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EDITORIAL

THE LISTER NIGHT.

The Academy of Medicine of Toronto devoted the entire evening of 2nd April to a symposium on the late Lord Lister. Lord Lister needed nothing that could be said of his great work, but he deserved all, and more than all, that can ever be said of what he did for humanity. Greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for others. In the highest and truest sense, Lister gave his life for others. His discoveries were as the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the people.

Twenty-four centuries had to come and go from the days when Hippocrates wrote on medical subjects to the finishing of the surgical arch by the placing in it by Lister of the keystone of antiseptics. Carlyle has said: "That a great man is as fire sent forth from heaven; the rest of mankind waited for his coming and then they too became aflame." Lister kindled the beacon light at which all else have trimmed their lamps.

Pope, in writing of one of the world's great minds, said:

Nature, and nature's laws, laid hid in night;
God said, let Newton be! and all was light.

These words we can change and apply to the work of Lister.

The healing of our wounds lay hid in night,
Till Lister came and gave us light.

It is when such a man as Lister dies that we realize the full meaning of Emerson when he says: "He has now ceased to be our companion and has become our guide." Antiseptic surgery can never die. It will ever guide the surgeon. It has enabled him to enter the three sacred cavities of the human body, those of the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. It has saved millions of lives and added tens of mil-