

was induced to go to London to take a position on the staff of King's College Hospital. He entered on his duties there with the distinct understanding that he was to have complete seclusion of his own wards, with a house surgeon, and nurses completely under his control.

At this important time in his career he encountered considerable opposition. Many of the surgeons of London endeavored to belittle his results so far as they were published. Many of those who criticized his methods had no clear conception of the principles underlying his system of treatment. The spray was unduly exalted to such an extent that its use was considered by many to be Listerism, while it was, in reality, only one, and the least important, feature of his treatment. At the same time many of the continental surgeons, especially those of Germany, understood Lister and his methods better than the majority of his confrères in Great Britain. Some prominent surgeons went so far as to state that he suppressed statistics because "he had none that he would not be ashamed to produce." The following is an example of some of the unpleasant things insinuated: "The publication of isolated cases, however good, proves nothing, whereas the withholding of the whole suggests much." These were the words of Mr. Bryant, of London, and were endorsed by Mr. Savory (afterwards Sir William Savory) who quoted them with approbation in his address on surgery, at the British Medical Association meeting at Cork in August, 1878.

While referring to such adverse criticisms, we will quote the following as an example of a very friendly opinion concerning Lister and his methods, from the address of Mr. John Wood, F.R.S., during the discussion of Sir William MacCormac's paper on antiseptic surgery before the South London Division of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, December, 1879: "While thus defining the limits of my agreement with my esteemed colleague, Professor Lister, I must take this opportunity of congratulating him sincerely upon the possession of those advantages which have made him so powerful an advocate of antiseptic surgery, and will give him so high a niche in the temple of fame; upon the professional position, which has given him the authority; upon the gifts of fortune which gave him the means; upon the gifts of nature, which gave him, in happy combination,

"The patient thought, the steadfast will,
Resolve and foresight, strength and skill,"

which he has laid upon the altar of suffering humanity."

Lister continued to work with earnestness and zeal, and gradually, but surely, gained ground until he finally triumphed to such an extent that he practically overcame all opposition.