

OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

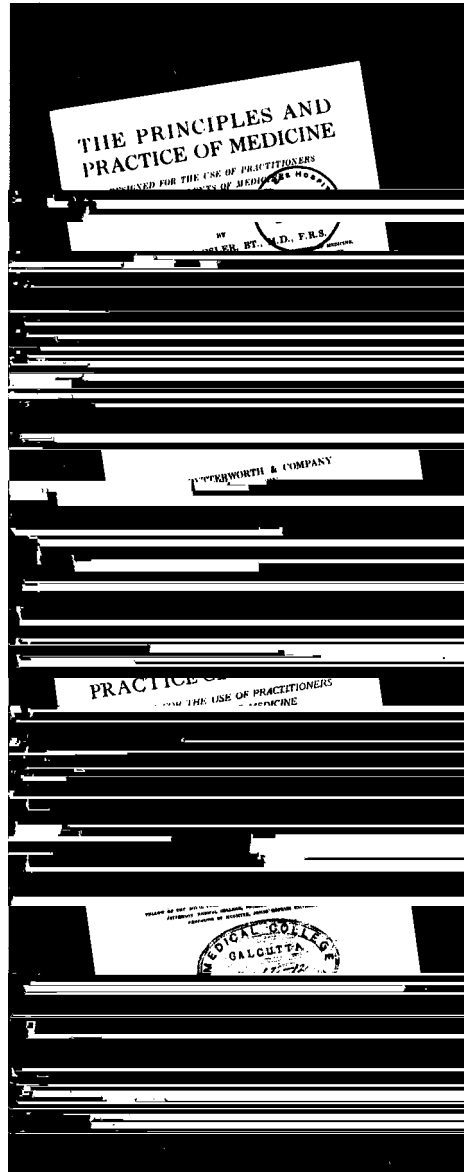
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The Butterworth Imprint and the Indian Edition of Osler's Textbook

The works of William Osler are well known for their prolificacy, variety, and bibliographical complexity. This is particularly true for his textbook, *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, which passed through sixteen editions and multiple printings from 1892 to 1947. The principal publisher associated with the English language editions of this work was D. Appleton & Co., New York and London, including Sydney Appleton, London; Appleton & Co., London; and D. Appleton-Century Co., New York and London. Other imprints in Britain and Canada were Young J. Pentland, Edinburgh and London; Henry Kimpton, London; and George N. Morang and Co., Toronto. For the most part these were made from Appleton sheets with cancel titles. It is indeed an unusual event, considering the close and ongoing investigation of Osler's works, to find the hitherto unrecognized imprint of Butterworth and Co. in the early part of this century.

Butterworth & Co. is a venerable, old British publishing house founded in 1818 by Henry Butterworth but tracing its corporate ancestry back to the sixteenth century in the reign of Edward VI. Even earlier anecdotal links to Shakespeare and William Caxton have been described. The company produced and sold law books exclusively for almost the first century of its existence. Following a decision to engage in overseas marketing, the firm established branches throughout the Empire beginning with Butterworth & Co. (India) in 1910. This was followed by divisions in Australia (1911), Canada (1912), New Zealand (1914), and South Africa (1934). In the United States a short lived Washington office was established in 1960, and a Boston office in 1975. ⁽¹⁾

Butterworth and Co. (India), with offices in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras conducted business from 1910 to 1946. There is little knowledge of its early activities during its years of expansion before 1929. In a departure from the traditional publishing practices of the parent company, this division ventured into general and medical publishing, as well as legal books. Of its medical works, Butterworth (India) published an estimated thirty-four new books and twelve new editions between 1912 and

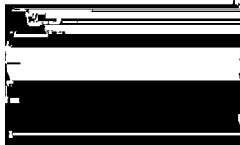
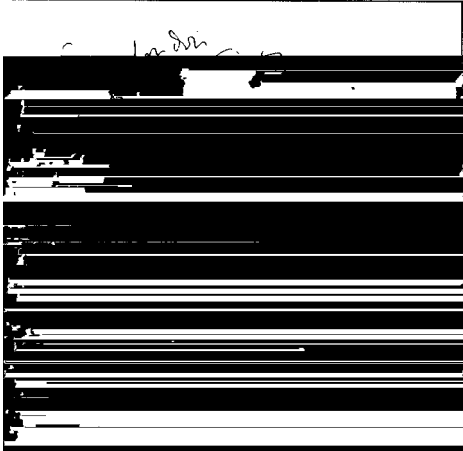


1. Title page of the Butterworth (London), *The Principles and Practice of Medicine* eighth edition, 1916.

2. Title page of the Butterworth (India), *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, eighth edition, 1912.

1940. Many of these were by Indian authors and devoted to local problems. ⁽¹⁾

In 1912, the eighth edition of Osler's *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, was published in Calcutta by Butterworth (India),



and was very proud that our ancestor Follett Osler had designed and built the magnifi-

appropriate as the crystal fountain had started its life at Osler's factory in Birmingham.

cine only the 'De motu cordis' of Harvey is to be compared. The one revolutionized anatomy, the other created modern physiology. This work of Vesalius is the first modern treatise on anatomy based upon dissections of the human body. To appreciate the extraordinary character of the descriptions and of the plates they must be compared with contemporary works. Vesalius really described the body as we know it, for the first time fully, and for the first time accurately. It is difficult to say whether in text or figure the departure from the anatomy of the day is the more striking. There are grave mistakes of omission and of commission, but they appear insignificant in a volume full of such important contributions. To the middle of the sixteenth century anatomy was taught from the writings of Galen, not from what was seen in the occasional public dissections.



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