

weight increases or holds itself at its height, one can allow an increase, but always under careful supervision. Mountain climbing should not be allowed.

LISTERISM—ANTISEPSIS AND ASEPSIS.

BY

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The personality and the work of Lord Lister are both singularly unique. His nobility of character, his remarkable modesty, and his exquisitely charming manner combine to make him a very lovable man. To appreciate to any considerable extent these traits in Lister one must have some acquaintance with him—to appreciate them fully, we are told, one must know him intimately. Fortunately, we in Canada know him fairly well, and we certainly love and respect him very highly.

From a professional as well as a humanitarian standpoint we have to consider his magnificent work in surgery. It is quite unnecessary, however, to go into details. What Lister has done for surgery, what he has done for humanity cannot be properly described in words; but the whole civilized world worships him as a hero, and a wonderful epoch maker.

We shall presume that Listerism includes the principles and practice of antiseptic and aseptic surgery. Several years ago Sir Frederick Treeves spoke as follows: "Lister created anew the ancient art of healing: he made a reality of the hope which had for all time been the surgeon's endeavour; he removed the impenetrable cloud which had stood for years between great principles and successful practice, and he rendered possible a treatment which had hitherto been but the vision of the dreamer. The nature of his discovery—like that of most movements—was splendid in its simplicity, and magnificent in its littleness. To the surgeon's craft it was the one thing needful. With it came the promise of a wonderful future; without it was the hopelessness of an impotent past."

We find that a certain amount of confusion has arisen in regard to the terms antiseptis and asepsis, and also in regard to antiseptic and aseptic methods. A writer on this side of the Atlantic, voicing the opinions of a certain number, says: "The theory and practice of what is known as antiseptic surgery are rapidly giving place to the more rational science and art of aseptic surgery." A writer in Great Britain,