

also means to delete; the objects excised are somewhat different, although the methods and motives may be similar. It is true that a sense of humor is necessary to save us from a too burdensome insistence of the tragic realities of life, but then it must spring from a just estimate and accurate perception of "things as they are," and especially must it not, *per se*, become a serious pursuit. How the professional representative, and consequently the profession itself, stands in the eye of the newspaper is not wholly a matter of indifference to any of us. And that is as true, perhaps more true, even if the newspaper reader has false and distorted ideas of the opinions of medical men. The newspapers already credit two suicides to their absurd reports of the value of men sixty years old. Some six months ago an essay on the work of great men in the profession was published, from which a couple of sentences may be quoted: -

Only rising, young, and unknown men bring the work and its value to recognition. It is indeed usually the young ones that make the discoveries. In science, Davy, Young, Fresnel, Arago, Forbes, Joule, Mayer, Helmholtz, Sir Wm. Thomson, Clausius, Rankine, and others, were in their twenties when they made their greatest discoveries.—*American Medicine*.

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### **The Function of Men Over Fifty Years of Age.—**

It is true that the energizing discoveries and forces of the world are usually made and launched by the younger men. But there is another function and duty quite as valuable to humanity as discovery—more valuable, one must say—because discovery is bound to come soon or late, and by one mind, if not by another. The history of discoveries shows that they are practically made generations and perhaps centuries before the world accepts them. Their acceptance and utilization are, in a word, delayed by prejudice. By whose prejudices? Solely and simply by those of the elder men. They have passed the energizing and discovering time of life, and alas, they have not learned wisdom. Their true function is that of judgment, guidance, and advice; and almost without exception the older men, the so-called leaders of the profession, do not pronounce right judgment, do not guide expertly, do not advise correctly as to what and where is medical truth. It was twenty-two years after a clear-headed old farmer, who had been driven to practise vaccination by many years of observation of facts, had demonstrated the value of the measure—it was twenty-two years before Jenner dared inoculate the