

gigantic proportions. The available timber per township runs from '3,000 feet B. M. amid the high mountains, up to 59,000 feet B. M. in the northwest corner' (Dodwell and Rixon). What with fallen timber and undergrowth of ferns and shrubs the forest is a veritable jungle. By hard work one can travel a quarter of a mile an hour off the trails!

Salal-berry (*Gaultheria shallon*) and species of *Rubus*, *Vaccinium* and *Ribes* contribute largely to the denseness of the jungle, and furnish abundant food for man and beast. The matted tree tops admit only a gloomy light below, and the darkness is deepened by great blankets of *Selaginella* (*S. oregana*) and bearded lichen (*Usnea*) depending from the branches. A thick bed of moss covers all the ground and swathes the bases of the tree trunks. Above 2,000 feet, however, the forest is quite open, but travel is impeded much more seriously by the impassably sharp hogbacks and steep canyon walls. The mountains slope more gently southward than on other sides, and it is believed that Mt. Olympus could be reached from the valley of the Quinault River. The major part of the peninsula is held as the Olympic Forest Reserve. Two reports on this by Dodwell and Rixon (1, U. S. Geol. Surv., 21st Ann. Report, Part V., 1900; 2, ditto, Professional Paper No. 7, 1902) with maps and illustrations give the best accounts yet available concerning the region.

The fauna is equal to the flora in richness. Black bears, panthers, wild cats and wolves are numerous. A few squirrels and the mountain beaver are found. Deer and elk are plentiful. The garter snake is the only reptile. Wild duck and pheasants are occasional, and the familiar robin is seen about the houses. Salmon and trout of several kinds abound in all streams that are large enough. Quinault salmon is said to be the finest on the coast. The report of the expedition from the Field Columbian Museum on the mammals of the Olympic Peninsula is the only record of its fauna.

In each river valley a distinct tribe of Indians originally made its home. The Makah

at Cape Flattery were studied by Swan, and are an extremely interesting group. The Quillayutes and Quinaults would equally repay an immediate investigation; but their old habits are rapidly vanishing before the government schools. Whites began to settle the Quinault Valley in 1892, but the movement is very slow on account of the difficulty of clearing land and of getting produce in and out. It is estimated to cost \$200 an acre to remove the timber enough for farming operations.

Here, then, is almost virgin soil for any kind of scientific investigation. Just enough has been done to enable the student to start intelligently and progress without interruption on any phase of this interesting region.

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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
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QUOTATIONS.

DR. OSLER ON THE PERIODS OF A TEACHER'S LIFE.*

I AM going to be very bold and touch on another question of some delicacy, but of infinite importance in university life, one that has not been settled in this country. I refer to a fixed period for the teacher, either of time of service or of age. Except in some proprietary schools, I do not know of any institutions in which there is a time limit of, say 20 years' service, as in some of the London hospitals, or in which a man is engaged for a term of years. Usually the appointment is *aut vitam aut culpam*, as the old phrase reads. It is a very serious matter in our young universities to have all of the professors growing old at the same time. In some places only an epidemic, a time limit, or an age limit, can save the situation.

I have two fixed ideas well known to my friends, harmless obsessions with which I sometimes bore them, but which have a direct bearing on this important problem. The first is the comparative uselessness of men above

* From his valedictory address at the Johns Hopkins University, given at the annual commemoration exercises on February 22, and printed in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

40 years of age. This may seem shocking, and yet read aright the world's history bears out the statement. Take the sum of human achievement in action, in science, in art, in literature—subtract the work of the men above 40, and, while we should miss great treasures, even priceless treasures, we should practically be where we are to-day. It is difficult to name a great and far-reaching conquest of the mind which has not been given to the world by a man on whose back the sun was still shining. The effective, moving, vitalizing work of the world is done between the ages of 25 and 40 years—these 15 golden years of plenty, the anabolic or constructive period, in which there is always a balance in the mental bank and the credit is still good.

In the science and art of medicine there has not been an advance of the first rank which has not been initiated by young or comparatively young men. Vesalius, Harvey, Hunter, Bichat, Laennec, Virchow, Lister, Koch—the green years were yet on their heads when their epoch-making studies were made. To modify an old saying, a man is sane morally at 30, rich mentally at 40, wise spiritually at 50—or never. The young men should be encouraged and afforded every possible chance to show what is in them. If there is one thing more than another upon which the professors of the university are to be congratulated, it is this very sympathy and fellowship with their junior associates, upon whom really in many departments, in mine certainly, has fallen the brunt of the work. And herein lies the chief value of the teacher who has passed his climacteric and is no longer a productive factor; he can play the man midwife, as Socrates did to Thesetetus, and determine whether the thoughts which the young men are bringing to the light are false idols or true and noble births.

My second fixed idea is the uselessness of men above 60 years of age, and the incalculable benefit it would be in commercial, political and in professional life if, as a matter of course, men stopped work at this age. Donne tells us in his 'Biathanatos' that by the laws of certain wise states sexagenarii were precipitated from a bridge, and in Rome

men of that age were not admitted to the suffrage, and were called *de pontani* because the way to the senate was *per pontem* and they from age were not permitted to come hither. In that charming novel, the 'Fixed Period,' Anthony Trollope discusses the practical advantages in modern life of a return to this ancient usage, and the plot hinges on the admirable scheme of a college into which at 60 men retired for a year of contemplation before a peaceful departure by chloroform. That incalculable benefits might follow such a scheme is apparent to any one who, like myself, is nearing the limit, and who has made a careful study of the calamities which may befall men during the seventh and eighth decades!

Still more when he contemplates the many evils which they perpetuate unconsciously and with impunity! As it can be maintained that all the great advances have come from men under 40, so the history of the world shows that a very large proportion of the evils may be traced to the sexagenarians—nearly all the great mistakes politically and socially, all of the worst poems, most of the bad pictures, a majority of the bad novels, and not a few of the bad sermons and speeches. It is not to be denied that occasionally there is a sexagenarian whose mind, as Cicero remarks, stands out of reach of the body's decay. Such a one has learned the secret of Hermippus, that ancient Roman, who, feeling that the silver cord was loosening, cut himself clear from all companions of his own age, and betook himself to the company of young men, mingling with their games and studies, and so lived to the age of 153, *puerorum habitu recollatus et educatus*. And there is truth in the story, since it is only those who live with the young who maintain a fresh outlook on the new problems of the world.

The teacher's life should have three periods—study until 25, investigation until 40, profession until 60, at which age I would have him retired on a double allowance. Whether Anthony Trollope's suggestion of a college and chloroform should be carried out or not, I have become a little dubious, as my own time is getting so short.