

sincerely to be regretted when leaders in medicine promulgate such iconoclastic thoughts."

Says the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, "Study till 25, research until 40, profession till 60, and then retirement. Well and good for teachers; for the rest of the working world, not so. For science pure and simple, it may apply; for art, for literature, for statecraft, it does not apply. It comes to this that scientific work implies creative energy, akin to that of the man of action; and he is at his best in the physical prime of life. The men of profound thought, of poetic insight—a Kant, a Hegel, a Wordsworth—seem to penetrate more deeply into the mysteries of life, to see more clearly the beatific vision, the longer they have lived. Lord Bacon tells us that 'Young men are more fitted to invent than to judge, fitter for execution than for counsel, and fitter for new projects than for settled business; for the experience of age, in things that fall within the compass of it, directeth them, but in new things deceiveth them.'"

The *Medical Age* makes the following comment on the matter: "If Professor Osler cannot give us a 'de Senectute' gospel more elevating than that which would decree the old man's insufficiency to be measured by Dr. Osler's conceptions of utility, he had better not have delivered his message."

Victor Hugo, no mean mind, said that "Forty was the old age of youth and fifty the youth of old age."

From Robert Browning, the poet, we have the statement that, "The last of life is that for which the first was made."

While making the above quotations I am not forgetful of the fact that Goethe said we get no new ideas after forty, and that Vierordt says the brain attains its maximum weight at 20. But it should be borne in mind that Goethe's whole life disproved his own theory, and that there is a vast difference between brain weight and brain development.

III.—SCIENTIFICALLY CONSIDERED.

It must, of course, be conceded to Dr. Osler that as no one can live on indefinitely, a period of decline of intellectual and artistic power must sooner or later set in. His error is in fixing the meridian of creative life too early. If he will give this matter more attention from the pathological standpoint, and cease to depend on statistics which may appear to prove anything while establishing nothing, he will probably add ten or even twenty years to the span of creative activity; he may even see cause to prolong it to the proverbial three score and ten. It is not safe to set definite limits to the capacity for development. That of the mind may go on long after the body has ceased to grow, and may still go on while the physical powers are in steady decline. The objects that interest the artist may vary, and his point of view and method of treatment may