

**Celebration of Lister centenary : presentation of replicas of the Lister Exhibition / Henry S. Wellcome.**

**Contributors**

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**wellcome  
collection**

Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

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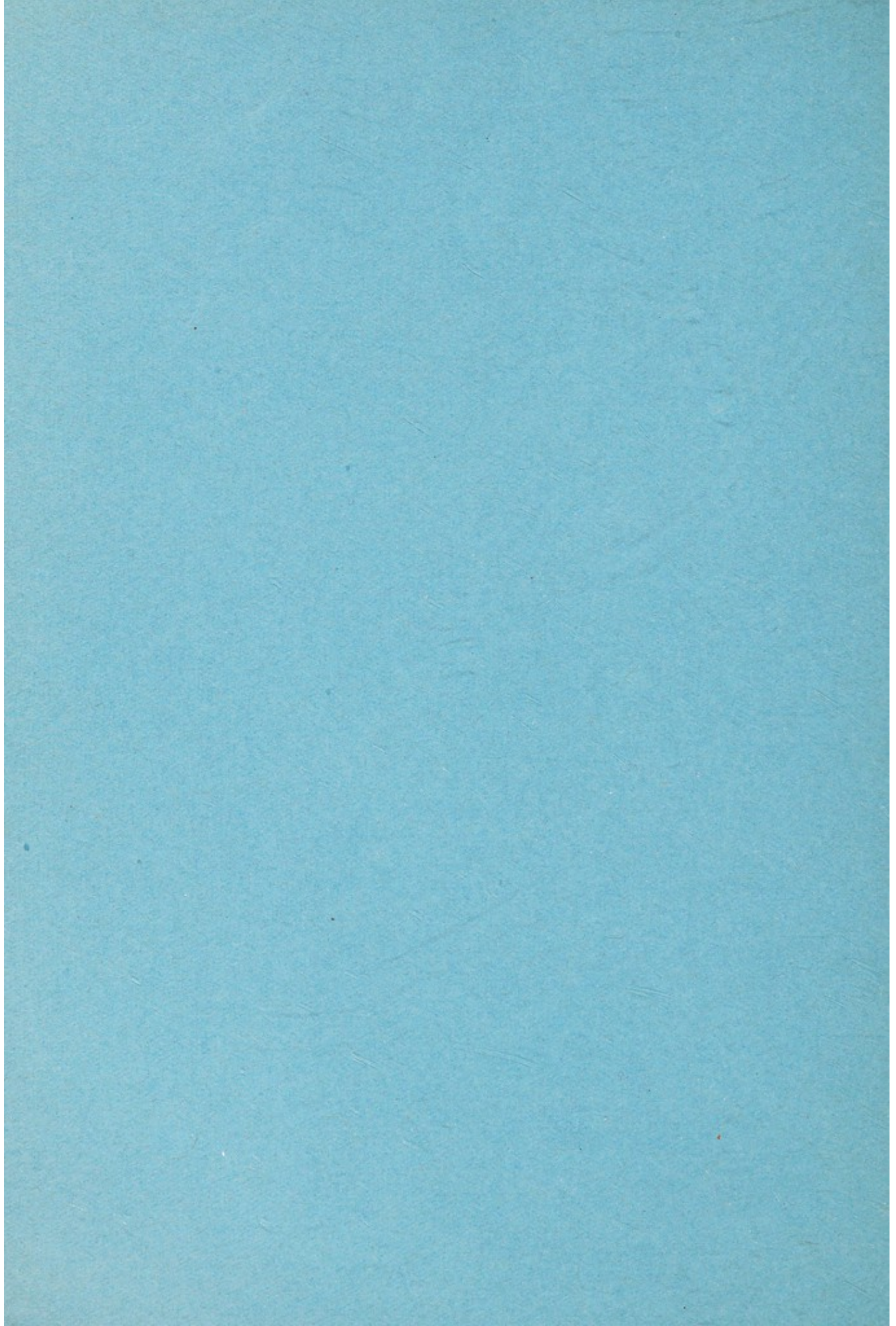
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**CELEBRATION OF LISTER  
CENTENARY**

**Presentation of Replicas of the Lister  
Exhibition**

By **HENRY S. WELLCOME, Esq.**  
**London, England**  
Honorary Fellow, Royal Society of Medicine

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# CELEBRATION OF LISTER CENTENARY

## PRESENTATION OF REPLICAS OF THE LISTER EXHIBITION<sup>1</sup>

BY HENRY S. WELLCOME, ESQ., LONDON, ENGLAND  
Honorary Fellow, Royal Society of Medicine

**I**N HISTORIC calendar records, the year 1927 will be memorable as the Centenary Anniversary of the birth of the immortal Lister.

