

ferable, not requiring the precision of management essential to the cutting ligature. If the ligature is cut from the leather with care, it will always admit of being tied sufficiently tight, but can never be made to cut the coats, provided it is made of soft buckskin, and not hardened by drying it. It is less likely to slip when somewhat insecurely applied, because, being elastic and soft, it is spread over a small space of the vessel, and almost immediately adheres by its glutinous properties." It lies more securely; while the cutting ligature, resting on a mere line, and having neither adhesive properties nor the advantage of a small vacuum between the vessel and the ligature, as is the case with the flattish adhesive ligature, is more likely to slip off. Besides, as we cut off the ends close, there is a risk of pulling them away by an accidental jerk of the hand. In support of these assertions, we have to offer the experience of several years' practice, during which we have used no other than the buckskin ligature, and no such thing as secondary hemorrhage has ever occurred.

"We are, moreover, decidedly of the opinion that in no case whatever have we had reason to suppose that the healing of a wound, accidental or surgical, was delayed by our ligatures; we never see anything of them after their application. Mr. Cooper tied the femoral artery in a female, aged eighty, with a ligature of cat-gut steeped in water, which was cut close, and the wound was healed on the fourth day, and must therefore have healed by first intention. In many cases, we believe the cat-gut would answer as well as the buckskin, but we are confident that a flattish ligature holds best and is most convenient. It may be proper to mention that this case occurred in 1817, three years after Dr. Physick's use of the leather ligature. If we are right in the opinion which we have just expressed, Dr. Physick is entitled to the credit of bringing into use the best ligature as to the material, but here his claim is at an end. Dr. Physick and Sir Astley Cooper have shown the advantage of using a substance which will serve as a ligature till the artery is obliterated, and be speedily afterward in the power of the absorbents, so that they will remove it. We will now proceed to point out our own views, and endeavor to support them by experiment."

It will be observed that in all the essentials, the experiments of Dr. Jamieson, undertaken for a similar purpose, were not unlike those of Sir Joseph Lister, repeated half a century later; and the former at a period when so little was expected of the American people in the way of literary productions, to say nothing of scientific research, that one of England's famous critics asked, "Who reads an American book?"