

both having a common object in view, soon became warm friends. Syme made gigantic strides forward, under Liston, and when the latter commenced to lecture in a private capacity, Syme was made demonstrator of anatomy, in his dissecting room.

* * * His students hailed from all parts of the world. On the same benches sat Egyptians and Asiatics, Russians and Americans, Frenchmen and Italians, and numbers of his students, now scattered all over the habitable globe, still feel the *afflatus* of the master teacher. In his operations he was always cautious, more than brilliant, and delighted in being successful, more than in being flashy and wanting success in the end. He took as much care of his patients afterwards, as during the operations, and he always impressed upon his students the importance of careful watching of cases after the knife had done its work. He used to say, the French were good operators, but with a grim smile he would add, "I have been in France often, but I never saw a man with a wooden leg." When in the Fever Hospital he carried out the "good old plan" of blistering, salivating and bleeding, for every disease, from nose-ache to toe-ache, but became so satisfied with this irrational mode of combating disease, in all its manifestations, that he entered the battlefield against it, and has been ably followed by Dr. John H. Bennett. The practice got into disrepute, but the fag end of the long file of converts cried out that disease changed in its type, and necessitated a change of treatment. "Ah," said Syme, "but if your theory be true, how does it happen that we perform more bloody surgical operations, than of yore, and notwithstanding that, and the great loss of blood, under conservative treatment, more recover?" That was a Gordian-knot which his opponents had no sword to cut. At the urgent request of his students and admirers, he wrote several works of acknowledged ability, and in these he showed his common sense, erudition and perspicuity. He showed in a monograph on "diseased joints," that a joint diseased could have its affected part cut out and thus save valuable limbs. This was a gigantic stride forwards. Many a poor unfortunate blessed him for this discovery. * * * In 1832 Syme published a work on surgery. There were few medical works in those days, and the most of them were valuable for their antiquity more than for their usefulness. Syme's book was a god-send to the surgical students of Britain, and even America.

It was the quintessence of wisdom, and contained, in a few words, lessons of instruction, which were not a mere jumble of words, but almost proverbs on surgery. I remember how delighted I was, only a few years ago, to re-peruse his book, notwithstanding I had Miller, Pirie, Druitt and Gross at my elbow.

* * * One of his greatest discoveries was in regard to the formation of bone. He showed conclusively by a series of experiments that bone was formed from its external covering, and not from the centre, and thus opened the way for practice in regard to the union of the bone, especially, in deformities of the bones of the face, by adapting to each other the parts of bone which supplied means of growth. It can at once be conceived how dozens of hitherto incurable cases of deformity and disease could by this knowledge be remedied and cured. I fail to recollect one other surgeon whose genius has done so much. Simpson justly immortalized himself in the practical use of chloroform. Syme has a catalogue of inventions, and applications, and theories attached to his name and memory, either of which would be a great memorial of which any surgeon might be proud. I can scarcely realize the fact that three such men as Syme, Simpson, and Sir James Clark, have passed away within a few months of one another; but, they fought with death many a severe battle in the bodies of others, and now the fell-destroyer has his revenge. Syme was a severe opponent, and showed little mercy to his antagonists, but he scorned to take an undue advantage, yet he held his ground with great tenacity, and no foe ever found his theories wrong in practice. He scorned superficial investigation, and had no patience with pretenders. I remember how he fought, as late as 1857, against the "blood letters." The battle had been going on, for over 30 years, and Syme's army of progressive medical thinkers was daily increasing, while the "fogies" were fast passing away. He told his students how he was ordered by his superiors to go to the Infirmary, regularly, every evening, to bleed his patients. It mattered not if the diseases were as wide as the poles apart, the panacea was bleeding. One patient in one of the wards was bled one evening to the extent of five pounds, and in the morning as the unfortunate did not seem much better he was bled two pounds more. In low fevers as well as in severe injuries the same course of treatment was pursued, and he did not wonder at the great mortality. He said often, in substance, if you