

pre-eminently the young man's friend, and has done much to discover and bring forward many a bright young man. In this regard Dr. Osler's work will remain a precious legacy long after he has gone. A man's influence over others is sometimes of far greater moment than anything he may actually do himself.

With regard to old men, however, the case is different. There are hundreds of thousands of men in America at and beyond the sixty year period who are still in active life and forced to remain there by inexorable circumstances. Many of them have to fight to keep their place in the ranks and prevent themselves from being crushed to the wall. They feel that it is a cruel fate that requires even greater exertion of them at a time when they are less able than in early manhood to work. Several men of this class, reading the distorted view presented by Dr. Osler's words, have committed suicide, the connection between their action and the doctor's address being shown by press clippings. Such a case was that of an aged scientist in St. Louis recently, who chloroformed himself after discussing the whole question of the uselessness of old men. Dr. Osler would, we feel sure, be the last person in the world to make more difficult the task of the old man in factory and workshop or at the clerk's desk toiling for bread for himself and his loved ones. We cannot all retire at sixty. Wisdom comes with age. The old man has earned the right to continue to earn his living. An opinion coming from a physician of such high standing as Dr. Osler is bound to carry much weight with it.

Since David wrote the Psalms the world has passed through the greatest struggles for existence in its history, and every day the struggle is growing more intense. Medical science may be able to lengthen a man's years, but industrial competition is surely pushing the hands of the clock ahead on the dial of a man's career. The men who, like Gladstone, develop late in life, find the struggle fiercest in their youth; the men who develop early, and these are a majority, find it in advancing years. In this respect it may be that Dr. Osler's words have done much harm; for while he spoke as a humanitarian that men of sixty should retire, it may only have the effect of making it still more difficult for the old man to keep his place in the stern struggle for an existence, and thereby add another burden to those brought to him already by reason of his years.

V.—HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED.

The world will ever marvel at the remembrance of Gladstone's fight for Home Rule in Ireland after he had passed eighty, of von Moltke's crushing victories against Austria when he was a sexagenarian, and against France when he was a