

To my old master it could not, however, fail to be a source of the utmost satisfaction could he but know it, that to some, in fact, a goodly number, of his own pupils the world is directly and indirectly indebted for a great deal of the success of this great movement in the onward march of surgery.

It would no doubt be an easy matter to illustrate in other ways, and to a much greater extent, the progressive changes which the science and art of surgery have undergone in our day, and it would no doubt be an interesting and profitable exercise to consider in detail the individual steps and the order and manner in which they have been laboriously accomplished, and to call the roll of the leaders who, in many lands, have headed the victorious army in its ceaseless march from victory to victory. But time forbids. I hope and believe, however, that brief, fragmentary, imperfect as this little glance backwards and around us over the field of action has been, that still it may be regarded as sufficient to justify us in appropriating, on the present occasion, the concluding words of the address, of which so free use has been made at this time. "In conclusion, Mr. President and gentlemen, I beg to express my hope that from what has been said, surgery will not appear to have stood still or pursued a retrograde course during the last forty years, but on the contrary to have been improved in many important points of practice and to hold out the prospect of further advance, so that when forty years hence some senior member of the Association shall take a similar retrospect, he will find no lack of materials for illustrating the march of progress."

One more prophetic utterance made at or about the same time by one of Syme's own colleagues (Sir James Y. Simpson), I feel impelled to quote here, although its scope is not limited to the field of surgery, but extends to larger and more indefinite departments, in all of which we, as members of the medical profession, have a strong and direct interest.

"It may be also that the day will yet come when our patients will be asked to breathe or inspire most of their drugs instead of swallowing them, or at least when they will be changed into pleasant beverages instead of disgusting draughts and powders, boluses, and pills. But that day of revo-

lution will not be fully realized till those distant days when physicians—a century or two hence—shall be familiar with the chemistry of most diseases; when they shall know the exact organic poisons that produce them, with all their exact antidotes and eliminatories; when they shall look upon the cure of some maladies as simply a series of chemical problems and formulæ; when they shall melt down all calculi, necrosed bones, etc., chemically, and not remove them by surgical operations; when the bleeding in amputations and other wounds shall be stemmed, not by septic ligatures or stupid needles, but by the simple application of hæmostatic gases or washes; when the few wounds then required in surgery shall all be swiftly and immediately healed by the first intention; when medical men shall be able to stay the ravages of tubercle, blot out fever and inflammations, avert and melt down morbid growths, cure cancer, destroy all morbid organic germs and ferments, annul the deadly influences of malaria and contagions, and by these and various other means markedly lengthen out the average duration of human life; when our hygienic condition and laws shall have been changed by State legislation, so as to forbid all communicable diseases from being communicated, and remove all causes of sickness that are removable; when the rapidly increasing length of human life shall begin to fulfil that ancient prophecy, "the child shall die an hundred years old;" when there shall have been achieved, too, advances in other walks of life far beyond our present state of progress; when houses shall be built, and many other kinds of work performed by machinery, and not by human hands alone; when the crops in these islands shall be increased tenfold, and abundance of human food be provided for our increased population by our fields being irrigated by that waste organic refuse of our towns, which we now recklessly run off into our rivers and seas; when man shall have invented means of calling down rain at will; when he shall have gained cheaper and better motive power than steam; when he shall travel from continent to continent by submarine railways, or by flying and ballooning through the air; and when, to venture on only one illustration more, *tiresome surgical addresses shall be no longer required to be written by long-winded, so-called, orators, nor listened to*