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Osler and the Crusade Against Tuberculosis – “Urge our Wealthy Friends to Help with Liberal Contributions

Osler, William (1849-1919). Typed letter signed to Edward Osgood Otis (1848-1933). 1 page. Baltimore, 23 November 1904. 162 x 231 mm. Creased where previously folded, but very good to fine otherwise. Docketed in Otis's hand on the verso. **With: Otis, Edward Osgood.** 9 pamphlets on tuberculosis, as listed below. 1893-1906.

Letter touching on Osler's involvement with the growing nationwide campaign against tuberculosis that led to the foundation of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis (now the American Lung Association) in 1904. The recipient was Edward O. Otis, a pulmonary specialist and one of the original members of the Association. The letter reads:

At the meeting of our Board of Directors, it was quite evident that, with the exception of our president, Dr. Trudeau, none of us had done very much. (either to get money or members for our National Association). If it is to be a great success, we must individually try to get as many members in, and out of the profession, and urge our wealthy friends to help with liberal contributions. Mrs. Colby, the assistant secretary, will furnish you with a circular before long, which you could enclose to your correspondents. The sub-committee in charge of the arrangements for the annual meeting, meets withing the next ten days. Do let me have any suggestions from you.

“Dr. Trudeau” refers to Edward L. Trudeau (1848-1915), president of the Association and founder of the Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis (now the Trudeau Institute), the first laboratory of its kind in the US. Cushing, *Life of Osler*, pp. 620-628. 45614

Included with Osler's letter are the following pamphlets by Otis:

1. Pulmonary tuberculosis with especial reference to its prophylaxis and climatic treatment. 29pp. N.p., 1893. Without wrappers. First page inscribed: “Dr. Cross with the compliments of the Author.”
2. Are especial hospitals or homes for consumptives a source of danger to their neighborhood? Offprint from *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* (1897). 8pp. Without wrappers.
3. The causes and conditions of pulmonary tuberculosis, and how to avoid them. Offprint from *American Journal of the*
4. *Medical Sciences* (1898). 28pp. Original printed wrappers.
5. Some modern methods of the treatment of phthisis, and its symptoms. 28pp. N.p., 1898. Original printed wrappers.
6. Especial hospitals for consumption among the poor in our cities. Offprint from *Philadelphia Medical Journal* (1900). 9pp. Without wrappers.
7. Further notes upon the diagnostic test of tuberculin. Offprint from *The Medical News* (1901). 6pp. Original printed wrappers.

7. The duty of state and municipality in the care of pulmonary tuberculosis among the poor. Offprint from *Albany Medical Annals* (1900). 13pp. Original printed wrappers.
8. The significance of the tuberculosis crusade, and its future. Offprint from *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 150 (1904). 17pp. Original printed wrappers.
9. The municipal control of tuberculosis. Offprint from *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 153 (1905). 11pp. Original printed wrappers.
10. Home treatment of tuberculosis either in favorable or unfavorable climates. Offprint from *Transactions of the First Annual Meeting of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis* (1906). 10pp. Original printed wrappers.