

July 11, 1908.

Unknown quote clipping from Ballistans'

Will Dr. William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, be too old at sixty? He must settle the question within twelve months, for to-morrow is his fifty-ninth birthday. He is commonly reported to have originated the phrase "too old at forty," but this is not the case. Here are his actual words:-

The teacher's life should have three periods - study until twenty-five; investigation until forty; profession until sixty, at which time 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.

Many men who heard Dr. Osler, indignantly denied that they were too old; but one of his disciples burst out thus:-

Brother, I am sixty-one,
So my work on earth is done;
Calm should follow after storm-
Reach me down the chloroform.

P.M.G.

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