

In character he was of a most unassuming nature. He came of Quaker stock, and lived all his life true to the simple customs of the Friends. Though simple in his habits, he was indefatigable in his work and his efforts in the cause of his loved profession. He was a voluminous contributor to the literature of scientific surgery.

Then and now, the surgery of 1856 and 1912 tells the story of Lister's life. His achievements are a gift to the world far exceeding in value all the gems and precious stones of the Orient. When Lister came on the scene it could be truly said:

Night wanes—the vapors round the mountains curl'd  
Melt into morn, and light awakes the world.

A leading paper in Britain speaks of his work in these terms:—

“His discoveries in the antiseptic treatment of wounds and disease have given not merely relief from suffering, but life to countless multitudes. To realize what Lord Lister has done it is only necessary to recall the fact that when he entered University College as a medical student, even the best-managed hospital was looked upon by the populace as little better than a slaughter-house. Although the introduction of anaesthetics had already done much to mitigate the horrors of the surgeon's knife, the mortality from sepsis was so great that even trifling operations were rarely successful. Pestilence stalked unseen and unchecked through the surgical wards. No precaution availed against the tainted atmosphere, and new hospitals quickly became as pestiferous as the old, while diseases following upon operations often rose to the height of epidemics.”

Lister is gone from amongst us, but his work and his influence remain. If he is no longer the companion, he has become the guide. Of him we can verily say in the words of Lowell:

Great truths are portions of the soul of man;  
Great souls are portions of eternity.

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#### A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

We have often and for years urged the creation of a Federal Bureau of Health. We never could see why it was not done. We have shown on several occasions that the death and sickness loss to the people of this country from communicable diseases equals the national revenue; yet nothing was done, or of such an unimportant character as to be an object of ridicule and not praise.