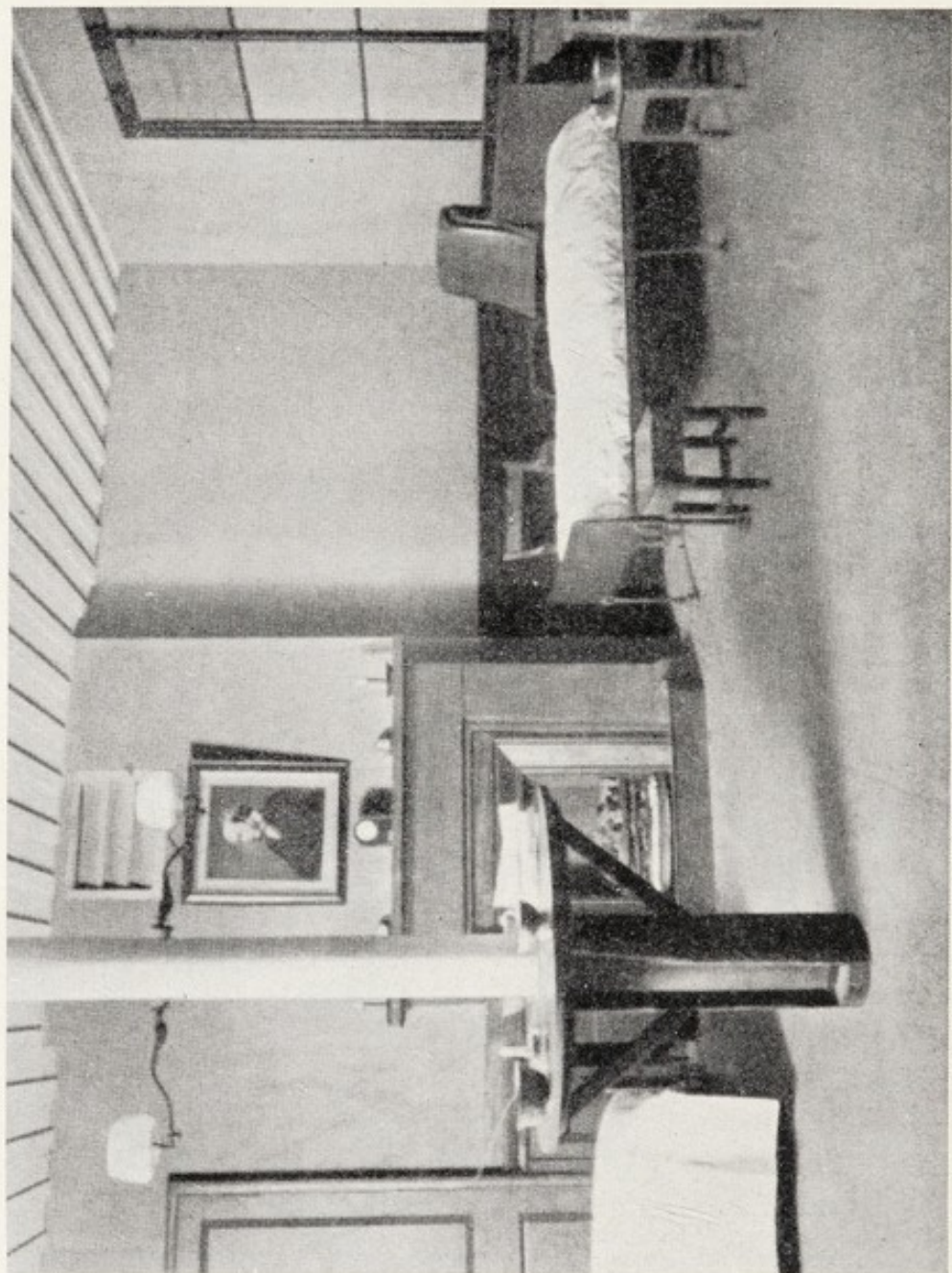
Lord Lister's indefatigable research work and epoch making discoveries in the field of surgical science have brought immeasurable benefits to mankind.

From the beginning of time, it has been the foremost aim of Good Samaritans to relieve pain and to postpone death. Toxic bacteria, life's most deadly enemy, infinitely minute, invisible and irresistible, held sway through the ages and ever defied the master minds of the healing art. In spite of great advances in surgical science, deadly germs until recent times eluded detection and control.

Pasteur's bacterial discoveries greatly influenced Lister in his memorable work, which led to his historic achievements in antiseptic surgery. Lister fully acknowledged his indebtedness to Pasteur.

