

The Battle With Disease Making of Modern Surgery

R. A. BRAY, IN LONDON DAILY NEWS.

"Modern Surgery and Its Making."
By C. W. Saleeby, Herbert and Daniel.
10s 6d net.

The steady fall in the death-rate and the general improvement in the health of the community during the last half century are due to the main to two causes—the increasing employment of sanitary measures to prevent disease and the increasing use of the knife to extirpate disease where it has occurred. Sanitation and surgery, these are the weapons of defence which modern science has most reason to be proud of. In spite of the fortunes made by the vendors of patent pills, and notwithstanding the continued desire of the people to have their bodies drenched with drastic remedies, there has been a steady advance in the art of healing through the aid of medicine.

There have been innumerable volumes devoted to the subject of sanitation, but hitherto there has been no published book which has explained in a popular manner the methods and achievements of modern surgery. This gap in our literature of useful information has now been filled by Dr. Saleeby's admirable treatise. It would have been difficult to have selected an author better fitted to undertake the task. Dr. Saleeby has knowledge, enthusiasm, the power of clear and vigorous writing, and that freedom from the bondage of medical etiquette which can only be enjoyed by a doctor who is not engaged in the practice of his art.

It is commonly supposed that the surgeon of today is immeasurably superior in operative skill to his brother of half a century ago. Dr. Saleeby points out that there is no reason to believe this to be the case. Advance in surgery has owed little or nothing to the increasing dexterity of the surgeon. There have been two causes of progress.

Less than one hundred years ago surgery continued to be what it had always been—a desperate remedy for desperate diseases. Two enemies had to be fought, each in vain. The first was the enemy of pain for which no efficient drug existed; the second was inflammation, the causes of which were unknown, and which not the most skillful operators could control to any degree at all. Within one quarter of a century the two enemies of the surgeon, hitherto unbaffled, were conquered for all time.

The introduction of chloroform in 1847 banished the pain of the operation, and the use of carbolic acid in 1868 removed the danger of the inflammation which usually followed. The first was a discovery, the second a method, the second marked the first steps in a long line of advance.

With the prevention of inflammation, following an operation, two names will be for ever associated together—Lister and Lister. The first prevented the inflammation was due to an invasion of microbes; the second showed how that invasion could be prevented.

Dangers of Dirt.
There are, Dr. Saleeby tells us, only one or two vital points in the human body. If he keeps clear of these, the surgeon can do practically what he likes without risking the life of a patient. He must open the body and

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Often the blood begins to fail and becomes thin and poor in quality. It becomes loaded with waste matter and charged with poisons. Then it is that the motive power of your body weakens, goes wrong, your physical machinery becomes disorganized and you fall ill. You become anemic; maybe the nerves break down, or you begin to suffer from indigestion, neurasthenia, general debility, severe headache, pains in the back or side, rheumatism, or even paralysis.

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remove the appendix or yards of the intestine. He may explore the brain and extirpate centres of intolerable pain. He may sew up the heart, may break and straighten crooked bones, or may sew his way through solid flesh to deep-seated ulcers and effect a cure. And he may do all these things safely, provided always that he keeps out dirt, and the dirt that he keeps out must be the dirt that he cannot see.

This dirt which he cannot see, and which is yet fatal if it reach the wound, consists of microbes. Microbes are everywhere, on the patient's skin, on the surgeon's hands; they float innumerable in the air, they fall from the mouths of all present, they swarm in the hair and on the clothes. How to render these microbes innocuous, this was the problem Lister set himself and solved.

Two stages mark the solution of the problem. If the microbes are everywhere, it would seem impossible to prevent them dropping upon the wound. All that could be done would appear to be the slaying of the invaders as they arrived. Carbolic acid was successful, but not completely successful, for it did not completely destroy the microbes, but only rendered them innocuous. Carbolic acid had its disadvantages. Carbolic acid is a poison, it destroys tissue, delays healing, and causes other undesirable sequences. There remained the alternative of keeping out the microbes, or of operating in a microbe-proof shelter. This is the achievement of antiseptic surgery.

Many Famous Authors Began Careers as News Gatherers

Out of a List of Fifteen Chosen
at Random, Twelve Were
Men of Fourth Estate.

Journalism is a fine profession to get into and also to get out of. That is to say, a man who wishes to broaden himself, to learn the secret of concentration, and to get a first-hand knowledge of men and affairs, can do no better than to enter the journalistic field, says the writer of the book, "The Power That Drives the Human Factory." But it is a strenuous life, and unless one specializes along some particular line and secures employment with a newspaper large enough to support special writers, he has had to go into some other line of work before reaching middle age. On the steady news grind a man is of little worth after he is fifty years old, and newspaper salaries are not large enough to enable a man to lay up any amount of money on that time.

