

“For, sure I am, that, however much the means of carrying out the antiseptic principle may come to vary from those which we now use, the principle itself will certainly be ultimately recognized as the most important of all those that shall guide the practice of surgery; and the sooner our profession is aware of this, the better it will be for suffering humanity.” (Collected Papers, 1909, vol. ii., 198.)

Now visit with me the town of Worcester 11 years later, where the Association is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary (1882), and enter the town-hall a little late, as I did, for the commencement of the Address in Surgery. This time the speaker is a tall Irishman (Sir William Stokes), and at the very moment you enter he is supporting the antiseptic principles with the true eloquence of his countrymen; and well he may do so, for only three years previously, at a meeting of the Association at Cork, the principles had received a nasty blow from my eloquent and gifted colleague, Mr. Savory. The orator's head is thrown back, his chest well forward, and he is in the full swing of his address, assisting the effect of his words by the grace of his action. He is dressed in a tweed suit, if I see aright, and I really believe that the strap of a field-glass hangs over one shoulder. But he is not, on that account, the less in earnest, and his address is a right-down good address.

And now take six years ago, when a Scotchman occupies the platform at Oxford, tall and stately, a man amongst men (Sir William Macewen), who speaks in grave terms befitting the speaker and the subject. He speaks also, like the others, on sepsis and antiseptis, but the principles have long since been accepted, and it is only questions of detail which occupy the attention of the meeting.

There is only one other address to which I would conduct you—that on pathology at the Cambridge meeting thirty years ago, where my revered master, Sir James Paget, is the speaker. His eloquence is such that had he been blind he would still have been a leader of men; and the genius of his mind looks forth so clearly through his eyes that had he been speechless he might still have commanded many persons to his will. He is speaking on a subject hitherto but little dealt with—“the consequences of injury and disease in the structure of plants.” Until that