In London, England, April last, a great International Centenary Lister Celebration was held. Delegates from all parts of the world attended. As the chief repository of Lister historical material, the Historical Medical Museum was made the Official Exhibition of this Celebration.

<sup>1</sup> Presentation made at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, Detroit, October 4, 1927.



Section of the original Lister Ward from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.

During his life, and since his death, this Museum has acquired many personal relics and an extensive collection of items used by Lord Lister and associated with his research work.

Several years ago the scientific world was shocked by an announcement that the Royal Glasgow Infirmary where Lister had conducted his researches and made his historic discoveries, was, for economic reasons, to be torn down. Regardless of world-wide protests from leading scientists, the local committee in control, persisted in their purpose. House breakers were called in and demolition of the building began. Then, through the aid of friends and associates of Lister, we succeeded in securing an important section of the original Lister Ward in the Royal Glasgow Infirmary, together with its original fittings, furnishing and equipment. These were transferred to London and now form the center of the Lister Collection in the Historical Medical Museum,

Early this year, several distinguished officials of the American College of Surgeons notified me of the intention to hold a Lister Centenary celebration in America, and requested me to aid them in their project.

It gave us great pleasure to respond with an offer of the collection of replicas now on view in the American College of Surgeons Lister Centenary exhibition, and intended to form a permanent exhibit in the Museum of the College. An exact model of the original Lister ward is included in this collection.

This collection is listed in the descriptive catalog supplied by the Historical Medical Museum. I desire to say that the members of my Museum staff carried out the preparation of this collection with the utmost zeal and enthusiasm, having special regard to its destination and purpose.

Special credit is due to Mr. Malcolm, conser-

vator of the Museum who directed and supervised the work.

It seems to me most natural and appropriate that the American College of Surgeons should receive the co-operation of the Historical Medical Museum of London. Both institutions were organized and born in the same year. Sir Rickman Godlee, nephew of Lord Lister, and himself a very distinguished surgeon, was then president of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. He was one of the Godfathers of the American College of Surgeons. Furthermore, Sir Rickman gave interested co-operation in the organization of the American College. Likewise, Sir Rickman Godlee, in the same year, was one of the Godfathers of the Historical Medical Museum, London, and gave interested cooperation in its organization.

In the last section of the descriptive catalogue, is a brief excerpt from the speech of Sir Rickman, when he assisted at the inauguration ceremony of the Museum.

Another link in the affiliation between the American College of Surgeons and the Historical Medical Museum is the Great Golden Mace inscribed: "From the Consulting Surgeons of the British Armies to the American College of Surgeons in Memory of Mutual Work and Good Fellowship in the Great War, 1914-1918."

Mr. President, the original Great Golden Mace, rich in profoundly significant emblemism, rests on the pedestal before you.<sup>1</sup> At the time of the presentation of this Mace to the American College of Surgeons, leading British Surgeons requested me to commission the sculptor of this remarkable example of Goldsmith's craft to execute an exact replica, to remain in England. That replica was wrought with fidelity and rests in the Hall of

<sup>1</sup>For complete description of the Great Mace see Surg., Gynec. & Obst., 1920, xxxi, 648-650.

Statuary at the Historical Medical Museum, London.

While the American College of Surgeons hold the original Mace, as a sacred reminder, the Historical Medical Museum holds the replica as a reminder, equally sacred.

Of the Lister Collection, the American College of Surgeons now holds the replicas and the Historical Medical Museum holds the originals. Both collections will, I trust, serve as reminders of mutual good will, endeavor and co-operation in the promotion and advancement of the sciences of medicine and surgery.

I would like to mention one of my many personal obligations to America and American surgeons. One of my most valued preceptors, and the one who, in my youth, inspired and guided me in my studies, and insisted on my qualifying myself for a career in the field of science, was that great pioneer surgeon in the West, Dr. William Worsley Mayo, the father of those two gifted surgeons, William and Charles Mayo, who have earned world-wide renown by their scientific achievements.

Mr. President, I beg you to accept this offering for the American College of Surgeons from the Historical Medical Museum of London.

