

# SIR WILLIAM OSLER



tor is almost impossible to assess." He may be said to have been the father of psychosomatic medicine, and his work at Johns Hopkins profoundly influenced the nature of medical education in North America. He wrote a half-dozen basic medical and non-medical books and was created a baronet in 1911. He died in 1919.

### On Mother's Milk

Dr. Alan Brown, Canada's pioneer pediatrician, who lived before the days of women's lib, once said of mother's milk: "It moves direct from producer to consumer. The cats can't get at it. It doesn't have to be warmed up on a picnic. It comes in such cute containers." In spite of this, he and two other physicians at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children invented pablum in the late 1920s. The world's first pre-cooked, vitamin-enriched cereal, it has been marketed around the world with the royalties going to the hospital's Pediatrics Research Foundation.

Sir William Osler began, naturally, in 1849 as just plain Bill, the son of the Reverend Featherstone Lake Osler, an Anglican clergyman. He became Canada's greatest physician. As the *Encyclopedia Canadiana* says, somewhat breathlessly, "Osler's achievement as a doc-

### Haggis Hearted

"The Scots are the backbone of Canada. They are all right in their three vital parts—heads, hearts and haggis."

Sir William Osler, a Scot

### Praised with a Faint Damn

"It was at Oxford during Osler's tenure that I carried out my first post-mortem examination. I screwed my courage to the sticking place and had made a beginning when I was startled by the voice of Sir William. 'That is splendid,' he said. 'It is always best to do a difficult job the wrong way first. Then you never forget.'"

Dr. Wilder Graves Penfield

### Cows Breakfast

"Cows breakfast" is not altogether a facetious name for a wide-brimmed straw hat favoured by Ontario farmers at the turn of the century.

### Sugaring Off

To make maple sap into sugar one must boil it down or "sugar off."



### Moogal

In Woodstock, Ontario, there is a statue to a cow who set a world's record for butterfat production—9,062 pounds between 1919 and 1936. She was black and white and named Springbank Snow Countess.

## OCTOBRE

## 1980

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