

Professor William Osler

PEOPLE who are inclined to despond about the decadence of the old country and its small chance of success against the rising young giants of the world, may profitably remember that Britain has always had an extraordinary faculty for absorbing new blood to refresh her old strains. The most composite nation in the world has kept its energy alive by never-ceasing alien immigration. We are doing it now more vigorously than ever. Oxford has been galvanized into new life by the advent of two hundred picked young scholars and athletes from over seas, who are leaving their imprint upon every field they enter. When Oxford had to fill that most venerable of all academic chairs—the Regius Professorship of Medicine—she defied all precedents and brought over William Osler from the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore. It was simply the wisest appointment of our generation, a daring raid upon the new world to remedy the deficiencies of the old. As long as we are capable of that sort of thing we need not despair of ourselves.

A GREAT TEACHER.

For Osler is the greatest medical teacher of his time. He has been teaching all his life, moving from one field to another, and at every step bringing an inspiring influence to bear upon the organization that has been fortunate enough to detain him for a time. The details of the career of a successful man are generally dull enough reading. In Osler's case they are so remarkable that they may be recited as they stand, without sounding as an extract from a catalogue. They are an epic of labour and achievement. Born 61 years ago in one of the little Ontario townships, William Osler was the sixth son of an English