

suffering has it not prevented. How many precious lives has it not saved.

These great discoveries, made only by toilsome study and unremitting labor, are given gratuitously to the world for the good of mankind, so that we who follow at a distance in the path of progress may put into practice those precious lessons that have been taught us, and obtain for our patients the benefits which they confer.

The Listerian principle of the treatment of wounds is now accepted throughout the whole world. Attempts have been made to detract from the merits of Lister, because the details of the methods for carrying out his principle have not attained that point of perfection which they have to-day. It would be just as reasonable to contend that Stephenson deserves no credit for his invention of the locomotive engine, because his crude piece of machinery does not compare in its completeness with those great giant engines of the present day, that fly through space at the rate of sixty or seventy miles an hour.

When we, standing on our present elevation of surgical advancement, take a look down the long path of ascent, it is curious to compare the present methods of operative surgery with those in vogue 100 years ago.

In a work published by Dr. Lawrence Heister, a Professor of Surgery in a German University, and entitled "Heister's general system of Surgery," we find a dramatic description of what a surgeon should be and how he should perform the different surgical operations. The book was published in 1798, and the fact that it passed through seven or eight editions is sufficient evidence that the author was in the front rank of his profession and taught surgery according to the most advanced scientific knowledge of the day. In his preliminary dissertation on the qualification necessary to the success of a surgeon, he says: "A surgeon ought to have an intrepid mind, void of all tenderness so as not to be at all moved by the outcries of his patient,—to use no more haste than the case requires,—not to cut less than necessary, but he should act in all respects as if he were entirely unaffected by his patients' complaints." Of course, as a recent writer observes, "there was greater need of an intrepid mind on the part of the surgeon in the days of Heister than now, for the reason that anaesthetics were not then used, and the patient could not be put into that blissful sleep, not to be awakened until the surgeon had finished his work. Sometimes, he says, it is better not to be concerned with a patient when it is not possible to be of any use to him, lest you be said to have killed him who died of disease. The