Prepared in a typescript format, this list is a useful description to have available for the advanced researcher who must consult primary sources. Beyond this, its use will be restricted by the problems in arrangement and access outlined above.

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Medicine: History of the Healing Art

A Guide to the Literature of the History of Medicine. Compiled by Gale Moore. Reference Series, no. 24. Toronto: Book Selection Department, University of Toronto Library, 1978. 146 p., paper, \$5.00

One hundred and fourteen pages of this publication are devoted to listing three hundred and seventy-five works related to the history of medicine. Each item listed is annotated. These notes may indicate the scope or nature of the work or provide additional bibliographic information.

Materials listed are categorized by their form, e.g., bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, or by their subject matter, e.g., histories of general or specific topics. Call numbers and University of Toronto Library locations are given for all entries. As noted in the Introduction, entries follow Library of Congress cataloguing practices.

This guide represents a formidable undertaking, and it has been carried out with admirable attention to detail. Annotations are succinct and helpful. The libraries whose holdings are partially represented together provide very adequate resources for students and others interested in the history of medicine.

One must, however, question the need for this kind of guide for students. By its very nature it appears likely that its major use would be by reference librarians, particularly those not familiar with the subject of medical history. The information presented is in the form immediately comprehensible to librarians, but less so to students unless the latter are sophisticated in library usage and bibliographic conventions.

The Introduction does not provide us with any indication that students who are expected to use the guide are given programmes of library orientation and instruction in the use of library catalogues, indexes, bibliographies, and other general and specialized reference materials. Such programmes should enable them to function largely independently of printed lists. One explanation for this apparent contradiction is the dispersal of resources in the history of medicine among several libraries and reading rooms. Another may be the absence of a complete 'union' library catalogue which would provide access by author, title, and subject to materials in all the various locations. Printed reference guides would, therefore, be the only means of consolidating information.

If earlier publications in the University of Toronto Library Reference Series resemble the one under discussion, they are of a very high quality. It is unfortunate that they are relatively costly, and one wonders how many students will actually buy a personal copy. It is unfortunate also that printed lists or guides quickly need revision. In the present instance it is suggested that the omission of monographs from the publication would

extend its useful life. Reference works are less likely to be superseded than texts. In any case, an excellent basis for future revisions has now been established, and in its own right the guide will prove its value.

For librarians in the University of Toronto Library and for those in other institutions this work will, as already suggested, be most helpful as a reference work and as a checklist of their holdings.

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The Osler Library. Montreal: [Osler Library], McGill University, [1979]. 64 p., illus., paper, \$10.00, plus \$1.00 handling and postage. ISBN 0-7717-0046-6

Few major research libraries can trace their pedigree to one man with as little difficulty and as much distinction as can the Osler Library of McGill University. The original collection of some 8,000 volumes was the creation of the eminent and international Sir William Osler – Canadian-born physician, teacher of medicine, and lover of books. It has become, quite literally, both his memorial and his monument. His ashes now rest behind a bronze bas-relief of his profile which occupies a central place in the library. This somewhat awe-inspiring detail is one of many disclosures about Canada's premier collection of materials on the history of medicine which are to be found in *The Osler Library*.

For an eight- by ten-inch paper-bound volume to have achieved as lavish an effect as this one has is quite an accomplishment. *The Osler Library* is, really, a very well planned and successful (if overgrown) publicity brochure. Having marked its fiftieth anniversary in May 1979 with a well-attended symposium on books and manuscripts in the history of medicine, the Osler continues to celebrate this special year with a publication that clearly demonstrates its just claim to stature.

The text is in three parts: the first offers a thumb-nail history of the library and its benefactor. The remaining two sections take the reader on a 'pictorial tour' of Osler memorabilia and of some of the other resources which comprise the holdings of the library. The text rambles knowledgeably over bibliographic and Osler family history, relating the growth of the collections, making its impression by the accretion of layer after layer of obviously treasured detail. It is ultimately, though, the photographs which engender the enthusiasm that this book inspires about its subject.

There are forty-four pictures in this 64-page book, and twenty-three of these are in outstanding, almost three-dimensional, colour. There are, among others, photographs of beautiful bindings; of Osler's desk and other furnishings which were bequeathed, along with his books, to the university where he both studied and taught medicine; of pages from incunabula in the collection and from Arabic manuscripts; of inscriptions by John McCrae (author of *In Flanders Fields*) in a Montreal hospital autopsy book and by Voltaire in a book given to a friend. The end papers of *The Osler Library* are, however, simply a photographic tour-de-force. Spread over a two-page expanse at the front and at the back of this slim volume is a photograph of books opened to show their magnificently marbled end papers. Never have books looked so good as they do here; it must be seen to be appreciated.