

been done, and the work that lies before us to do—I hope you will bear with me if I should deviate from the ever-fleeting line of my subject, and refer now to the one phase of it, and then speculate on the other.

Much of our surgery is empirical and not rational, and hence the opportunities for original research are great. That which has stood the test of time is retained; some of it, no doubt, will be perpetuated; while again, long-cherished theories and practices must vanish in the light of new discoveries and inventions. I take it then that I have considerable license in selecting and in emphasizing what, in surgery, seems to me to be of most importance.

In no time in medical history has surgery been so international in character as it is at present. In the processes of the development of the high grade of surgical efficiency that is now established we find them teeming with instances of hardships in times of peace and war, of examples of life-sacrifices, daring deeds, unexcelled industry and charitable acts, the most altruistic to be found in any calling or profession, for

“’Tis what the happy to the unhappy owe,
For what man gives, the gods by him bestow.”

The surgeons of generation after generation have been stimulated to emulation by the precepts and examples of the great surgeons of the preceding generation, and the sum total of their true labors we now cherish, practise and enjoy. The differentiation of the work done in various countries, and the designation of it as being national, no longer pertains. We do not now recognize British, German, French, Italian, or other surgery as being different from one another, or from that of our own. An American gave anesthesia to the world, not to America alone, and equally true it is that a Briton gave us practical antiseptic surgery, founded on the bacteriological researches of a great Frenchman. In looking over surgical literature it is noticeable that the surgeons who had played the most prominent parts in the evolution of our art and science had walked the hospitals in other countries, sat at the feet of masters, studied in foreign laboratories, and conducted experiments of their own. A personal friendship was thus formed between the profession of one country and another, and the knowledge of one became the knowledge of all, until now reciprocity is complete.