

and apparatus. His ingenuity was often tasked to compensate for an empty purse, by the invention of needful appliances. He did not merely experiment as laid down in works written on the science, but he was perpetually forming new compounds and testing their affinities and relations to the danger of his life and limb, and yet he was only sixteen years of age. At this time he made a discovery for which he has never received due credit, viz., he was the first to show how to apply *practically*, India rubber to its many uses. He entered the University at the age of eighteen and while attending the non-professional classes was articled as a student of Barclay and Knox—the most skilful anatomists of that city. They will be remembered as the surgeons (especially Knox) who got into bad repute as the recipients of the bodies of the murdered furnished by Burke and Hare, who, as murderers, are remembered with horror to the present day. The surgeons fled to England to evade condign punishment from the enraged populace, who accused them of being accessory to the crimes of the procurers. Knox died in Brighton, Eng., a few years ago. This flight compelled Syme to seek a new connection. He became acquainted with Liston, at that time attracting notice as a man of distinction as a surgeon. They were distantly related and both having a common object in view, soon became warm friends. Syme made gigantic strides forward under Liston, and when the latter commenced to lecture in a private capacity, Syme was made Demonstrator of Anatomy in his dissecting room. So popular was Liston and so well qualified was Syme, that during the first winter of this novel attempt to start a class in the shadow of the great schools, seventy students responded to the call. About two years after this, he was offered the office of Medical Superintendent of the Fever Hospital. This was a post of danger from which even medical men might shrink. A large percentage of the medical superintendents are carried off sooner or later by one or other of the malignant fevers, which, like a destroying angel, hang ominously over such a lazar house. Syme did not hesitate to step into the deadly breach, and was gladly accepted. He had only held the appointment four months before he was stricken down, and for six long weeks his life-like Damocles' sword hung by a hair. His health for several years after this narrow escape, was not good, and as he felt unable to discharge his duty to his own satisfaction, he reluctantly resigned his position. A few months after he was urged to accept the position of House Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary. In this position he began to develop his talents as a surgeon. Cool, daring and yet conservative, he attracted the attention of the visiting doctors and was often requested to operate in their stead, and sought in council by those who a few short months before looked down upon the boy of 22 years of age. His honours now came fast. Liston turned over to him his class on anatomy, and added to his course surgery. In the same year he was made a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and a Fellow of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. At the close of 1822 he gave up his positions in the Infirmary and as lecturer, and went to Dublin for a time to study under a distinguished professor of that city. When he came back he started a class in surgery, on his own responsibility. His success may be imagined when we say that inside of two