

Names Belong to A Hall of Fame

The wards of Duke Hospital were named for eminent physicians and surgeons in order to remind the staff and students of what has been accomplished in medicine, as well as to follow Mr. James B. Duke's Indenture: "I advise courses in history, especially the lives of the great of the earth."

Suggestions and nominations for names were obtained from all over the country. The recommendation was made and adopted that those individuals for whom the Duke wards were named should be predominately of the South, so that the ones chosen should constitute a Southern Medical Hall of Fame.

This article is the first in a series of articles on the men for whom the Duke Hospital wards are named.

The wards will be reviewed in the following order: medical, surgical, psychiatric, obstetric and gynecologic and pediatric.

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SIR WILLIAM OSLER

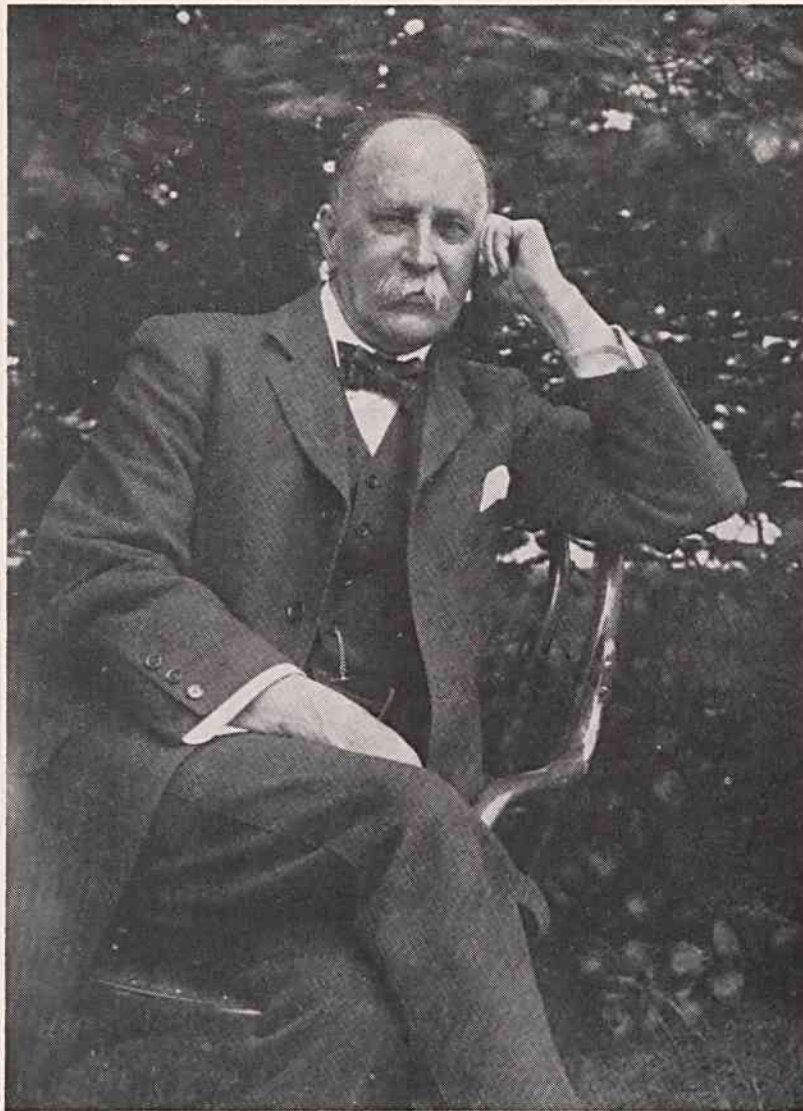
(Osler is a staff patient medical ward on second floor)

A native Canadian, William Osler was born July 12, 1849 in Bond Head, Ontario. He attended Trinity College in Toronto and McGill University Medical School in Montreal.

Following graduation from McGill Medical School, Dr. Osler travelled abroad for further study. He returned to Montreal in 1874 as an instructor in the Institutes of Medicine at McGill.

In 1884 Dr. Osler was offered a professorship in Philadelphia. A man noted for his good sense of humor, it is told that he said: "I finally decided to leave the matter to chance and flipped a four mark silver piece into the air. 'Heads, I go to Philadelphia, tails, I remain in Montreal.' It fell heads."

After five years in Philadelphia, Dr. Osler accepted an invitation to head the new medical service at Johns Hopkins Hospital. It was during this time that he published his *Principles and Practice of Medicine*, which became a popular text for students and practitioners.



Sir William Osler—from a 1913 snapshot taken in the Hopkins garden

During his Johns Hopkins period he was an active investigator of typhoid fever, malaria, pneumonia, amoebiasis, tuberculosis, and cardiovascular disease.

In 1905, after fifteen years at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Osler accepted the Regius Professorship in Medicine of Oxford, a position which he held until his death in 1919.

His contributions to medicine were many. He himself always considered the greatest to have been the introduction of medical students into the wards and the curtailment of the old lecture system.

The following quotes in themselves paint a picture of Dr. Osler. They are taken from a book entitled *Sir William Osler, Bart.*, which was written by his friends, associates and former pupils in honor of his seventieth birthday. They might best be called Osler's Rules for the Medic.

"Speak only when you have

something to say . . . and when you speak, assert only that of which you know."

"Use your five senses. Learn to see, learn to hear, learn to feel, learn to smell, and know that by practice alone can you become an expert. Medicine is learned by the bedside and not in the classroom."

"Live in the ward. Do not waste the hours of daylight listening to that which you may read by night. But when you have seen, read."

"Record that which you have seen; make a note at the time; do not wait."

"Respect your colleagues."

"Be prompt at your appointments; that is always possible. Many are always late at a consultation; few miss a train. There is no excuse for tardiness."

"Familiarize yourself with the work of others and never fail to give credit to the precursor."

Computer Offers Much to Medicine

Medicine is 10 years behind business and industry in using the computer, said Dr. Howard K. Thompson, Jr., in a recent lecture before a medical center audience.

"But," said Dr. Thompson, "where the profits have not been large, it has been difficult to afford computers."

An expert on the computer and its application in medicine, Dr. Thompson is an assistant professor of medicine and an associate in physiology at Duke.

Noting we are in the midst of an "information revolution of historical significance," he maintained that medicine is about to witness a tremendous increase in the use of computers.

Dr. Thompson said computers can be of great assistance to doctors because they can store, process and transmit enormous amounts of information at great speed.

But, he pointed out, they can only do what they are programmed to do.

"The computer should be thought of as a very stupid, moronic instrument," he went on. "It cannot think and cannot do anything it has not been taught to do by a programmer. When you go up to a computer, you must remember this. Say to yourself 'I am your master; you are only a stupid device.'

"Stupid as it is, though, it can be taught to perform any logical or mathematical operation which can be precisely defined, so it can be made to help you a great deal," Dr. Thompson insisted.

Describing the computer's use today as fiscal in hospitals and statistical in medical research, he said it would likely be a while before the hospital and medical research will be related closely in one well-knitted and organized computer system.

Computers, he said, can cost anywhere between thousands of dollars and millions of dollars.

This is why, he continued, Duke, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University are about to pool resources, with the help of a large government grant, to acquire a single large computer. It would not be possible to purchase the computer without federal assistance, he insisted.