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IN MEMORIAM

SIR WILLIAM SAVORY, BART.

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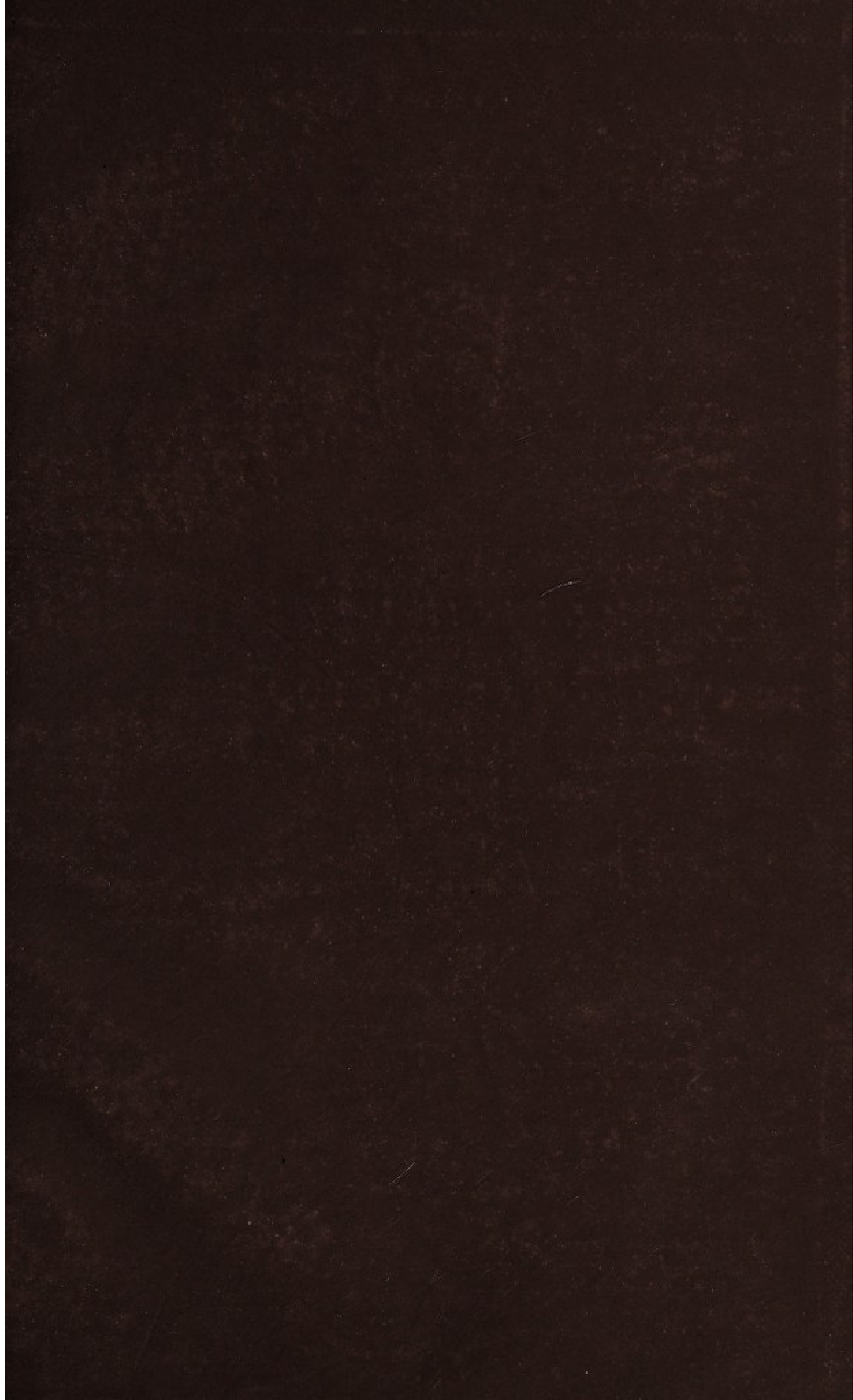

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In Memoriam.

SIR WILLIAM SAVORY, BART., F.R.S.

BY

HOWARD MARSH.

