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Original Articles

THE BURIED ANIMAL SUTURE: ITS VALUE IN ASEPTIC SURGERY.

BY HENRY O. MARCY, A.M., M.D., LL.D., BOSTON.

I am glad to avail myself of this opportunity to write a chapter of surgical history which to the young graduate may seem ancient.

In 1869 it was my singular good fortune to have become, accidentally, and in a special way, the first American pupil of the now world-wide famous Lord Lister. I thought I knew surgery at least exceptionally well for a man of my age. As a graduate at Harvard, I had been the student of Warren and Bigelow. From a subordinate medical position in the army, I left the United States service as a Medical Director at the close of the war between the States. I had been a post-graduate pupil and assistant in Harvard until I entered the University in Berlin, in 1869. There I profited much from the teachings of Langenbeck, Virchow and Martin. After a brief period of study in London, in 1870, I had arranged to become the pupil of Sir James Simpson in Edinburgh. Death, sudden and unexpected, had seized upon him in the midst of his active career. Syme soon followed, leaving as his representative in the surgical clinic, his son-in-law, Mr. Joseph Lister, formerly of Glasgow.

I was advised by several surgeons of local repute to have nothing to do with this man, since his opinions were so utterly different from the accepted demonstrations of science, that they must be misleading and harmful. The first morning at his clinic

* Read before Medical Society of Nova Scotia, July 2nd, 1903.