

## SHORT HISTORY OF LORD LISTER'S LIFE.

Lord Lister is a hale and hearty Englishman, seventy years of age. The portrait which appears in this issue is fairly good, but it doesn't show all of Lister. No picture can do that. Those who have had the pleasure and privilege of coming into close contact with him can well appreciate the force of this statement. He was born in Essex county, in 1827. As a youth he lived in a good atmosphere with his father, Joseph Jackson Lister, who was a Quaker, and at the same time a man endowed with a great love of science. He received the degree of B.A. from the University of London in 1847, and the degree of M.B. from the same university in 1852. During his student life he worked faithfully in the laboratories carrying out original investigations in physiology and pathology. He was also active in the hospital wards, and was one of the first house surgeons under the late Sir John Eric Erichsen.

After graduating he went to Edinburgh where he continued his researches in physiology and pathology, devoting most of his time to pathology. While in Edinburgh he became closely associated with the late Professor Syme. In a paper by Dr. Stewart, of Halifax, published in this issue, we learn something about the great importance of Lister's researches for several years in pathology. His results were published in the Transactions of the Royal Society for 1858. He was appointed Regius Professor of Surgery in the University of Glasgow in 1860, and did much of his earlier work in connection with antiseptic surgery in the Royal Infirmary of that city. His work in Glasgow and Edinburgh made him famous, and in the latter part of 1876 he was induced to go to London to take a position on the staff of King's College Hospital. He entered on his duties there with the distinct understanding that he was to have complete seclusion of his own wards, with a house surgeon, and nurses completely under his control.

At this important time in his career he encountered considerable opposition. Many of the surgeons of London endeavored to belittle his results so far as they were published. Many of those who criticized his methods had no clear conception of the principles underlying his system of treatment. The spray was unduly exalted to such an extent that its use was considered by many to be Listerism, while it was, in reality, only one, and that the least important feature of his treatment. At the same time many of the continental surgeons, especially those of Germany, understood Lister and his methods better than the majority of his conferees in Great Britain. Some prominent surgeons went so far as to state that he suppressed statis-