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## EDITORIAL

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### THE PASSING OF LORD LISTER.

“To every man upon this earth death cometh soon or late,” and, therefore, Lister, who saved so many lives, has himself passed quietly through the gateway that separates us from the Great Beyond, and the arras has closed him forever from our view. It is a long, long way from Hippocrates, the father of medicine, to Lister, the father of modern surgery. To Lister the world is a heavy debtor, but he was a willing and a cheerful giver to humanity. He not only took science by the hand to lead her gently along, but he embraced her in his arms and bore her bodily away with him as the handmaid to surgery. Lister was one of the great gifts of the human race for the cause of humanity. Carlyle says that “a great man is like fire sent down from Heaven. The rest of mankind waited for his coming, and then they, too, became aflame.” The lamp of every modern surgeon has been lighted from his torch.

Lister was born in 1827, and died on 12th February, 1912, at the great age of nearly 85. He held many important offices. He began his great career by becoming Prof. James Syme's house surgeon. Prof. William Sharpey, of London, introduced young Lister to Prof. Syme. This was in 1856. In 1860 he became professor of surgery in the University of Glasgow. On the death of Prof. Syme, in 1869, he became professor of surgery in Edinburgh. In 1877 he was called to the chair of surgery in King's College, London, to fill the place which had been held by Sir William Ferguson. In 1878 Queen Victoria made him her surgeon extraordinary, and in 1883 created him a baronet. In 1897 he was made a barron, and took the title of Lord Lister. King Edward made him seargeant-surgeon in ordinary. He was president of the Royal Society from 1895 to 1900. He was president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1896, and then visited Toronto. He had honorary degrees conferred upon him by the Universities of Dublin, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge, London, etc.