It is a notable fact that many newspaper men, wishing to do more remunerative work, become dramatists or novelists. This is perhaps easily explained by the fact that the young man of literary bent usually joins the staff of a newspaper before trying to make his living by writing as a free lance. In journalism his salary is assured and there is the chance to develop his abilities as a reporter. On the side, putting to practical use the things he has absorbed during the routine of his daily work. Out of a random list of fifteen male authors, whose books are now occupying the public eye, twelve are, or have been, newspapermen.

The late Vaughan Kester, whose novel "The Prodigal Judge" is one of the biggest sellers both in this country and in England, began his literary career by working on papers in Ohio. Later he went to New York, where he distinguished himself as a feature writer. Before devoting himself to fiction writing he held editorial positions on the "Cosmopolitan Magazine." Another of the most popular of American novelists is Harold MacGrath, author of a long list of fiction, the latest of which is "The Carpet of Bagdad," who first worked on newspapers in Syracuse, N. Y. Seeking a bigger field, he went to Chicago, where he became editor of the wit and humor department of the Chicago Evening Mail. During his newspaper days MacGrath studied men closely, and says that it is this study to which he owes his success as a novelist.

James Oliver Curwood has had a picturesque career as an exploratory writer for the Canadian Government, and his intimate knowledge of life in the Canadian wilds has been put to good use in his thrilling novel called "Phillip Steele." After his graduation from the University of Michigan, Mr. Curwood became reporter on the various Detroit newspapers, and was Sunday editor of the Detroit News-Tribune when he resigned to devote himself to literature.

Good food and drugs act owes much to Samuel Hopkins Adams, who has demonstrated his versatility by writing "Average Jones," one of the most interesting detective stories ever written. Mr. Adams, before his health expert, and made him a member of the United States Sanitary Commission, was a reporter and special writer on the New York Sun.

**TALE OF SURVIVOR OF
THE LIGHT BRIGADE**

Survivors of the famous Charge of the Light Brigade were few indeed an hour after their historic exploit, and after a lapse of 58 years there are not, probably, a dozen living today. Of the survivors at the present time none is better qualified to tell of the charge than the aged man who rode into the jaws of death as a Cornet Baynes, for Cornet Baynes is an educated man, and has not only the faculty of quick observation, but the gift of dramatic narrative. At present the veteran is in the National Soldiers' Home at Washington, for he has served under the Stars and Stripes as well as the Union Jack, and can tell an interesting story about Indian fighting days on the American frontier. It is the story of the Light Brigade, however, that he loves best to dwell on, for he says it

gery, there is here no need to provide means of killing the microbes as he might, because there is no microbe left to slay at all. Dr. Saleeby shows how this apparently impossible task is performed with complete success in all the great operating rooms in the country.

The last enemy of the surgeon is dirt, and that enemy has now been overcome. The conquest of dirt, whether in surgery or in sanitation, is adding, and is destined to add, years to the life of the community. Everywhere it has its application; the victory of the Japanese over the Russians, of a small people over a large, was mainly due to their conquest of dirt. When a naval engagement was imminent the Japanese sailors were all ordered to take a bath with some disinfectant, and to don clean, freshly-bled underclothing. Wounds under these conditions lost half their dangers.

Popular Surgery.
A man in ordinary health, the author tells, may now undergo an operation with no more danger than that incurred in a journey across London in a taxicab. It is desirable that this reasoned opinion should be made known as widely as possible. Medical inspection of school children has revealed the need of innumerable small operations. There is still among parents much fear of the surgeon's knife, and that fear is a real obstacle in the battle with disease.

A second obstacle, as the author points out, is the way of the popularization of surgery. The popularization of surgery at the hospitals gives their surgeons free; they must therefore make their living by high fees exacted from patients who pay. The poor and provided with rich, are not included in either of the classes find the cost of an operation almost prohibitive.

These two obstacles the future must overcome, and Dr. Saleeby, in his admirable work, has done much to show how this can be done.

He was also managing editor of McClure's Newspaper Syndicate and on the staff of McClure's Magazine. William Johnston, author of "The Yellow Letter," stands high in the newspaper profession, being the editor of the New York World. He was first the publisher of the Wilkesburg (Pa.) Independent. In 1891 he went to New York, becoming a reporter on the Journal and Press. He was on the editorial staff of the New York Herald for three years before securing his present position.