The death of Sir William Savory on March 4, 1895, came as a painful surprise, not only to the profession at large, but also to his intimate friends; for all through life his health had been sound and strong, and the only severe illness from which he had suffered was blood-poisoning from a prick of the finger during an operation in 1867. Up to the commencement of the attack which proved fatal, he had preserved all the vigour and freshness of middle life. His years had scarcely begun to tell upon him, and it seemed probable that he would afford, with Lawrence, Burrows, and the two Pagets, an illustration of the fact that the natural superiority over his fellows which enables a man to reach and hold a foremost place, becomes, later on, apparent in a reserve of energy and staying power, which moves the period of life onward by ten or fifteen years. Unhappily, in his case, however, this anticipation was not destined to be realised. During his fatal illness Sir William was attended by his relative Dr. Pavy and by Dr. Habershon; to the latter the writer is indebted for the following account.

The first symptom complained of was a momentary cardiac oppression and breathlessness, occurring several times in the course of the night, awaking him suddenly from sleep, and producing a condition of nervous apprehension and dread which effectually destroyed his rest. The attack was evidently of the nature of a cardiac neurosis of vaso-motor origin, producing a momentary *angina sine dolore*. Treatment led to some improvement, but the attacks did not entirely subside. Dr. Pavy and Dr.

Habershon were daily at the house, and all went on well until the morning of March 1st, when the temperature, which had previously been normal, was found to be slightly raised. He now complained of feeling very poorly, and there were signs of bronchial catarrh. He was at once kept to his room, and Sister John was summoned from the Hospital to nurse him. His mental depression may be gauged by the remark he made to his daughter-in-law as he was leaving his study, that "he might say good-bye to it, as he should never see it again."

There was no doubt that at this time he was suffering from influenza, which had already attacked several members of his household; but during the following two days the catarrhal symptoms developed but slowly, and the strength was well maintained. There was, however, extreme weakness, especially at night, and very little sleep.

"Once," Dr. Habershon relates, "when I remarked upon this most trying symptom, he said in his old impressive way, 'Ah! Habershon, this restlessness is but the conflict of disease with the constitution; if the constitution gains the mastery, the result is peace; and if the disease conquers, the end is also peace, but it is the peace of death.'"

With this exception, no word of apprehension or anxiety passed his lips. On Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, for the first time, some irregularity of the pulse and signs of heart failure were observed; but with appropriate cardiac stimulation he rallied, and at midnight the pulse was again steady and improved, while the temperature was lower. During the early hours of Monday, March 4th, however, sudden and profound collapse supervened, with extreme cardiac dilatation; all remedies proved of no avail, and in a few hours he passed away, conscious almost to the close.

Sir William Scovell Savory was the son of Mr. William Henry Savory, by his second wife, Mary Webb; the only other child of the marriage being Dr. Charles Savory of Canonbury, who was educated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has long had an extensive practice in the north of London. The two brothers were always warmly attached to each other.

Savory was born within the precincts of the City of London —where his father was engaged in business, and was churchwarden of the parish of St. Mary Athill—on November 30, 1826.

Entering at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1844, he passed the College of Surgeons in 1847, and was appointed temporary House-Surgeon to Mr. Stanley in 1848. Savory rapidly became the most distinguished student of his time. He gained all the

chief prizes in the Medical School, and at the University of London in 1848 won the scholarship and gold medal in Physiology and Comparative Anatomy, the gold medal in Surgery, the gold medal in Midwifery, and honours in Medicine.

With such a record, he was early selected as a member of the teaching staff as Demonstrator of Anatomy. In 1850 he was appointed Medical Tutor, and in 1852 he took the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons. In 1859 he became Lecturer on General Anatomy and Physiology at the Hospital, in succession to Paget, who resigned this chair when he followed Lawrence as Lecturer on Surgery.

In those days the Curatorship of the Museum was conjoined with the Lecturership on General Anatomy and Physiology. While he was Curator, Savory earnestly devoted himself to pathology and morbid anatomy. Much of his work was original, and was the outcome of his researches in the department of physiology in which he was at that time chiefly engaged. But he was a good Curator in another sense. He was enthusiastic in his admiration of the work of such pioneers as Pott, Abernethy, Stanley, and Paget, who by their sagacity, watchfulness, and untiring industry had laid the foundation for a great Pathological Museum, which it was, as he felt, the manifest duty of their successor to cultivate and develop to the utmost of his power. He worthily followed up their labours, and while he was in charge, the collection was maintained in excellent order and enriched by the addition of a large number of valuable specimens.

