

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 or 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 septuagenarian. Bismarck was fifty-two when he organized the North German confederation, fifty-six when he saw its culmination of success with the crowning of the King of Prussia as German Emperor, and seventy-five when he resigned the reins of power.

Johann Kepler was fifty-nine years of age when he announced his discovery of the distance from the planets to the sun; Bacon was fifty-nine when he published "*Novum Organum*"; Gassendi was fifty-eight years old when he published his atomic theory, and Newton was forty-four when he published his law of gravitation, and older when he wrote his *Principia*.

Dealing with the rather surprising claim that if the work of men more than forty was subtracted from the world's record we should be