

# Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

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## COMMENT FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

**Lord Lister**, born on April 5th, 1827, died February 11th, 1912, in his 85th year. No other medical man in modern times, with possibly the single exception of Pasteur, was so universally known, respected and beloved. He was, indeed, one of the great benefactors of mankind.

Although Lister's name will be forever inseparably associated with the antiseptic theory applied to surgery, paving the way for the later asepsis, he simply sharpened the sword. He did not forge it.

"Robert Boyle foresaw that the man who should discover the true nature of fermentation would shed light on infective disease."

Holmes and Semmelweis maintained with regard to puerperal fever that certain bodies or organisms were the cause of this disease, as it had been suspected they were the cause of pyemia as well. The latter, without much theory at all, is said to have saved many lives by antiseptic principles.

Lister was inevitable after Coginard Latour's discovery that yeast consisted of living cells, susceptible of reproduction by a sort of budding process.

Pasteur showed that fermentation in beer and wines was due to living organisms, and that all putrefaction was due to a similar cause.

When the principle that suppuration was a fermentation of the flesh was established, the suggestion was soon evolved that suppura-