

The price of freedom from every form of erroneous teaching is perpetual vigilance. As general systems of the treatment of disease, Christian Science, osteopathy and chiropractic are founded on false conceptions, and must not obtain legal recognition.

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### LORD LISTER.

Some time ago Sir Rickman Godlee gave the profession a biography of Lord Lister. This book has been reviewed in *The London Nation*. Henley, the poet, wrote of Lister in these words:

His brow spreads large and placid, and his eye  
Is deep and bright with steady looks that still,  
Soft lines of tranquil thought his face fulfil—  
His face at once benign, and proud, and shy.

The reviewer in *The Nation* gives the following expression of opinion regarding Lister:

"That his range of fancy was so narrow and his imagination so limited is our good fortune; for it is largely due to these facts that Lister has contributed so much—perhaps as much as any man—to the saving of life and the abolition of pain. It may well be doubted if he would ever have discovered the scientific basis of that asepsis at which all his practice aimed. It needed the mind of a Pasteur to do the work of discovery. But, for the work of applying the discovered truths and theories to case after case, in the face of difficulties and professional scoffing, Lister's intellect and qualities were almost ideal."

Then there appeared a defence of Lister by Joseph Rowntree, which had the effect of bringing forth the following from George Bernard Shaw:

"Lister's theory of antiseptic surgery was so shallow and stupid in its conception, and so disastrous in its practice, that the only excuse for his rash acceptance of it was that it seemed at first to produce good results owing to the astonishing improvement of cleanliness and common decency into surgery. In spite of this, antiseptically treated sinuses refused to heal; surgeons like Lawson Tait, who would have nothing to do with Lister's antiseptics, and declared that the best 'antiseptic' was pipe water, were conspicuously successful as operators; and Spencer Wells made an operation that had previously been a desperate one comparatively safe by keeping the patient under temperature conditions which had nothing to do with antisepticism, Lister's method was soon dropped in hospital practice, and replaced by what was called the aseptic treatment. Lister himself dropped it. In *The Medical Press and Circular* of December 26th last, the editor, apparently under the impression