Having contributed papers to the Philosophical Transactions on "The Structure and Connexions of the Valves of the Human Heart," on "The Development of Striated Muscular Fibre in Mammalia," and on "The Relative Temperature of Arterial and Venous Blood," he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1858. He continued to lecture on physiology until 1869, when Paget resigned the Surgical Lecturership; he was then appointed to this chair conjointly with Coote, and later with Callender. On Callender's death in 1879, Savory became sole Lecturer, and so remained till he resigned in 1889. He was thus a Lecturer on one or other of two of the most important subjects in the School for about thirty years.

In 1861 Mr. Lloyd resigned the office of Surgeon, and Mr. Wormald succeeded him. To fill the vacancy thus created, Savory was appointed Assistant-Surgeon, and in 1867, on the resignation of Mr. Wormald, full Surgeon. In 1891, having reached the age limit of sixty-five, he retired from the active

service of the Hospital, and was appointed Honorary Consulting Surgeon, and chosen a Governor. For many years he was Surgeon to Christ's Hospital.

As Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and as a member of the Medical School, Savory occupied a position which few are competent to hold. He inspired, even at first sight, the conviction that he was no ordinary man. In personal appearance he was strikingly handsome and fine-looking. Somewhat over five feet ten inches in height, he had a well-developed chest and broad shoulders. Thus his figure was cast in a large mould; but the impression it conveyed was not that of great physical strength —for his muscular development was comparatively slight, and his hands, though large, were somewhat thin and soft—but rather of a just correspondence between the bodily type and the man himself. His forehead was large, high, and finely proportioned; and the writer has heard him say, with quiet complacency, that Lawrence and he wore hats of exactly the same size. His eye was pale blue, inclining to be gray. Its general expression was that of calm intelligence, but it was singularly expressive, and its range of expression was remarkable. It is a truism to say that the eye often discloses the whole man, and that the more remarkable the man, the more telling is the eye. Savory's eye was clear, steady, and alert; it seemed to give a pledge more binding than any words; it could be eloquent in thanks, it could convey generous approval. These were its quiet moments. But in an instant it became all aglow, and expressive, as the occasion ruled, of keen attention, intense amusement, or blank incredulity; or it would cloud over and darken, and launch a sudden ultimatum. Steele, in the *Spectator*, tells us that he has seen an eyebrow call a man a scoundrel. Savory's eye, at all events till years brought larger tolerance and restraint, not only pronounced sentence, but it passed on to slay the enemy where he stood.

The stamp of man was clearly apparent in the modelling of the lower jaw. This and the mouth gave no suggestion of coarseness or sensuality, they indicated strength, but strength on the intellectual side. The muscles of his clean-shaven face were all strongly marked, and many a student who could stand a good deal has felt very weak about the knees, mentally as well as physically, when he has found Savory's eye upon him, and has seen his masseters in a condition of rhythmic contraction.

He was never a laborious clinical teacher. Always able to acquire knowledge very easily, he was easily bored. A succession every three months of a fresh group of Dressers—of men

who, however intelligent, cultured, earnest, able, and pleasant as junior colleagues, were yet merely beginners — kept him down to rudiments and to a routine for which he had little taste.

But a student who was, so to say, out of his teens, and who could observe and weigh for himself, learnt much from following Savory's practice. The senior student was attracted by his striking general characteristics,—his complete straightforwardness and transparent honesty of word and purpose, and his high tone in regard to every aspect of professional conduct. As to any spirit of trade or any unworthy trick or device in the pursuit of professional success, these things, which are plain enough to lookers-on, were in him conspicuous by their absence, and their absence is always attractive. His bearing in the wards, while it was calculated to strike awe into the mind of a new Dresser, became, to one who had gained a larger experience of the attitude and relations of the staff to their junior friends, much less formidable—in fact, merely a pleasant stimulus. All this led a senior man on to observe Savory's intellectual force, his familiar knowledge of physiology in its application to surgery, his intimate acquaintance with pathology and with the classical specimens contained in the Museum of the College of Surgeons and of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and his enthusiasm for the teaching and practice of such leaders as Brodie and Lawrence, whose doctrines he regarded, and constantly spoke of, as the principles of surgery.

The result was that, if there were certain things which he missed, such as the early recognition and adoption of new views and new lines of practice, and perhaps some want of familiarity with methods and proceedings which, though they were of minor importance, were yet of real value, the senior man found himself amply repaid for any time that he spent with Sir William Savory.

In the management of individual cases, Savory's sound knowledge and sagacity were always conspicuous. In diagnosis he was at his best in dealing with tumours, and diseases of the bones; but in all cases alike the conclusion at which he arrived was the outcome of a robust intelligence, and a large and well-digested experience, was clear and definite, and was expressed forcibly and concisely. In cases involving an appeal to the broad principles of surgery, and requiring hard common-sense and a well-balanced judgment, his opinion was always weighty and instructive, and, as a very general rule, as the result showed, perfectly correct.

