

Osler's Great Influence On Medical Profession

Exercised Through High Scientific Attainments,
Notable Qualifications as Teacher and Writer
and Winning Personality—Osler's Career in
Two Countries.

(By Richard C. Cabot, M. D., professor of medicine in Harvard University.)
Although it is fourteen years since Sir William Osler left America, his extraordinary and beneficent influence upon American medicine is still a dominating factor for good in our profession. His death leaves in the medical profession no figure of equal size and importance for English-speaking people.

His period of fame and power in this country dates chiefly from the period of his service at Johns Hopkins, and covers, therefore, the last thirty years. He was one of the group of remarkable men who had planned and organized the medical school at Johns Hopkins. Other medical schools at that period had grown up either on a purely commercial or semi-commercial basis or else were burdened with long historical traditions which made it impossible for any man or group of men to mould them definitely towards an ideal standard of medical teaching and medical practice. But Professor Osler, together with Professors Wm. H. Welch, F. P. Mall and Wm. H. Howell, had the great joy and fortune to be able to organize a medical school from the ground up and on principles as nearly ideal as the richly endowed nature of this group permitted. Of financial endowment, indeed, the school never had any very large share, but this was made up by the devotion, industry and enthusiasm of the original group of remarkable men who founded it and shaped it.

Very shortly after this time appeared the first edition of Dr. Osler's famous textbook of medicine which it is difficult to speak justly without seeming to exaggerate. Founded as it was upon Dr. Osler's own extraordinary voluminous and painstaking observations during the previous twenty years, as well as upon his very wide knowledge of French, German, English and American literature, this book achieved at once an eminence in medical literature which has never been approached since. Indeed, no other single volume textbook of medicine in any language has ever approached it in value.

Still more important, I think, has been the influence exerted through the students who after their graduation have occupied teaching positions in almost every medical school in the country, where they have consciously continued his traditions and zealously aimed for his ideals. Every student of Osler's feels it incumbent upon him to spread the Osler spirit in medicine and thus succeeding classes of medical students in schools scattered all over the country have felt the impress of Dr. Osler's standards, psychological and moral.

Still further, however, his influence has extended over this country owing to his earlier extraordinary and painstaking studies in medicine and his biography assured him a welcome. Thus he would go into the Mississippi Valley and deliver addresses on some of the local worthies of medical fame, showing an appreciation of their work and position in the community which almost stupefied his audiences. He had no parochial narrowness and seemed to consider each section of the country particularly his own. Naturally each section returned the feeling. Moreover, he persistently attended national gatherings of physicians, at a time when most of the wise and great of our profession thought it best to hold aloof from these meetings. Here he read papers, or freely and frankly discussed the papers read by others, and by his scholarship and bonhomie won hearts everywhere.

Spread through these four channels, I think it is no exaggeration to say that his always good influence over American doctors and American medicine was something never equalled in our profession. Indeed, I doubt if any single man has ever so deeply influenced any other profession. Countless men who, like myself, had never been among his students, were followed and helped individually by him, no matter how widely separated they and he might be.

The character of his own work, as a teacher and practitioner of medicine, combined the best traits of English and German schools. He was the first American medical scholar, in an international sense, the first medical teacher who embodied and kept abreast of medical progress in all the important medical centres of the world. In relation to medical research, he did no experimental work with animals, but he greatly increased our knowledge of the natural history of disease by his multitudinous and accurate observations at the bedside and after death. He was the first of American teachers who combined the laboratory discipline with bedside practice and observation. Since his times such a combination is universally sought after by medical teachers, but before him most teachers did their work either at the bedside or in the laboratory—almost never in both places.

From the beginning of his service at Johns Hopkins he became in spirit (though not literally) a full-time medical teacher; that is, he always thought of his medical teaching and hospital work as his first duty and pleasure and made practice secondary. Before him, and to a large extent since his time, the work of a professor of medicine has been more or less of an avocation, thrown into the

spare moments of a busy practitioner's life.

But his influence was as much upon the moral life as upon the scientific enthusiasm of his pupils. Paralleled with his thorough and scholarly medical work he always stimulated and encouraged as honest, liberal and humane ideal for medical men. He founded and inspired a club for medical biography at Johns Hopkins, wherein he endeavored, through studies of the noblest figures in medical history, to cultivate in his students and associates a veneration for nobility of character in medical men. Many of his addresses (afterwards published in volumes called "Aequanimitas," "Counsels and Ideals," "An Alabama Student and Other Essays") dealt with the ethics of the profession and especially tended to broaden the historical and cultural background of the student. In 1906 he gave at Harvard the Ingersoll lecture on Science and Immortality, confessing there his adherence to this long-cherished human hope.

Few men have ever equalled him in the power to inspire industry and research in other men. Indeed, a large portion of his scientific output has been published under the names of his pupils to whom with constant generosity, he furnished the germinating ideas and the necessary checks and warnings that made their work valuable. Of course, his generosity in this respect set an example that sank very deep into the lives of his disciples.

