

his health became poor he decided to try a warmer climate, and left Toronto about two years ago for California. We know nothing as to the particulars of his last illness.

SIR THOMAS SPENCER WELLS, BART., F.R.C.S.—The man, who a few years ago was rightly considered as the greatest ovariectomist in the world, has gone to "the majority." Spencer Wells was a great man, and was one of the surgeons of the world whose name in the future will be linked with that of Lister, and a number of others who did much for surgery and for suffering humanity in the latter half of the present century. Wells was born at Hertford in 1818, and received his medical education chiefly in Dublin and London. In 1838 he studied in Dublin under Graves, Stokes, and others; in 1839 and 1840 he worked in St. Thomas' Hospital, London, under Green, Travers, and Tyrell. In 1841 he became a Member of Surgeons, and entered the Royal Navy as assistant surgeon. He served in the Naval Hospital at Malta for nearly six years. He commenced practice in London in 1853, and was elected surgeon to the Samaritan Free Hospital in the following year. During this year (1854) the Crimean war broke out, and Wells went off to the seat of war, where he was engaged in military surgery for about two years. Two years after his return to England he commenced to rise to fame.

In 1854 he witnessed his first ovariectomy performed by that great, but unfortunate surgeon, Baker Brown. The patient died. Brown was discouraged; Wells also. Afterwards, however, in the Crimea, he discovered that the peritoneum would bear very rough handling. As we are told by the *British Medical Journal* he learnt that the abdominal walls might be extensively lacerated, the intestines might protrude for hours till they were covered with dirt, and yet, that after careful cleansing and accurate closure of the wounds, complete recovery was possible. He lost his terror about opening and handling the peritoneum. In 1857 he made his first attempt at ovariectomy, but was unable to remove the tumor. The spectators made discouraging remarks; the outside medical world sneered. Still Wells believed in great possibilities in connection with abdominal surgery. In 1858, when he was forty years of age, he did his first successful ovariectomy. His signal success thereafter in abdominal surgery is well known. Others operated before him, but Wells was practically the father of ovariectomy.

Three years ago, when travelling in India, he had an attack of influenza, with paralytic symptoms, especially affecting the speech, from which he never fully recovered. Three months ago he went to the south of France with two daughters. He had an apoplectic seizure on the morning of January 31, at Cap d'Antibes, near Cannes, and died the same evening at 11 o'clock. The body was cremated at Woking, according to his desire, on Monday, February 8th, and the remains were deposited at Brompton cemetery.