As an operator he was thoroughly able and competent, but

he was not, nor ever cared to be regarded as a brilliant operator. Indeed, a brilliant operator was in his eyes a doubtful figure in surgery. He recognised and set a high value on the dexterity of which, for example, Fergusson was so complete a master, and which followed and was strictly subservient to a process of reasoning which took into account and placed in the order of their true value the different elements of the case in hand. But for the brilliancy that impressed lookers-on who were not advanced enough to be good judges, and that was either crude audacity or mere manual swagger, he always had a feeling of strong disapproval, which he was at no pains to conceal. This attitude disclosed two of Savory's strongest characteristics—the deep and unqualified respect that he entertained for the science and art of surgery, and the very thinly-veiled contempt which he felt for everything that was shallow or fictitious.

He was, to a great extent, ambidextrous, but he always operated with his left hand. In his manipulation there was nothing that was finical, hesitating, or confused; and his old House-Surgeons and Dressers will recollect how well he tied the femoral or performed Syme's amputation.

As a member of the Medical School, Savory always exerted a predominant and valuable influence. None could doubt that he had the best interests concerned completely at heart. His loyalty was unsullied by any detracting quality; his vision was clear; he was perfectly familiar with the constitutional history of the Hospital and the School; his memory was excellent, and he was earnest, grave, and dignified. Thus affairs were maintained at a high level while they were in his hands. It must, however, be allowed that his opinions were so strong, and that he maintained them with so much vigour and dialectical ability, that it was very difficult to move him. A great deal depended on the manner in which, or what is nearly equivalent, on the individual by whom he was approached. Early in his career there were some with whom he instinctively assumed a warlike attitude, and whom he was not prepared to pledge in the milk of human kindness. With such the sun went in behind the gathering clouds, the air was chill, and the wind rose in ominous gusts. It was a foregone conclusion how the encounter would end; and there was an equal certainty that no wish would be expressed for a second interview upon the same terms.

But there were many for whom Savory entertained a sentiment of warm and generous friendship, and with whom he always worked cordially and easily. Strong as his convictions were, he made it a constant rule to yield at last to the majority.

He stated his opinions, and gave his reasons for them; but when he had done thus much, and had made it perfectly clear that—

> "A man convinced against his will,
> Is of the same opinion still,"

he left the matter to the general voice. In this way many things which he would have preferred to leave undisturbed were gradually changed.

The following incident appears worthy of being recorded as an indication of his qualities as a colleague. When one who was at the time a junior member of the staff became his Assistant-Surgeon, Savory said, when chatting over the work in the wards, "What about the beds?"—meaning how many would he like to make use of. On receiving the reply, "Oh, I think that must be from you," he remarked, "Well, take what you like, and if that is not enough, let us talk the matter over again." This arrangement, which indicated an official liberality which juniors all the world over will appreciate, worked smoothly and without interruption until the connection was severed by changes in the staff.

All St. Bartholomew's men will remember Savory's renown as a lecturer. When it is said that such an one is a good lecturer, in whatever department of teaching, it is necessary to inquire in what sense the phrase is used. Many men are good lecturers who have no claim to be called good speakers; for in lecturing there is the material, and there is the medium by which the material is conveyed, and these two things are different. A poor or even a bad speaker may be a very good lecturer, for his material may be of the highest value, although the best that he can do is to convey it in a hesitating manner and in broken and stilted sentences. Another, although he is a fluent talker, is little better than sounding brass. The material is not there. Either his knowledge is second-hand—much of it is plainly stamped "made in Germany"—or he is without the full measure of long and varied personal experience which is necessary to render him a master of his subject. But some admirable Lecturers, who are also excellent speakers, think nothing of style, but make it their only aim to convey the best they know of the subject before them. The writer well remembers the lectures of Sir William Jenner. They were entirely devoid of style, but they always created a strong impression. They were rich in material, and were delivered in plain language, in short, telling sentences, while the Lecturer moved about on a platform in front of his audience, generally holding a short pointer

which he handled in such a way as to suggest some danger to the head of any member of the class who failed to pay attention. His manner was energetic, sometimes vehement, and he seemed absorbed in the business of stating what he had to say so that it should never be forgotten. He appeared, indeed, to have his eye on the future, and to dread that, on meeting him in consultation, he might find that one of his pupils had forgotten to look for sugar, or to examine the gums for evidence of lead-poisoning.

