

THE ADDRESS IN MEDICINE.

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BY

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GENTLEMEN,

When asked to deliver the address in medicine, naturally I felt quite proud of the honour. At the same time I must confess I was puzzled as to the text I should select for my discourse. In the early part of my professional career, as a young practitioner, with much spare time at my disposal, I was able to undertake experimental physiological and pathological work, which a busy routine practice later on compelled me to abandon. Possibly this may be considered a sufficient excuse for me to-day taking up as the subject of my address, "The modern treatment of some diseases as the result of experimental investigation." Whilst writing these lines, and excusing myself on the grounds of press of work, I cannot help thinking that some of the greatest advances in modern surgery and medicine are due to the investigations of some of our busiest of men.

About this time twenty years ago I had the instructive pleasure of seeing Mr. Lister, now Sir Joseph, astonish his audience by assertions and proof that many surgical conditions were due to the access of germs, and also by demonstrating the freedom with which, under the spray, cavities hitherto considered inaccessible to the surgeon might be invaded consistent with longevity. Since that time enormous strides have been made, both in medicine and surgery, resulting in many innovations in the treatment of disease.

Although in many respects new, they are practically of remote origin. The grand discovery, or rather experiment, of Jenner's just one hundred years ago, cannot yet be fully estimated. When he vaccinated the eight year old boy from the infected hand of a dairy-maid, and subsequently inoculated him with small-pox, he may truly be said to have laid the foundation of microbic pathology, although he knew nothing of microbes. Yet it is extraordinary to note how the centenary year of this grand discovery has been kept in his own town of Gloucester. Here, more than any other place in Her Majesty's dominions, has the anti-vaccination cry been raised, and in conse-