

Sir W. Osler.

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H. W. H. M. M.  
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AN AFTER DINNER SPEECH.

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At a dinner of the Ophthalmological Congress at Oxford (about 1910) he took the Chair. His speech was brief but admirably fitted, as intended, to put everyone in that cheerful mood which will bear any subsequent harangue with equanimity. He said (to the best of my long distanced recollection):

"There is one thing that strikes me most forcibly on looking round this great meeting of ophthalmologists, gathered together here from so many parts, not only of this but of other countries - one striking fact, and that is - what a very good-looking set of fellows you all are!"

Then, when the burst of laughter had subsided - "I don't know whether it is due to the influence of your art upon your features, or whether it is a fact that only the good-looking ones survive in your profession: I think it must be the former, for when I contemplate my old friend opposite there, Sir Anderson Critchett, - why, if you 'd seen him when I first knew him, thirty years ago, you 'd have said you 'd never seen a more homely-looking fellow - and just look at him now".

Sir Anderson shook with laughter, and after that - well I don't remember any more of the speech. I think that was nearly all, for I saw Sir William's chair empty when I looked a few moments later. He had slipped away after setting the ball rolling, and early next day figured at a Tuberculosis Commission in London.