Francis Perry Elliott was head master in a young ladies' seminary and then went into journalism. For years he was the managing editor of various New York magazines, and became so tired of reading stories all written in the same way that he decided to do something different. The result was "The Haunted Pajamas," a roaring farce novel which, from its snappy style might easily be detected as the work of a man trained in newspaper writing.

Howard Chandler Christy, illustrator of "The Princess," and Henry Hutt, who illustrated "She Loves Me," have both secured a master's degree. Christy has also tried his hand in writing, having supplied special stories for New York papers while he was with the American army in Cuba and Porto Rico during the war with Spain. After being graduated from St. Viator's College, Paul Wiltach, who has recently gained front ranks among American dramatists as the author of "Thais," became dramatic editor of the (Ind.) Morning Journal. Later he went to Washington as dramatic editor of the Times, and it was while occupying this editorial desk that he attracted the attention of Rudyard Kipling. He was engaged by Mr. Manfield as publicity promoter and play reader, and served in these capacities until the death of the famous actor. He is now well known as a magazine writer.

Louis Howland, a newspaper man with years of experience behind him, is now editor of the Indianapolis News. His weekly column on the editorial page of that paper has attracted widespread attention because of its soundness of thought and literary excellence. Twenty-six of these essays have been collected in a charming little volume entitled "Day Into Day."

It is seldom that a man of technical training drifts into journalism, yet such was the case with Gelett Burgess. He is an engineer from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has worked as a draftsman and also as a journalist. He has had a broad experience in various American cities and in England. He was at one time editor of the Lark in San Francisco. He has always worked along original lines and has pre-empted an entirely new field in his latest book, "Find the Woman."

Herbert Quick retains his position as editor of Home and Fireside, Madison, Wisconsin, although his books have placed him in the ranks of the successful authors. His "Yellowstone Nights" is a fanciful conceit containing a wealth of charming stories supposed to be told by members of a party touring the national park. Mr. Quick has taught school, worked on various papers in Iowa and Wisconsin, and before taking his present editorial position was associate editor of LaFollette's Weekly.

**TALE OF SURVIVOR OF
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is the most vivid recollection of his life, and that hardly a detail has become blurred by the passage of time. "The Valley of Death." Cornet Baynes speaks of the siege at Sebastopol, a fortress supposed to be as strong as Gibraltar, defended by 25,000 trained men supplied with food, and ammunition for an indefinite period. Because the British cavalry was of no use in the assault upon Sebastopol, it was sent to the hills above the struggling village of Balaklava, then merely a name of the Crimean War, and unknown a hundred miles away. Here their were British fortifications, and continual skirmishing was going on. The Russians had somewhat the advantage, and had taken a number of positions. The famous engagement took place on October 25, in a small valley, the end of which ran back to the village of Balaklava, and was in possession

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of the British. The other end and the two sides were occupied by Russian batteries. On either side the batteries were protected by a fire on three sides. As fast as men fell the ranks were closed up, and the little force that finally burst upon the astonished Russian gunners was as compact almost as when it had set out upon its ride of death. When they got among the Russian gunners the latter were endeavoring frantically to hitch their horses to their guns, and the survivors of the Light Brigade cut through them, wheeled, cut through them again, and returned as they had come.

The Death of Nolan.
Cornet, who was a member of the Fourth Light Dragoons, the "Queen's Own," as it was called, knew Captain Nolan, aide-de-camp to the commander, and as he stood by his horse in the ranks he saw Nolan gallop at full speed in the direction of the Light Brigade. He saw him salute Lord Cardigan and speak to him. Baynes was near enough to detect some astonishment in Cardigan's face, and the commander said something to which Nolan answered in what appeared to him to be an insolent manner. Then Lord Cardigan turned and gave an order to the bugler. The signal to mount was sounded, and the men leaped to their saddles. Then came the order to draw sabres and charge. Cardigan rode at the head of the brigade, and Nolan accompanied the charge for a short distance, then waving his sword above his head he left the formation, and started to cross ahead of the troops.

"No one ever knew what the reason of this mad act was," says Baynes, "just before he got two-thirds of the way across a splinter of a shell from a Russian gun burrowed its way into his breast, killing him instantly. His noble horse feeling the change which he made over his master, wheeled and bore him back to the English reserves. Nolan falling from the saddle just before reaching his own lines."

To the Sufferer.
According to Cornet Baynes, Lord Cardigan seemed to think that it had been the object of Nolan to deprive him of his command, and he resolved to carry the Light Brigade the full length of the valley to the furthest guns of the Russian battery. As they advanced, the charge came within range of the flanking Russian guns, and they began to tear through the ranks. The pace was quickened, and soon the heroes of the Light Brigade were rushing down the valley as fast as their galloping horses would carry them.

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