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Original Articles

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF LORD LISTER.

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On the day that all the papers contained the news of Lord Lister's death, your President asked me to give this Academy a paper on my personal recollections of Lister and his work. This paper, then, is not an account of his life, not a recapitulation of what all medical men know, *viz.*, the great results that followed the introduction and proper use of the system he inculcated, but my personal recollections of his early work and his great struggle to convince a doubting medical world of its supreme importance.

There are others here to-night, who, about the same time were, like myself, associated with him. I am sure they feel how fortunate we were to be able to see at close range this great man; to be very intimately associated with him in early anti-septic days, when he was fighting an uphill fight against ignorance and prejudice.

When I was a student, Edinburgh University and its medical schools were very fortunate in having an unusually large number of able and distinguished men: Sir James Simpson, Sir Robert Christison, Sir Patrick Heron Watson, Matthews Duncan and others, hardly less well known. One was just passing off the stage whose name required no hall mark of honor from his sovereign to heighten his fame as a surgeon; James Syme had just given up the chair of Clinical Surgery in the Royal Infirmary. Lister, his son-in-law, and his most devoted admirer and pupil, succeeded him. As a visitor with Lister, Syme went round the wards once only when I was with him. Lister showed

* Read before Academy of Medicine, Toronto.