

him a compound dislocation and fracture of the ankle joint healing as quietly and as free from all constitutional symptoms as a simple fracture and dislocation would. Syme said to the patient, "You are fortunate, my man. I lost several out of thirteen in this very ward in cases such as yours."

I had the good fortune in my first week as a *Civis Academiae Edinensis*, in 1869, to hear two introductory lectures. Prof. Playfair, afterwards Lord Playfair, had abandoned chemistry to take up educational work in the political world. His successor, Crum Brown, delivered a scholarly and able lecture. A day or two after in the same great chemistry classroom in the old University Buildings on the South Bridge, Lister delivered his. He had an unusually large audience, various reasons accounting for it. A Glasgow professor, translated by the Crown to Edinburgh, was hardly a *persona grata* there, yet his work in Glasgow had interested them, and they were curious to hear about it. The medical students of that year were registered in larger numbers than ever before. They were curious to hear this new professor who was just beginning to be talked about. I remember the lecture as if it were yesterday,—the procession into the room; the marked quiet throughout its delivery. I never listened more closely to any lecture, but then it was all new to me; all his facts seemed so clear and distinct; so logically set out. I could hardly conceive there could be any other side to the question; any possible doubt of all he said. At that time he was just over 42 years of age, at his very prime, with a commanding figure and a beautiful, thoughtful face, and a complexion which many a woman would like, and which few could surpass.

The intense hold his subject had on him, the earnestness with which he spoke heightened his color and accentuated the slight hesitancy of speech peculiar to him, adding, I thought, to the force the words carried. A brief resume of this lecture I must give you; it set forth so clearly at that early date what he claimed.

He claimed to be practising a system of antiseptic surgery, —that is, the treating of a surgical case in such a manner as shall prevent the occurrence of putrefaction in the part concerned. If this is really done what a change in behavior do many surgical injuries undergo. Injuries formerly regarded in the gravest light, become comparatively trifling, and some diseases rarely admitting of cure terminate most satisfactorily in perfect recovery.