

Fleming to Glasgow; Knowsley Thornton to be with Sir Spencer Wells at the Samaritan for Women, in London; Beatson, afterwards Sir George Beatson, to Glasgow; Malloch, who had been his house surgeon in Glasgow, had already settled in Hamilton, Canada. Lister wished me to go to Norwich to take charge of the hospital there and help Mr. Cadge, the well-known surgeon in the East of England, to become familiar with the practice of antiseptic surgery. I had decided to return to Toronto and so, with much regret, declined his offer. Baldwin followed me later on to Toronto.

In 1877, Lister left Edinburgh for London. Kings College offered him the vacant chair of Sir William Ferguson. I think he felt, if he accepted it, he would have greater facility for reaching the profession in England. The London men had been slow to adopt it; very sceptical about it. Here was a great chance to let the profession see his grand results. Two men went with him from Edinburgh, Watson Cheyne and John Stuart, now of Halifax, both of them loyal, devoted pupils who stand out perhaps foremost, among those whom Lister trained.

In 1879, two years after he went to London, Mr. Savory, afterwards Sir Wm. Savory, surgeon to and lecturer on surgery at St. Bartholomew's, delivered the address on surgery before the British Medical Association. He chose as his subject the prevention of blood poisoning in the practice of surgery; he called it the chief evil that waits upon the surgeon's work. He analysed statistics of operation cases in his own hospital, showing excellent results as to freedom from death from pyemia, erysipelas and the like. After covering the subject exhaustively, he contended strongly for simple means of dressing and yet he rejoiced in laudible pus.

Of antiseptic dressings, however, he says: "I say then I cannot admit the claim of Lister's method, because though undoubtedly good results are to be obtained by this practice—better ones no doubt than most of those reached in former years—or are still in many places, yet it has not shown results superior or equal to those which have been otherwise achieved. Moreover, it has grave drawbacks from which simple plans are free; that if it failed it is worse than useless by increasing the risk. And, therefore, it has not established any title to supercede all other methods in the practice of surgery." Such was the opinion of some at that date.

In 1880, Professor Spence, of Edinburgh, published his surgical statistics in reply to those of Lister given at a recent debate on antiseptic surgery. He prefaces he is not actuated by any such motive as sometimes characterize criticisms of Lister, as due