

master. There is no method of education in handiwork that can surpass fair criticism of the work before compeers. The mere pointing out of faults calls attention to details which the average onlooker would fail to see. But criticism is not all fault-finding : it calls attention to excellence as well as defects. The pointing out and correcting of faults, and the praising and holding up for imitation of any special excellence in operating might well, to the advantage of all and the discomfort of a very few, form part of the routine education of the hospital operating theatre.

What would you or I or any surgeon amongst us not give to have a Liston or a Syne at our elbows to teach us? Who that really has his soul in his art could fail to welcome an opportunity for such tuition? And why should we not have it? There is no lack of capable teachers, and surely they could easily be induced to teach. I can conceive no finer ending to a great surgeon's career than to devote it to the education in his art of the men who are to succeed him. He has handed over his legacy of science to all mankind ; he has laid aside his own knife, but his art will survive him, for, in the band of pupils whom he has trained in their work, his legacy of art will be as enduring as his legacy of science.

Am I suggesting a return to something like the old apprenticeship? Well, what then? The art of surgery is no new thing. Probably as an art, pure and simple, it was more perfect in the apprenticeship days of fifty years ago than it is to-day. For then, before the days of anaesthesia, the highest art was not only a saving of life, but a merciful saving of suffering. If we have lost this stimulus to perfecting ourselves in the art that pain to the patient gives, we have still the saving of life to urge us on, and that is an even greater stimulus. How a surgical artist like Robert Liston, the greatest probably the world has ever seen, trained as he was in the cruel and exacting school of pre-anaesthetic days, would have revelled in all our "otomies," "ectomies," and "ostomies" of to-day! To imagine Liston, trained in practice as he was, living