

OSLER'S

Use your five senses.

Get the patient in a good light. Use your five senses. We miss more by not seeing than we do by not knowing. Always examine the back. Observe, record, tabulate, communicate.

(Source: Roberts SR. William Osler, Clinician-Teacher. In Abbott ME (ED). Sir William Osler Memorial Number. Bulletin No. IX of the International Association of Medical Museums and Journal of Technical Methods. Montreal: Privately Printed, 1926:432.)

Absolute diagnoses are unsafe.

Absolute diagnoses are unsafe, and are made at the expense of the conscience.

(Source: Bean WB. Sir William Osler: Aphorisms, 129.)

NOTES

Evaluate your diagnoses without self-deception.

Begin early to make a threefold category – clear cases, doubtful cases, mistakes. And learn to play the game fair, no self-deception, no shrinking from the truth; mercy and consideration for the other man, but none for yourself, upon whom you have to keep an incessant watch.

(Source: The Student Life, In Aequanimitas, 412.)