

College and Hospital duties, besides conducting an extensive surgical practice, yet his industry was such that he could find time to follow up important observations, more especially in the way of conservatism in surgery, and to publish those observations. No man could wield his knife better than Fergusson, but he was fully impressed with the belief that the knife was the scandal and approbrium of his art. His common sense was such that it led him to be careful in the adoption of novelties in surgical practice; he worked for the benefit of his fellow man, and employed his surgical resources in the alleviation of suffering, at the least sacrifice of health or limb. His contributions on cleft palate were markedly original, and his suggestions were favourably received, and generally adopted by practical surgeons. His observations on excision of the shoulder and knee-joints were at once pronounced and decisive, and his views have done more than the writings of any other surgeon to lead to the adoption of those operations in suitable cases. Let any person refer to the *Lancet* for June 9th, and 16th 1864, and he will there find a masterly article from the pen of Fergusson on the subject of excision of the knee, in which he compares that operation with amputation. The argument throughout is sprightly and convincing.

After giving a general history of the first attempts on the part of surgeons to save limbs by the operation of excision, he remarks:—"Often and often had I myself felt deeply grieved to see a well-made foot totally free from disease, and a leg on which the pathologist would scarcely glance, swept away by amputation in the thigh for disease in the knee." Thus we observe how keenly he felt it to be the duty of the surgeon, as far as possible, to preserve, not to cut off limbs. And in following out this role, he exhibited patience and unwearied labour in attempts to save a limb—refraining from all operative interference until hope of saving a limb was past. Then would be seen his honest kindness and delicacy of touch, with unusual skill, in the performance of an operation. All these admirable features of a great man and a great surgeon were possessed by William Fergusson in an eminent degree, and which led to success in life and to fame and fortune, and which brought him peace at the last.