

LORD KINNEAR.—The elevation of Sir Joseph Lister to the peerage has removed the last obstruction to equality of the medical profession. It may seem a small matter, and one in which we, in Canada, are not at all interested, but reflection will convince any one that whatever raises this profession in public estimation benefits each and every member of it. It appears to us that Sir Joseph made a big mistake in burying himself under the title of Baron Kinnear. How much better it would have been to be known as Baron Lister, to which title a territorial tail could have been added. However, we all wish Lord Kinnear many years of life and enjoyment of dignities so worthily and honorably won.

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FUNCTIONLESS ORGANS—ARE THERE ANY? A POSSIBLE USE OF THE APPENDIX VERMIFORMIS.—Dr. Nelson L. North, of Kings County, read a paper with this title before the New York State Medical Association. He said that it was now coming to be understood that many organs formerly looked upon as rudimentary and functionless were really part of the hæmatopoietic system. Thus, the tonsils, which had been so freely excised in the past, were now considered as guardians of the parts below, protecting them from the invasion of pathogenic organisms. A noteworthy example of a supposed functionless organ was to be found in the vermiform appendix, but he was of the opinion that the numerous follicles of the appendix indicated clearly that it possessed a glandular action. Probably its chief function was as an automatic closer of the ileo-cæcal valve, thus preventing the regurgitation of foul gases. A study of the vital statistics of the Brooklyn Board of Health for the past fifteen years would show a steady increase in the death-rate from appendicitis and allied diseases, from which it was fair to infer that medicine had not kept pace with surgery in the treatment of these disorders. It was probable that the trouble was to be found in an improper treatment at their inception, the medical man of the present time throwing up his hands and unconditionally surrendering his patient to the operating surgeon. The intelligent and cautious use of mild purgatives and enemata, and above all the bold use of opium, not simply for its sedative action, but for its curative effect in peritoneal diseases, would, he felt confident, make a better showing in the treatment of appendicitis.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

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