Humphry of Cambridge, when he lectured on anatomy, had a manner of his own, in which he left style to take care of itself. Sitting edgeways on a high stool, and handling the keys in his pocket, he placed his material, often quite original, and always suggestive and interesting, before his class in attractive and well chosen but conversational language, while at the same time he conveyed the idea that if men did not listen, and listen with intelligence, when they met the Lecturer in the dissecting-room, or, later on, in the wards of Addenbrooke's Hospital, they must expect a very uncomfortable quarter of an hour.

In Savory's lectures style was conspicuous. He was, in fact, a born orator, and each lecture was an oration. His appearance, his bearing, and his voice were all entirely in his favour. He had an ample command of pure and vigorous English, there was nothing prolix or obscure, and, when he chose, he could make effective use of wit, irony, or satire. With a correct sense of proportion, he addressed himself to the essential parts and main principles of his subject, and never descended to details which he had no time to elaborate, and which would have obscured the broader outlines which it was his object to present. Conscious of his gifts as a speaker, he had carefully studied the best public speakers of the day. When a young man he often heard the leaders of Parliament, visited the Law Courts, and attended churches wherever celebrated preachers were to be found. Students heard his lectures with admiration, and it is a remarkable testimony to the effect they produced, that a pathologist who is one of the ablest thinkers and busiest workers in London, and himself an excellent lecturer, attended his classes for one if not two winter sessions.

From one point of view, however, Savory's lectures, as well as his clinical work, were open to criticism. He looked coldly upon change, and was not at all times quite sufficiently ready to accept modern advances. By this it is not meant that he disliked a thing merely because it was new. His intelligence would have revolted from any such foolish prejudice.

But at the dawn of aseptic surgery, some twenty-five years ago, he was, like many others of that time, placed in a position of great difficulty. He was given to understand that old things were passing away and that all things were becoming new. He was in a strong current, which was bearing him away in an entirely novel direction, and his difficulty was increased by the circumstance that the new order of things, whatever elements of truth it might ultimately prove to contain, appeared to him to be mixed up with many inconsistencies, and absurdities so palpable that they must make even the angels weep. Being himself only human, they made him chuckle with the keenest enjoyment.

Revolutionary periods, however, are times rather of enthusiasm and impulse than of cautious and mature judgment, and it must be allowed that Savory's attitude was too much one of immediate recoil. But having said thus much, it is necessary at once to indicate the ground on which he really stood. With the objects of the new School of Surgery he was entirely in sympathy; indeed, they were those which he had always endeavoured to obtain, and which, considering the times, he had in a large measure secured. But he was convinced that some of the details of practice which he saw adopted were open to serious objection. Time has shown that he was right, and the methods which he criticised have long since been superseded. Nor need this be a matter of surprise. In all new departures the original methods employed are apt to be crude and defective. As the German proverb says, All beginnings are difficult—"Aller Anfang ist schwer."

Savory's judgment erred in this: he did not at once apprehend the fact that behind all these early attempts and tentative proceedings—the sprays and the antiseptic putties—there lay a principle that was to revolutionize surgery and enormously extend its field, and make surgery, in a manner hitherto undreamt of, auxiliary to the practice of medicine.

Sir William Savory was elected a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1877. Here he was to play a leading part for many years to come. His intellectual force, his high character, his powers of exposition and of argument, and his power also to make an unwelcome adversary smart, soon placed him, by common consent, in a position of weight and authority. The present article offers no fitting occasion for a discussion of the politics of the College. Yet some reference to the subject is unavoidable. The history of many corporate bodies is, in one respect, very much the same. The bulk of the executive members usually lean in the direction of maintaining

the *status quo.* They are conscious that their duties are discharged with full integrity and diligence, and with an amount of labour which often meets with but scanty recognition. They feel themselves the custodians of interests which they must not lightly impair, and, as a most material point, they are in possession of special information which largely modifies a *prima facie* view of the subjects which present themselves for discussion. In these circumstances they are likely, when crucial or even material changes are proposed, to err, if at all, on the side of caution and delay. They are at least prompted to wait until it becomes clear that the alterations urged upon them are endorsed by the will of the majority. On the other hand, the desire for change is always prone to assert itself in the ranks of a constituency. New-comers regard things in a new light. The spirit of democracy—the term is here used in no adverse sense—is ever a rising tide. In its moderate flow it is the outcome and expression of sound growth and normal progress. In the seventies and subsequently, some changes proposed by the constituency were readily adopted by the Council, while some emanated from the Council itself. And both alike marked a healthy development, the establishment of just claims, and the recognition of entirely legitimate aspirations. During this time, however, various questions were raised which led to wide differences of opinion, and to vehement, and even, in some quarters, acrimonious debates.

