

November 3, 1906.

BOUT.

responsible. But possibly Sir Alexander's greatest claim to public gratitude was his unflinching attitude in the matter of engine and boiler trials at sea. He emphasised the necessity of separating the boiler trials from those of the engine, and although his ideas were received with great opposition, he eventually obtained permission to carry out such trials. How successful these were all the world knows, and Sir Alexander's methods have since been adopted by the Royal Navy and the Boiler Committee of the Admiralty. Sir Alexander is not only an ardent lover of music, but a skilful executant. His other hobbies are mountaineering and photography.

Charming Colonial.

Dr. William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, is still receiving congratulations on his recent Harveian oration. It is seldom that a lecturer on abstruse scientific subjects has to intercalate his discourse with "stage pauses" to permit of the applause on the part of his audience. Yet Dr. Osler is invariably called on to do this. There is no subject on which he speaks which does not at once become not only more interesting but more important than most other subjects in the world. Only those who have sat and listened to his wise utterances can appreciate his infinite personal charm. It is only two years ago that Dr. Osler, who comes of a distinguished Canadian family, crossed the ocean to infuse into the learning of the old world the spirit of the new. Just before sailing to take up his present position, Dr. Osler delivered a farewell address in Baltimore, by which, according to a Transatlantic euphuism, "he leaped into the columns of the international press."

"Too Old at Forty."

This was the celebrated speech in which the "too old at forty" theory was promulgated. The Professor enlarged on the comparative uselessness of the man over forty, and of the utter and entire uselessness of those who live twenty years beyond this period. Notwithstanding that the speaker was then fifty-six years of age, he averred that the great mass of human achievement was accomplished between the ages of twenty-five and forty, and cited sundry instances in support of his pronouncement. Men, he declared, are sane at thirty, mentally rich at forty, and wise at fifty—or never. At sixty, they should cease work altogether, if only for the sake of the younger generation who are waiting to take their places.

"Osler's Magic."

Since that address, Dr. Osler has delivered many, any one of which would make the reputation of a professional epigrammatist. Take a short address delivered to a student class a year or so back, and one finds it loaded with such pointed paragraphs as the following:—"The student is a lover courting a mistress who is ever seeking to elude his grasp." "Politics have been the ruin of many a country doctor." "Resist the temptation of opening a sanatorium, which is no work for the general practitioner." Dr. Osler is a scholar and a consummate diagnostician. No one advocates more strongly than he does the science of doctoring as opposed to faith cures and personal magnetism. Dr. Osler's power of diagnosis is held to be truly marvellous. When he was in Maryland, it was the talk of every student and professional colleague. One instance may be related. The life of a patient—a woman—hung in the balance. Although there were several eminent practitioners in consultation, no agreement could be come to as to the wisest and safest course to be taken. It was a case of "when doctors dis-

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