



## SOME CANADIANS WE ALL CAN BE VERY PROUD OF

As Canada nears her 100th birthday and the gates of Expo are about to be thrown open, it may be fitting to look back.

Back, specifically, to Canada's contributions to the world of medicine. While a relatively small nation, Canada's part has been solid and not all that small.

What could be more fitting than to begin with a man who was primarily a teacher of medicine? Sir William Osler was born well before Confederation in Bond Head, Ont. The year was 1849.

He was educated in Toronto and at McGill University, taking his M.D. there in 1872. Two years later he began his career as a teacher of medicine.

Osler — "A figure smaller than average — lithe and quick — with penetrating eyes and dark Celtic features" — was a professor of medicine at McGill until 1884 and at the University of Pennsylvania until 1889. That year he moved on to John Hopkins in Baltimore.

## THE CALL OF OXFORD

A staunch Briton, Osler could not resist the call of Oxford and went there to teach in 1904. Seven years later he was knighted for his services. Sir William Osler — often called the Father of Canadian Medicine — died in 1919.

While he did make valuable contributions to medical knowledge, Osler is best remembered as a teacher. And particularly as an inspirer of younger men.

If Osler's genius was chiefly recognized in Great Britain and the U.S., what could be fairer than that of Wilder Graves Penfield — one of the world's greatest brain surgeons — should be most closely linked with Canada!

An early case of brain drain in reverse, Penfield was born in Spokane Wash., in 1891. A man of many talents, he coached and played football at Princeton and was graduated in 1918 with an M.D. and a Rhodes scholarship.



## A CLOSE CALL

That same year, while returning from service with the French Red Cross, he survived the torpedoing of his ship. In 1919 Penfield began advanced medical studies at Oxford under Sir William Osler.

The year 1921 found him at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 1928 came an offer from McGill University to teach and be neuro-surgeon at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital. He accepted. He and his wife, the former Helen Kermott of Wisconsin, celebrated the opening of the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1934 by becoming Canadian citizens. Canada can be proud.

Dr. Penfield went into semi-retirement in 1956 at the age of 65. Some retirement! While taking things easy, he has managed to write numerous books, lecture widely and travel extensively.

Nor has the world been reluctant to honor his accomplishments - he has more than 14 honorary degrees. And the Order of Merit - the Crown's highest award for service to humanity - became his in 1953. Penfield shares it with the likes of Churchill, Attlee and T.S. Eliott.

## DISCOVERERS OF INSULIN

Then there were the two Bs - Banting and Best. They were another case of across-the-border co-operation.

Frederick Grant Banting was born in 1891 in Alliston, Ont. Charles Herbert Best first saw the light of day in West Pembroke, Maine, in 1899. Both saw service in World War I. Best became a Canadian citizen when he enlisted in the Canadian forces.

They got together at the University of Toronto in 1921 while Best was still an undergraduate and Banting was testing his idea that insulin, a hormone secreted within the pancreas, would control diabetes.

They proved it does and countless diabetes sufferers have been grateful ever since. That was in the fall of 1921. They had been working in the J.J.R. Macleod laboratory at the U. of T. In 1923 Banting and Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine.

Perhaps Banting didn't quite agree. He divided his share of the Nobel Prize money equally with Best. In any case, the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research of the U. of T. is carrying on their work today. It is headed by Dr. Best.

Banting, knighted in 1934 by King George V, died in the service of his country. He was on a mission for the Canadian government when a plane crash ended his life in Newfoundland in 1941.

We at Starkman Chemists are proud of the role Canadians - some of them adopted Canadians - have played in our nation's contributions to medicine. It is our Centennial project to show this pride by offering you the best pharmaceutical service we are capable of giving.

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