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EDITORIAL

SIR HECTOR CAMERON'S VISIT TO TORONTO.

It must have been a great pleasure to every one who met Sir Hector during his stay in Toronto. He proved himself to be a fine type of the cultured British professional gentleman.

Sir Hector addressed the Academy of Medicine on the subject of abscesses. This would seem to many to be a homely topic for so experienced a surgeon to discuss. But in his hands it was by no means such. He threw upon the topic his long and ripe experience and it became most interesting. Step by step he showed how our knowledge of the treatment of abscesses had reached its present position, due to the introduction of antiseptics. He dealt especially with psoas and mammary abscesses.

He also delivered the inaugural lecture of the medical session of the University of Toronto. This lecture is a positive addition to medical literature and history. Sir Hector began the practice of surgery prior to the days of Lister and has watched its growth to the present moment. He is, therefore, in the position of being able to compare "then" and "now"; and what a revelation that comparison is!

We advise our readers to carefully read Sir Hector's address, which appears in this issue. Nowhere else in such vivid form and in such choice language can one find a better account of the growth of antiseptic surgery. The picture of the sad conditions of hospitals before the days of antiseptics is held up before one's eyes, and that sad picture compared with the bright and happy condition now reigning in all the surgical wards the world over. Sir Hector's lecture will take a place in the history of surgery.

To the student we commend his wise words of advice. It has often been said that there is nothing so common as advice, and nothing else that one can get so much of for nothing. But such advice as fell from the lips of Sir Hector is not common, nor can it be secured for nothing.