

Maclean continues: "The professor calmly turned round as he was drying his hands and pointed to a notice on the wall requesting order and silence in the amphitheatre. This facetious act elicited a fresh burst of applause. He then stepped forward with the evident intention of saying something, and instantaneously every sound ceased, every breath was held, every ear was eager to catch the slightest sound which dropped from his lips. Rumour has it that the following was what they heard: "Gentlemen, permit me to assure you that I have reached an age and a position in the profession at which I care neither for censure nor commendation," and he bowed politely and walked out of the amphitheatre. The last time Dr Maclean saw Syme was in 1872, shortly after the great surgeon had had an attack of apoplexy. When he had shaken hands for the last time, Syme seized the collar of his coat, and with a quick, nervous movement, turned him rapidly round so that he could look into his face and said, "Be sure and keep your eye on Lister and his anti-septic investigations. I feel sure that there is something in them. And remember, sir, look forwards, do not look backwards." Prophetic words! But even Syme could hardly have foreseen how much there was in these investigations of his distinguished son-in-law.

THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF AN ANATOMIST'S HEAD.

Xavier Bichat passed a considerable part of his short life in the dead-house, but his own mortal remains appear to have had a more singular fate than usually befalls the fragments of humanity in which he sought so eagerly to discover the secret of life. Writing recently in the *Temps*, M. G. Clarétie says it is well known that when Cuvier was put into his coffin an iron cage was placed over his head so that it might not be stolen as Bichat's had been. A writer in the *Chronique Médicale*, commenting on this statement, says that in 1808 there came in a curious fashion of doing honour to "masters of medicine" by keeping their heads