

been practically infinite; the third I have already mentioned, viz., steam, and of this agency I think it may be truly said that its influence has been at least as great as that of any other, not excepting even those just mentioned.

There are at least three other agencies of a general character whose influence has been, in my opinion, very great, although I don't think that they have always received the recognition to which they are justly entitled.

The first of these might be described as "Our inheritance by birthright." I refer to the great stimulus given to surgery by the life and works and teachings of such men as Sir Astley Cooper, Sir Benjamin Brodie, John Bell, the true progenitor of ovariotomy and all that that implies, Liston and Syme, Langenbeck and Desault, and many others who adorned the generation immediately preceding our own. If the torch of surgery has burned more brilliantly and effectively in our day than in any preceding age, to the inspiration supplied by these great men is due much of the credit. The stimulating and inspiring influence of their characters and labors has warmed into active, earnest and successful effort the Listers, the Senns, the Taits, and all the captains of the hosts of our own great and notable day and generation.

The second is the characteristic spirit of the age, which has had its effect upon other departments of science as well, and on surgery as much as any. I mean that spirit which is so well exemplified in the work of Darwin and his followers, who once for all demolished that stumbling-block in the way of scientific and philosophical progress, viz., the idolatry of authority with the resulting dread of original and independent speculation.

In our day surgeons, like the workers in other fields of science and art, have claimed the right to think and reason for themselves, and to pursue their speculations to their ultimate conclusions, and in so doing they have in large measure developed the faculty of judiciously estimating the proper relations between observed facts on the one hand, and speculative deductions therefrom on the other.

The day is past and gone forever when an observing and