**T**HE president of the College, Dr. George David Stewart, accepted the replica of the Lister Exhibit, in behalf of the officers and Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, and the following resolution of thanks was authorized by the Board of Regents:

WHEREAS the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, through the kindness and generosity of Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, its Founder and Director, has presented to the American College of Surgeons a replica of the Lister Collection in the Wellcome Museum in London, and

WHEREAS Mr. Wellcome has so generously presented to



the College for distribution copies of the descriptive catalogue of the Lister Exhibit, and

WHEREAS this exhibit was the outstanding feature of the Lister Centenary celebration of the American College of Surgeons held in conjunction with its Clinical Congress in Detroit, October 3 to 7, 1927,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the appreciation and thanks of the officers, Regents, and Fellows of the American College of Surgeons be transmitted to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, and to its founder and director, Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, for this timely gift, which is to have a place in the museum of the College, where it will serve as a constant reminder to the Fellows and all visitors of the outstanding achievements of Lister, "the Founder of Scientific Surgery," and the great debt which they owe to him for his epoch-making discoveries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the thanks and appreciation of the officers, Regents, and Fellows of the College be transmitted to the staff of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum for their zealous and enthusiastic work in preparing the Lister collection and the descriptive catalogues, and

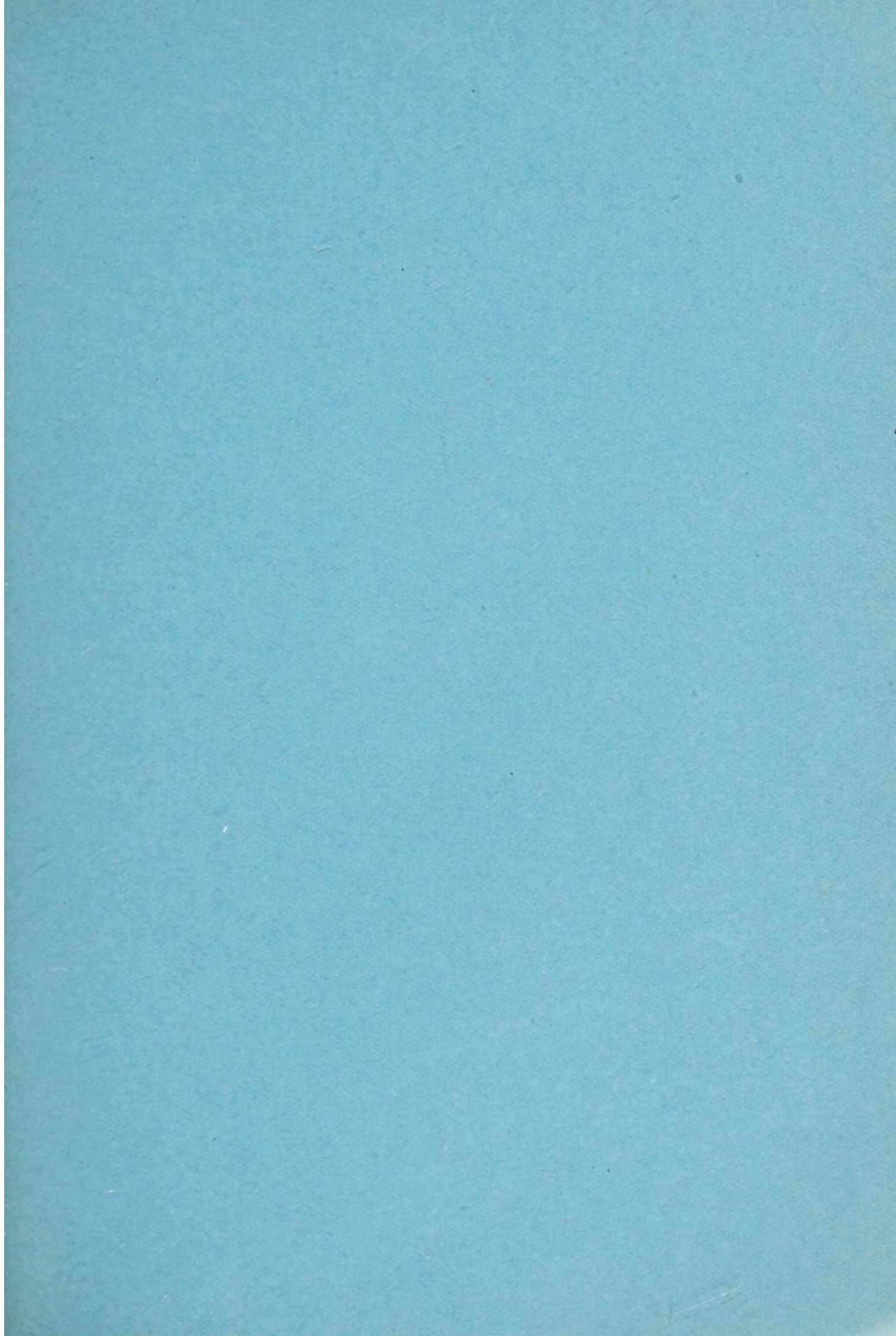
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director General of the American College of Surgeons be asked to transmit a copy of this resolution to Mr. Wellcome and to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum.



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