He was twice married and by his second wife became the father of some years after their marriage, of a son who was the apple of his eye. One of the most entrancing pictures of Dr. Osler that my memory retains is of him and his small son playing cricket in his back garden at Oxford, Osler bowling to a small boy not much taller than the wicket. The death of his son in the recent war was a blow which Dr. Osler never got over. From that time until his death he never was quite himself. At Oxford the hospitality extended by Sir William and Lady Osler—not only to all American physicians and medical students but to all Americans of every kind—was almost incredible. Into and out of his house there was a constant stream of Americans, all of whom seemed to be his intimate friends. To all he and Lady Osler gave themselves with cordiality that seemed to have no end. This was possible because from the time of his removing to England he always took life comparatively easily; that is, he relaxed to a considerable extent the furious activities of his American years. At Oxford his academic duties were few. He saw but few patients and settled himself swiftly and comfortably into Oxford life. There, as in America, he knew more about local history than the Oxonians themselves and so became at once a powerful and permanent influence.

No one who has known him will ever forget his merry, dark eyes, his swift, alert movements, his constant flow of jokes and anecdotes, his warm, ready affection for his innumerable friends and acquaintances, his inexhaustible enthusiasm in medical scholarship, his steady honesty and his hatred of sham and pomposity. An influence such as his never dies out, for it is implanted in the lives of those who loved and followed him and through them extends from generation to generation.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL TAKES THE LEAD

Will Raise Funds to Maintain
a Psychiatric Clinic in Halifax.

The following circular letter has also been issued by the Halifax Local Council of Women:

The Local Council of Women of Halifax have been asked to raise a fund for the purpose of starting and maintaining a psychiatric clinic in Halifax. Its ministrations will be free to all-comers. Its benefits will be far-reaching.

1.—Nervous and mental cases will be diagnosed and treatment advised there by avoiding much unnecessary suffering, and in many cases helping to arrest a mental breakdown, which would otherwise result in confinement in the hospital for the insane.

2.—The clinic will be in close co-operation with the juvenile court of Halifax, giving that body splendid opportunities for helping the delinquent boy or girl, by determining their mentality, so that suitable reformatory measures may be taken.

3.—Parents, teachers, social workers and others will send to the clinic children of doubtful mentality, so that their present and probable future capacity may be determined and the education of even the most unresponsive child may be adapted to its capacity and its needs.

4.—Students of the medical college, by attending this clinic, gain practical experience in a subject of vast importance in the modern world of curative effort. It is estimated that the yearly cost of upkeep of this clinic will be about \$2,500; and we feel that it is but necessary to call your attention to the establishment of so valuable an asset to our community to insure your sympathetic and immediate help.

Sincerely yours,
The L. C. of W. of Halifax.
M. K. Stead, Cor. Sec'y, pro tem.

An old sea captain, retired to a country cottage, was very proud of his watch, which for nearly thirty years had never once gone wrong.

Early one morning he roused a visitor who was staying with him and together they set out to see the sun rise. The host kept consulting his watch and then the calendar which gave the times of the sun's rising and setting.

There was a long wait in the pale, vague dawn. Presently, tapping his watch with his forefinger, the mariner said:—

"If the sun ain't over that hill in a minute and a half he'll be late."



Waiting outside the Ontario Government Employment Bureau for an interview. If the men could not be given immediate work they were given an order on the patriotic fund to tide them over the Christmas season.

Plan to Settle U. S. Labor Disputes Proposed by Industrial Conference

Regional Boards of Inquiry and Adjustment, With
National Tribunal of Appeal—Strikes by Public
Service Employees Opposed.

Tentative recommendation for the establishment of machinery to prevent or retard labor conflicts in private industry are announced by President Wilson's Industrial Conference, with a view to obtaining constructive criticism before a final plan is adopted.

The plan as outlined, contemplates the creation of a National industrial tribunal and regional boards of inquiry and adjustment, which would move to the settlement of disputes before there was any stoppage of production. Decisions would have the full force and effect of a trade agreement between the parties to the dispute.

Remarkable that some public utilities, such as railroads, are essential to the very existence of the people, the conference's tentative statement expressed the opinion that the "interference in such essential public utilities is intolerable." But the conference states that further consideration is required of the problem whether some method can be arrived at that will avert all danger of interruption to service.

Government employees, the third class into which the wage-earning public is divided, should have the right to associate for mutual protection, the statement declared, but no interference by any group with the continuous operation of government functions through concerted cessation of work or threats thereof can be permitted.

Hearings to Begin January 12.

"When the conference reconvenes on January 12, public hearings will be held to obtain expert advice as to the drafting of the final recommendations in the light of such criticism of the tentative report as may be received."

While stating that at this time it was believed more essential to devise machinery for averting conflicts than to undertake a discussion of the cause of unrest, the conference indicated clearly the general principles on which it has based its recommendation.

"Our modern industrial organization," the tentative report said, "if it is not to become a failure, must yield to the individual a larger satisfaction with life."

Not only just the theory that labor is a commodity to be abandoned, but the concept of leadership must be substituted for that of mastership. Human fellowship in industry must either be an empty phrase or a living fact.

"Pending the growth of better relationships between the employers and employees, the practical approach to the problem is to devise a method of preventing or retarding conflicts by providing machinery for the adjustment of differences. To be successful such tribunals must be so organized as to operate promptly as well as impartially."

