 

# MEDICAL RESEARCH.

## NEW GLASGOW INSTITUTE.

### ADDRESS BY SIR WILLIAM OSLER

An important addition to the equipment of the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow has just been completed, and was formally inaugurated yesterday afternoon by Sir William Osler, the Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford. This is the new Pathological Institute, which is handsomely housed in a new building situated at the extreme eastern corner of the Infirmary grounds and abutting Glenfield Street. It takes the place of the old Pathological Department of the Infirmary, and is part of the great reconstruction scheme of the Royal Infirmary itself. There was a large attendance of the medical profession at the ceremony, besides the Infirmary managers and staff and representative citizens. Mr J. D Hedderwick, chairman of the managers, presided, and along with Sir William Osler on the platform were Principal Sir Donald MacAlister, Sir Hector Cameron, Professor Glaister, Mr John Glen, and Dr Knox.

The Chairman, in introducing Sir William Osler, said the managers had reason to believe that that temple of curative science was as perfectly arranged as might be for its special purpose and uses. They would agree in congratulating the architect on the result of his labours, assisted as he had been by distinguished experts in the medical profession, and Professor Teacher and Dr M'Rorie on the possession of such facilities for the prosecution of scientific work. They had further to congratulate Professor Teacher on his recent appointment to the St Mungo Chair of Pathology in the University of Glasgow. (Applause.) On that day their thoughts naturally reverted to the old pathological room in which so much valuable work was done. They remembered with gratitude the labours of the devoted men and no less devoted lady, and the excellent results they accomplished in the face of innumerable deficiencies. (Applause.)

#### THE PLACE OF PATHOLOGY.

Sir WILLIAM OSLER said he wondered if they appreciated in Glasgow the delightful memories that crowded the mind of a man familiar with the story of medicine in Great Britain when the name of their Royal Infirmary was mentioned—memories of men who by their life and doctrine had set forth not alone the very best the profession had had to offer, but the very best that man had ever offered to his fellow-men. Taking as the main theme of his address, "The Place of the Pathological Institute in a General Hospital," he was glad, he said, they had adopted the name Institute—for the first time, he believed, in Scotland. Plato made the curious remark that while it was a slow and arduous process to get men to change their ideas, it was an easy matter to get them to accept new names, and under these gradually to bring about wished-for changes. He was sure that the name indicated that they felt the Infirmary should bear its share with the University in advancing scientific medicine; for an institute was something more than a deadhouse, and very much more than an ordinary pathological laboratory—it was the cerebrum of the infirmary, the place where the thinking was done, where ideas were nurtured, where men dreamed dreams, and thoughts were materialised into researches upon the one great problem that confronted the profession in each generation, the nature of disease. Why was a right judgment on that one point the aim of medical education and of research—the be-all and end-all of their efforts? It was because upon correct knowledge depended the possibility of the control of disease, and upon their views of its nature the measures for its prevention or cure. Observation plus thinking had given them the vast stores of knowledge they now possessed of the structure of the bodies of living creatures in health and disease. There had been two inherent difficulties—to get men to see straight and to get men to think clearly; but in spite of the frailty of the instrument the method had been one of the most powerful ever placed in the hands of man. It gave them Vesalius and the new anatomy, Newton and a new

of the master, while keenly appreciating, could scarcely realise its true greatness. (Applause.)

#### RELATIONS WITH UNIVERSITY.

The Institute, an integral part of the Infirmary, the director and staff co-ordinate with the physicians and surgeons and their staffs, the other departments should be dovetailed in such a way that every member had an interest in its work. He had often remarked that the secret of the success of the Johns Hopkins Hospital lay in the dominating influence of the pathological department. Everything depended upon the organisation. With two modern hospitals the problem of the relation of their pathological departments to the pathological department of the University had been settled in the only way. In the interest of both institutions the union had been made organic, and the professors of the subject at the University had the same relation to the pathological laboratories of the hospital as the professors of surgery had to their wards in the infirmaries. Only with that type of organisation could a great institute as a university unit fulfil its threefold mission to the students, to the staff, and to the public. Here, after passing the Vesalian stage in anatomy and the Harveyan in physiology, the student learned with Morgagni and Laennec the structural changes wrought by disease. Here he recognised the correlation between the symptoms in life and the post mortem appearances, which was the bedrock in the art of diagnosis. And here he reached the stage in which Virchow and Koch taught the true nature of the intimate processes of disease, "de causis" as well as "de sedibus morborum." All that before in the final stage he saw in the wards the marvellous benefits which had followed the practical application by Pasteur and Lister of the methods of science. Only in one way lay redemption for the director of any institute or laboratory; he must have associates who knew more about certain subjects than he did himself. An Admirable Crichton in these days was a quack. (Laughter.) In the art of delegation, in the subdivision of labour, in specialisation among his subordinates the director would find safety. Sir William Osler went on to say that students should be encouraged to do original work as much as possible, and that a laboratory without a few undergraduate research students was scarcely fulfilling its mission. Let it be remembered also that the Institute existed for the Infirmary, not vice versa. In many ways it might be helpful to every man working in the wards and in the outpatient department. Every one of the young men on the staff should be workers in the Institute, each with his place, each with his problem. Even the older men when not overburdened with practice would find mental refreshment and stimulation in a few hours of laboratory work. It was a sad day, added Sir William Osler, when the world was so much with the clinician that he could not spend part of it in the pathological or the clinical laboratory.

#### THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Lastly, he said the Institute existed for the benefit of the public. There was not a patient in the wards who would not be helped by the work done in it. From laboratories had come not alone the war cries of modern medicine but the chief weapons against the acute infections. The incentive, the intense conviction of the necessity of the fight and of its hopefulness had come from the men who realised that the general infections, whether endemic in cities or widespread epidemics, were preventable, could they but know their nature. Even before that knowledge was complete they had recognised the association of disease with dirt and of fevers with overcrowding and with poverty. Glasgow was early in the field. The sanitary story of their city in the last half-century was one of which they might be justly proud. Under the intelligent direction of Professor Gairdner, Dr Russell, and of their present efficient health officer, Dr Chalmers, from the worst or one of the very worst they had become the best or one of the very best. (Applause.) To wipe out typhus, to have made typhoid a last ditcher—(laughter)—to have cut in half the mortality from tuberculosis were among the peace victories in which the citizens of Glasgow had shared. (Applause.) Two great problems remained. First, to make effective the knowledge they now possessed, and that was largely a question of intelligent organisation. When the public awoke, what had been done for typhus and typhoid would be done for tuberculosis, malaria, and plague, as well as for a host of minor maladies, the causes of which they knew. But in a vast field they needed new knowledge and seasoned knowledge, and that, the other great problem, directly con-

boiling; but sweeter or better sugar had never been tasted than that of their making, and among all samples in the market no brand ranked higher than that from the old Glasgow Royal Infirmary. It was for them in the new Infirmary and in that splendid Institute to see that the quality was maintained. (Applause.)

Principal Sir Donald MacAlister proposed a vote of thanks to Sir William Osler. They of the medical profession, he said, knew that in asking Sir William Osler to speak to them they were inviting the attention of Glasgow to the wisest words that the profession was capable of pronouncing on an occasion like that. It was a special pleasure to hear his expression of ideas on union between the University and the Infirmary, and especially when they in Glasgow were working towards that ideal. The Royal Infirmary was now united in the University organisation, complete with all that was needed for definite advance in medical science, and most of all for the definite, and he hoped continually advancing, improvement of the health conditions of the city in which they dwelt. (Applause.) Had it been merely the desire of the managers of the Royal Infirmary to comply with the minimum requirements of a medical school such an institute might have been vastly smaller than it was, but the managers had taken the broad view Sir William Osler had indicated and had not only met all the immediate needs of Infirmary students, staff, or patients, but also the needs of a great and flourishing future which was not far ahead. (Applause.)

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The Institute, which was thrown open for inspection by the medical profession, has been designed by Mr James Millar, architect. There is a large central hall with gallery running round. Opening off are four laboratories for the pathologist (Professor Teacher) and his assistants. There is also a large general laboratory for research. Opening off the gallery are a lecture theatre, class-rooms, and laboratories. At the west end of the hall are post mortem rooms and a chapel. The east end is a large central museum with two galleries running round. The Institute is equipped in the most up-to-date fashion. A feature is the ample roof lighting which has been followed.

## ETCHINGS AT DAVIDSON'S GALLERIES.

Meryon, Whistler, and Haden make a distinguished trio, and it is appropriate that their work should form one collection. The French master influenced Whistler, as well as lesser men, and Seymour Haden, though an etcher of strong individuality, caught artistic inspiration through his close relationship with Whistler. Messrs George Davidson (Limited) have on view in their Sauchiehall Street gallery choice examples of the work of the three etchers. The Whistler set includes some exceptionally fine prints, notably one of the famous "Riva" and "The Lagoon," wonderful in their spaciousness and atmosphere. There is also the well-known "Music Room," which is of domestic interest, as well as artistic charm. The figures are Haden, Lady Haden, and Mr Frere, a keen collector of Whistlers, seated at a table on which the light from a shaded lamp softly falls. There are also to be noted the dainty "Annie," a first state impression and very rare, and one or two of the Thames set. There are 13 examples of Meryon's inspired art, among them "Le Petit Pont" (second state), remarkable for its fine lighting; "Tour De L'Horloge" (first state); and the famous "La Ministerre de la Marine," where the sense of eccentricity and the grotesque, which frequently possessed Meryon, is revealed in the fantastic aerial things which float around the impressive masonry of the building. Meryon, like Whistler, had a perfect appreciation of the value of economy of line, and, as in the "Riva," so in those etchings, every line is significant of meaning and no line is superfluous. Sir Seymour Haden occupied a distinctive place as an etcher. His art at least was associated with no gross commercialism; he worked always for the sheer joy of the thing, and his plates were etched direct from nature. He had a fondness for rural scenes and quiet corners, and in rendering leafy landscapes no etcher has used the medium with happier effect. There are many gems in the 30 and odd examples shown here, including a magnificent print in the rare second state of "Shere Mill

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## DARING POST OFFICE ROBBERY.

A daring post office robbery was committed either on Sunday night or early on Monday morning at the Devonshire Street Sub-Post Office, Portland Place, London. The office is attached to the shop of Messrs M'Dean and Son, wholesale grocers. The thieves gained entrance from the rear of the premises, and ransacked the post office, emptying the drawers and forcing open a safe, from which they took money and stamps to the value of £110.