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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

SIR WILLIAM OSLER, BART., M.D., F.R.S., &c.

THE news received on December 30th, 1919, of the death of Sir William Osler, which had occurred on the previous afternoon at Oxford, England, threw a gloom over the whole medical profession of Canada. Sir William was as well known in Canada, his native country, as the premier.

Sir William Osler was born at Bond Head, Ontario, in 1849. His father was a Church of England clergyman, the Rev. F. L. Osler, M.A. (Cantab.). He was born on July 12th, hence was called William after William of Orange; he was the sixth son. Educated at Trinity College School, Trinity College, Toronto; Toronto University and McGill University, Montreal, he graduated in medicine in 1872; he then went abroad for two years and studied in London, Vienna, and Berlin. On his return to Montreal in 1874 he was appointed to the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine in McGill University, made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Joseph Morley Drake, and held this Chair for ten years.

He was president of the Canadian Medical Association in 1885, and while residing in Canada was a great strength to the medical community, and did much to stimulate it and advance its interests. As a student he gave early promise of a great future; he was always investigating and trying out things, working independently with his microscope, an instrument which at that time was a rarity, and spending much time in the wards of the General Hospital and the post mortem room. He did not cram for examinations and took no high place in his class, but his graduation thesis on Pathological Anatomy was given a special prize and the specimens illustrating it were valuable additions to the museum.

Dr. Osler was called to Philadelphia to the Chair of Clinical Medicine in Pennsylvania University in 1884, and in 1889 the new Johns Hopkins University and Hospital was forming a medical faculty, and the Chair of Medicine was offered to him. He accepted this post and remained there until 1904. His influence was the greatest in moulding the character and policy of this school, in which work he was assisted by Professor W. H. Welch and afterwards by Professors Halsted, Kelly and F. P. Mall. At Johns Hopkins he wrote his celebrated text-book on the "Practice of