

A Tour of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine Through Jewish Eyes

By: EDWARD REICHMAN and ANNA DYSERT

This article is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Shlomo Sprecher, ז"ל, a past editor of Hakirah. Dr. Sprecher was a scholar of the highest order who possessed an unparalleled generosity of spirit. In addition to his medical practice, and his scholarship in the fields of both medicine and Jewish studies, Shlomo also had an interest and serious expertise in the field of Jewish medical history. His article on metzitzah be-peh is a classic, as is his book on the life and work of Mordechai Gumpel Schnaber. Both are referenced in the present article, which we dedicate to Shlomo's memory. We hope that this will be a fitting tribute and believe that not only would Shlomo have enjoyed this contribution, but his insights and erudition would have improved it significantly. May his neshamah have an aliyah, and may his memory be a blessing. He is sorely missed.

Introduction

In July of 2017, the organization Torah in Motion held a conference in Montreal, Canada, addressing the latest advances in medicine from the perspective of Jewish law and ethics.¹ As a supplement to the conference, and to provide some historical perspective, the authors organized a special tour of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University, highlighting its relationship to Jews and their practice of medicine

¹ The conference was organized by Rabbi Jay Kelman and Dr. Lazer Friedman under the auspices of the organization Torah in Motion.

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