

No one in the Empire has done greater service to humanity than Sir Joseph Lister, and it is most fitting that he should be chosen to be first and foremost to receive this token of honour and appreciation. We are rejoiced that it has come to him, and are only sorry that it did not come long ago, and that it is unaccompanied by a spontaneous offering from the Government and the nation. Surely no one thus honoured has deserved it more.

MEDICAL WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS.

We have received the following letter from Dr. G. M. Gould and, appreciating the valuable work that he has achieved for our profession on this continent, we publish it very willingly, even though while sympathizing with his views, we cannot perhaps entirely accept his argument.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

I would be pleased to have an expression from you, either personally or through some medical journal, as to the relations of the lay publishing firms of medical journals and the profession. The request is suggested by the fact that Messrs. Wm. Wood & Co., of New York, refuse to permit the editors of *The American Year-Book of Medicine and Surgery*, to use in our abstracts of Medical Progress articles and illustrations first printed in the *Medical Record* and the *American Journal of Obstetrics*.

This decision seems to me to be wrong for the following reasons:

1. IT PREVENTS THE DISSEMINATION OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.—*The Year-Book* condenses, systematises, and criticises the year's medical work in a shorter space and more permanent manner than the journals, and has thousands of readers no single journal can claim, or hope to reach. Every physician writes and publishes articles in order that every member of the profession may, if possible, learn of his work, and that science and progress may thus be furthered and humanity benefited. To interfere with such dissemination of our literature in reputable publications is, I think, discourteous and unjust to the profession and an injury to Medical Science.

2. This injustice and injury to Medicine become all the more striking when physicians do not receive a cent of pay for contributions, from the publication of which the lay-publisher is supposed to make considerable financial profit.

3. No other publisher in the world, not even those who pay authors for their contributions, have in the least objected to our reproduction of quotations, abstracts, and illustrations from their journals.

Do you wish to limit the dissemination of your contributions to medical science by such an exclusion of them on the part of publishers from reputable publications? Is this literature the property of yourself and of the profession or not? Does your gift of it to a journal make it the private property of the publishers of that journal? Is it not rather a loan for temporary use only?

Will you not hereafter demand that there be printed with your article a statement that the right of abstracting the text or reproducing illustrations is guaranteed?

Sincerely yours,

GEO. M. GOULD.

119 S. 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 1896.

As we have already said we cannot but sympathize with Dr. Gould. Undoubtedly, every one of us who writes for the medical press, does desire that what he writes shall obtain the greatest possible publicity,