

which, so far, rests on a problematical basis. I will admit that, for the present, the certainty of the actual presence of germs in the air is far from being proved, but in carrying out the details of Listerism I am of the number of those who act as though they believed in the germ theory. I desire simply to report, in as few words as are convenient, the details of some of the results of the last four years, during which period Prof. Lister's antiseptic method of treating surgical injuries has been adopted by me, both in private and hospital practice. The cases may appear small numerically when laid alongside of the larger number of cases reported by our brethren in the larger fields for observation, in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe. I have seen large wounds of the soft parts, wounds opening into important joints and wounds connected with fractured bones, scalp wounds in which there was considerable laceration and stripping of the bone of its periosteal covering, heal by immediate union, wherein strict antiseptic precautions were adopted. These favourable consequences have been attained without redness or swelling or pain of any kind, without discharge, except a slight serosity that hardly soiled the dressings and without any or scarcely any constitutional disturbance. Such results I had never before witnessed, during the personal observations of nearly forty years, and in all honesty must admit, that the results in my hands by following strictly Mr. Lister's instructions are what I had never before seen, under any other method of treatment. I must tell you, that at the Montreal General Hospital, I have acted as one of the surgical staff during the past 17 years. After the announcement of Professor Lister's views, on the antiseptic treatment of wounds, attempts were made on various occasions, by some of the surgeons of our Hospital to treat antiseptically various forms of injury, and even in operative proceedings antiseptics were sometimes employed, and although these measures were very imperfect, as compared to the present means at our disposal, nevertheless the results were sometimes remarkable. Listerism, however, in its perfection remained unknown to us, until it was introduced by my friend and colleague Dr. Roddick, who went to Edinburgh and studied the method under Prof.