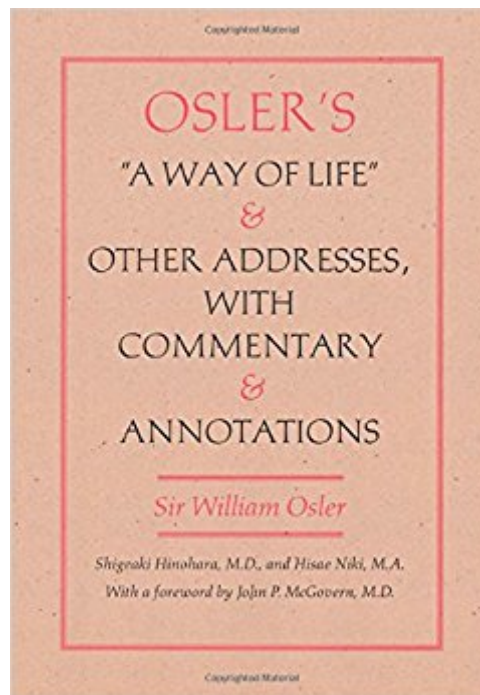


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Osler's A Way Of Life And Other Addresses, With Commentary And Annotations



Synopsis

Sir William Osler (1849–1919) had a long and distinguished career as a physician and professor at McGill University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Johns Hopkins University, and finally, as the Regius Chair in Medicine at Oxford University. Over the course of his professional life, Osler gave many addresses—mostly to medical students—on medical ethics, medicine and the humanities, the relationship between the medical practitioner and the patient, and, as the titular essay makes clear, on the “way of life” he advocated for the ethical physician. He remains an inspiration to many contemporary medical practitioners; there are active Osler Societies throughout the world.

While Osler’s talks were frequently published during his lifetime and they have been published individually and in different compilations since his death, none contain the over 1500 annotations that appear here, notes that serve to explain the many philosophical, biblical, historical, and literary allusions contained in Osler’s writings. This thoroughly explicated selection of Sir William Osler’s writings will be cherished by physicians, medical students, nurses, philosophers, theologians, and ethicists in this—and future—generations.

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“This book enables our society and those to come to benefit from the wisdom of one of the greatest physicians of all time, Sir William Osler. For over a century Osler has been recognized as a force for the humanities and ethics in medicine and for patient-centered medicine, areas severely challenged today by the so-called managed care movement, health insurance, and governmental

influences. It is a message not only for the medical profession but for all who would seek compassionate physicians who had been influenced and stimulated by Osler's timeless wisdom and humanity. I will cherish this book in my library and heart. — Billy F. Andrews, M.D., Professor and Chairman Emeritus, University of Louisville; Chief-of-Staff Emeritus, Kosair Children's Hospital, University of Louisville — This is an outstanding work of painstaking scholarship, which makes this truly great human's best thinking readily accessible to modern students, professionals, scholars, and readers interested in medicine and the health professions generally. The volume presents a cornucopia of both personal and professional wisdom in addition to demonstrating Osler's extraordinary erudition. — Roger J. Bulger, M.D., President, Association of Academic Health Centers

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Osler started the whole concept of medical residencies and had many inspirational messages for young physicians.

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Wonderful command of English packed full with timeless wisdom and insights

If you are a student of medicine (current, former, or hopeful), chances are that you will read at least one essay, address, or other writing of Sir William Osler. And, like all students past, you won't have a clue about what in the world the good doctor was saying. Dr. Osler was a peerless medical scholar, an erudite man of letters whose vast learning towered over that of his contemporaries and even moreso of the doctors of today. He was to medicine what Samuel Johnson was to lexicography. Unless you have degrees in philosophy, philology, literature, and classics (in addition to medicine), you will most likely be just as confused as you will be inspired by Dr. Osler's writing. Thankfully, we have this new book from Duke University Press. With more annotations than a Harvard Law Review issue, this well-selected sample of Dr. Osler's most well-known papers and addresses presents an effective "translation" to satisfy all medical scholars who, though they seek to emulate Osler's compassion and skill, just can't understand all of his references. When I first read "Aequanimitas," I felt like an ignoramus. After reading it again in this present volume, I felt like an enlightened student eager to carry the Aesculapian staff into the new millennium (or something like that). I highly recommend this book to all medical students and physicians who seek a model of professional excellence in Dr. Osler, but who have heretofore scratched their heads when reading his papers. Revisit "A Way of Life." Read the footnotes. Then don your white coat, tend to your patients, and be proud of the great American medical tradition set forth by Dr. Osler so many years ago.

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