



One of the greatest perils of our time has crept upon us almost unobserved. The skill of the medical profession has prolonged the span of human life but has not yet learned to prolong the span of human capacity. I have the misfortune to live in a country whose government is composed almost entirely of men over seventy. I can remember a period when they had vigour and initiative; there was a time when it seemed to them quite natural to act in accordance with their beliefs. But there is no standing up to physiology. As our tissues stiffen, our habits become more set. We may remain intellectually convinced of the necessity of change since this is one of our fixed verbal habits, but we cannot bear actual change. The aged radical is therefore in the sad situation that he can only be happy \_\_\_\_\_; he cannot stop doing any of the things that he always has done, including the advocacy of change, but not of course including its actual realisation.

- ① so long as he is ineffective
- ② when he becomes conservative
- ③ by the time his initiative still lives
- ④ only if he can defeat the inertia of the old habits
- ⑤ when he is sure of still having the desire for change