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44. South St. <sup>CUS 917/130.22</sup> Thompson  
St. Andrews.

9th Oct., 1919.

My dear Sir William Osler,

Let me thank you for sending me a copy of your address, - on the Old Humanities etc. I had read it before, but I have now read it tonight again. And let me thank you also for your pleasant words about that old Aristotelian lecture of mine.

I am inclined to be grateful to you most of all because you fight for Aristotle, on the side of the Master and his men.

Its hard for a man like me, living afar off, to comprehend the ways of Oxford men. They seem to me very busy dragging the horse to the water, whether he be thirsty or not; and I sometimes wish they were thirstier themselves.

I like your little jibe at Oliver Lodge and Conan Doyle. That thrust of yours ought to let a little of the wind out; but there is an inexhaustible supply from within.

I was particularly pleased to be asked to contribute to your Birthday Book; but I was disappointed in equal measure when it came out at last without a trifle from me. I had written my little essay, or rather I had written most of it; but it stuck in the ways when the ship was launched. My precrastination was to blame; *but* long before I have done my day's work, it is time to go to bed.

With kindest regards,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

*Darcy W. Thompson*