The plan fact is that the public has long been uneasy about the power of great labor organizations. The community must be assured against domination by either. The plan which follows does not propose to do away with the ultimate right to strike, to discharge or to maintain the closed or the open shop."

National Industrial Tribunal.

The national industrial tribunal, suggested by the conference, would consist of nine members appointed by the president, three each representing the employers, employees and the public. The tribunal would, in general, be a board of appeal, whose decisions must be unanimous, but provision was made for public majority and minority reports in cases where no agreement was possible.

Industrial regions, probably twelve in number conforming to the federal reserve system, would be outlined and a regional chairman appointed for each by the president. Vice-chairman would be named by the tribunal, if the work in any region required it. Panels of employers and employees for each region

would be prepared by the secretary of commerce and the secretary of labor, respectively, after conferences with the employers and workers of that region. Each panel, approved by the president, would be classified by industries, with sub-classification into crafts, among the employees. Lots would be cast to determine the order of hearing each panel.

When a dispute arose in any region, the chairman would request each side to submit to a regional board of adjustment, consisting of the chairman, one representative chosen by each side, and two unchallenged members of each panel. Appointment of representatives of both sides to any dispute could constitute an agreement to continue the status that existed when the trouble arose. Decisions of such regional board would have to be referred by unanimous vote to an umpire, whose decision would be final, or to the national tribunal.

Refusal by any side to a controversy to submit to adjustment would result in the constitution of a Regional Board of Inquiry, consisting of the chairman, two members of each panel and the representative of either side that agreed to adjustment before the inquiry was completed. The board of inquiry would become a board of adjustment by appointment of the remaining members of the board of inquiry would investigate the dispute and make public its findings for the benefit of the public.

"In the preparation of evidence," the preliminary statement said, "each side shall have the right to present its position through representatives of its own choosing. All the properly constituted boards would have the right to subpoena witnesses, examine them under oath, and to require the production of papers pertinent to the case."

Existing means of adjustment and conciliation whether Federal or State, or established under mutual agreements of workers and employers in any industry, would not be affected by the creation of the system suggested by the conference.

Regarding Public Utilities.

With regard to public utilities the conference made the following statement: "The plan here proposed presents greater difficulties in application to certain public utilities than to competitive industry. The continuous operation of public utilities is vital to public welfare."

As the capital invested is employed in public use, so is the labor engaged in public service, and the withdrawal of either with the result of suspending service makes the people the real victim.

"The conference believes that a plan of tribunals or boards of adjustment and industry should be applied to public utilities, but in the adaptation of the plan two problems present themselves: First, governmental regulation of public utilities is now usually confined to rates and services. The conference considers that there must be some merging of responsibility for regulation of rates and services and the settlement of wages and conditions of labor. Such coordination would give greater security to the public, to employee and to employer."

Second is the problem whether some method can be arrived at that will avert all danger of interruption to services. These matters require further consideration before concrete proposals are put forward."

After declaring that the government could not permit its functions, conducted in the interests of all the people, to be interrupted by concerted cessation of work, the conference further affirmed that government employees concerned with the administration of justice or the maintenance of public safety or public order should not be permitted to affiliate with any organization which authorized the use of the strike. An essential part of the application of these principles, it was added, was the establishment of tribunals to remedy

promptly any grievances submitted by Government workers.

"Legislation of the nation, the states and the municipalities," the conference said, "should be improved to prevent delay in hearings and to enable speedy action when there are grievances."

When President Wilson summoned the conference, of which Secretary Wilson is chairman and Herbert Hoover is chairman, it was expressly denied the right to consider any existing industrial disputes, which was the question which wrecked the first industrial conference. While no specific references to recent industrial troubles were made, several recommendations and statements of the conference reflected the experience of the steel strike and the Boston police strike.

Other members of the conference are Martin H. Gynn, Thomas W. Gregory, Richard Hoover, Stanley King, Samuel W. McCall, Henry M. Robinson, Julius Rosenwald, Oscar S. Straus, Henry C. Stuart, F. W. Taussig, William O. W. Wellesham and Owen D. Young, with Dr. Henry R. Senger as executive secretary.

NEW POWERS FOR CONTROLLER OF PRINT PAPER

Ottawa, Jan. 6.—(By Canadian Press Limited).—The minister of customs is empowered, under an order-in-council, signed today by the governor general in council, to refuse licenses for the export of news print paper from Canada, the product of any mill which has refused or is refusing to comply with any order of the controller of paper, R. A. Pringle, K. C.

Another order-in-council gives the paper controller power to requisition and distribute to Canadian newspaper publishers a certain quantity of news print paper, which the manufacturers refused or failed to deliver to such publisher at the order of the paper controller. The controller is given the right to enter premises and call upon any sheriff or peace officer to assist him in taking over the paper in question "in whose possession whosoever it may be found."

To Franklin C. Gardner, "Brooklyn" Blind Man on the Corner," who stands on the street daily selling papers, a local merchant gave as a Christmas present a small strong wooden platform, covered with heavy carpet, to stand on through the winter months.

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