

(Founded in 1787, the CPP is the oldest Medical Society in America and houses one of the superb medical museums of the world. Oslerians and guests will have the run of the Mütter Museum during this reception.)

The Hosts of the Reception, the Oslerian Scholars of Galveston, have prepared a special Exhibit about William Osler's time in PHL (1885-89)

We are delighted to present during the cocktail hour before the May 3 Banquet:

The Surgeon and Assistant From The 6th PA Regiment Revolutionary Reenactors

(Two knowledgeable members of this outstanding reenacting regiment will be manning a typical revolutionary war surgeon's set-up, including period instruments. They will be available to answer any questions that Oslerians or guests may have about medical and surgical care in this period.)

AOS Members — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another for OSLERIANS IN THE NEWS column, including awards and publications for yourself or other Oslerians. - JBV