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FOREWORD

In the spring of 1913 Osler came to the United States to deliver the Silliman Lectures at Yale University. Before coming he had promised to give a talk to the students and it is this "lay sermon" which is here reprinted. Cushing in his "Life of Osler" directs attention to the pressure under which it was written, although there is no evidence of any effort in its finish. He quotes from a note written by Osler on the original manuscript, "I wrote this on the steamer going to America, from notes that I had been jotting down for a month, but I only finished it on the Sunday of its delivery," and

Cushing adds that on the Saturday before he read the address Osler buried himself in the Graduates' Club at New Haven to complete his task, and that "the last seven of the nineteen pages of the manuscript from which he read, and from which the address was printed, are hand-written on paper of the Graduates' Club of New Haven."

The gist of Osler's sermon is a plea to do the day's work, to live in the day, and he tells how when a very young man he read Carlyle's familiar dictum: "Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

Cushing says that in a copy of the address in Osler's library the author had inscribed the following poem:

"Listen to the Exhortation of the Dawn!
Look to this Day!
For it is Life, the very Life of Life.
In its brief Course lie all the
Varieties and Realities of your Existence:
The Bliss of Growth,
The Glory of Action,
The Splendour of Beauty;
For Yesterday is but a Dream
And Tomorrow is only a Vision;
But Today well lived makes
Every Yesterday a Dream of Happiness,
And every Tomorrow a Vision of Hope.
Look well therefore to this Day!
Such is the Salutation of the Dawn!"

Beneath the poem Osler had written "If

another reprint is called for put this on this page." We gladly comply with Sir William's suggestion that such an exquisite bit of verse should be recalled.

Francis R. Packard

A WAY OF LIFE