

pression." In his address on "Abdominal Surgery" he referred particularly to the extreme conservatism of the British people generally, and of British surgeons especially. He gave due credit to the work of John Lizars, Charles Clay, Baker Brown, Keith, Bantock, and others; but he waxed furious in all his references to Sir Spencer Wells. His remarks on ovariectomy, hysterectomy, and removal of the uterine appendages were well received, but his views respecting operation for purely subjective symptoms were adversely criticised. Sir William Hingston declared in the discussion that followed that he considered it highly dangerous to take some of Mr. Tait's rules for their guidance in cases where subjective symptoms only were present. He also took exception to his criticism on Sir Spencer Wells. Mr. Tait was slightly ruffled by Dr. Hingston's plain talk, and referred at the banquet, over which the latter presided, to two or three tilts which had occurred between them during the various discussions of the meeting; but he said that after these they were better friends than before, and then paid Sir William the compliment of saying that he, while speaking, reminded him of England's silver-tongued Paget.

Mr. Tait must have been an enormous worker for many years. I was much surprised to hear him say in his Montreal address that previous to that trip he had not taken a holiday for seven years. His teachings in abdominal surgery greatly influenced operators in all parts of the world—generally, but not always, for good. The most unfortunate result was that serious epidemic of oöphorectomy fever which spread especially throughout the United States and certain parts of Canada. That was partly due to the wondrous zeal and poor judgment of a large number of Mr. Tait's enthusiastic disciples, who went far beyond their master's teachings.

The following summary of Mr. Tait's surgical achievements, given by Mr. Christopher Martin in *The British Medical Journal*, will be found interesting:

1. "He reduced the mortality of ovariectomy almost to the vanishing point.
2. "He introduced numerous new operations, such as removal of the uterine appendages for myoma and for tubal disease, removal of a ruptured tubal pregnancy, drainage of a pelvic abscess by abdominal section, cholecystectomy, hepatotomy, and the flap-splitting method of repairing the perineum.
3. "He introduced the plan of cleansing the peritoneum by flushing it with hot water, and of treating peritonitis consecutive abdominal section with purgatives instead of opium.
4. "He demonstrated to the profession most of what is known of the pathology of tubal inflammation and of ectopic gestation.
5. "He invented many new, and perfected and simplified