In such disturbed periods, it was highly necessary that the action of the Council should be characterised by sound judgment. Under these circumstances Savory exercised a steadying influence, the value of which it would be difficult to exaggerate. He was undoubtedly a strong conservative. By some of his opponents he was regarded not only as firm, but as obstinate. Yet the power to say "No" is a very useful gift. It has a strong effect in defining the situation and bringing a discussion to its ultimate terms. It often averts a false step which would be difficult to retrace.

Doubtless there are many, whose path it has crossed, who regard obstinacy as altogether blameworthy. To such the following words of Burke, which have been brought to the notice of the writer by Dr. Norman Moore, may be commended. The quotation is a part of the famous passage on Charles Townshend. "Obstinacy, sir, is certainly a great vice, and in the changeful state of political affairs it is frequently the cause of great mischief. It happens, however, very unfortunately, that almost the whole line of the great and masculine virtues, constancy, gravity, magnanimity, fortitude, fidelity, and firmness, are

closely allied to this disagreeable quality of which you have so just an abhorrence, and in their excess all these virtues very easily fall into it."

In Savory's case those who differed from him could not fail to be impressed with his grasp of the various subjects in dispute, his accurate knowledge, and the statesmanship—the word is not too strong—which he always displayed. His strongest opponents always spoke of him as one whom they could cordially respect.

The general esteem in which he was held, and the position he occupied in the eyes of his colleagues on the Council, were indicated by the remarkable fact that, having held the office of President in 1885, he was re-elected, not only once, but on three successive occasions, so that he occupied the presidential chair for an uninterrupted period of four years, an event entirely unprecedented in the history of the College.

The subjects which chiefly occupied his attention, and in the development of which his influence was always predominant, were the union with the College of Physicians, and the erection of the Examination Hall; the Supplemental Charter of 1888; the extension of the curriculum to five years; and the scheme for a Teaching University for London.

He was Hunterian Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Physiology in 1859–60 and 1860–61; Bradshaw Lecturer in 1884 and Hunterian Orator in 1887. This oration given, as his custom was, without a note, was pronounced by all who heard it admirable alike in the material it embodied, the purity of its style, and the skill and grace with which it was delivered.

In 1893 he became one of the Trustees of the Hunterian Collection, and so remained up till the period of his death. He was a member of the Board of Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology from its establishment in 1875 to 1878, and a member of the Court of Examiners from 1870 to 1885.

Savory was not a voluminous writer. Nothing would have induced him to write in order to obtain notoriety or secure professional success. The knowledge he had to communicate was conveyed chiefly in the form of lectures, and these lectures were never published. He contributed papers, however, from time to time to the Transactions of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports, and the medical journals.

But there were special occasions on which he gave public lectures or addresses which showed his real strength. In 1863 he delivered a course of four lectures on "Life and Death" at the Royal Institution; and he twice gave the introductory

lecture at the opening of the winter session at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

On these and similar occasions Savory was at his best, and showed himself as a man not only of great intellectual power, but also of high convictions and aspirations, with a philosophical mind, and an earnest devotion to the claims of duty.

His address on "Surgery" at the meeting of the British Medical Association in Cork in 1879 might well be compared with the best efforts of the great leaders of the Bar when some case upon which all eyes are fixed is being tried. It comprised and illustrated all the elements of the highest forms of forensic eloquence, and showed that, had Savory adopted a parliamentary or a legal career, he must have held foremost rank amongst the celebrated debaters or advocates of his day. It also showed how high-minded and just a man he was. The address was a direct and uncompromising attack on some of the principles, and on the practice of Professor Lister; but from its opening to its close he never for a moment confused the scientific question under debate with the personality of his opponent. There were no reflections made, and no aspersions cast. He spoke as if he were sure his adversary was completely wrong, and he did his best to show that this was the case; but every word he uttered was the word of an honourable man addressed to an honourable and distinguished opponent. The appended extract will serve not only to demonstrate Savory's position on this occasion: it will serve also as a model of the spirit in which controversies on scientific subjects ought to be conducted. *O si sic omnes!*

"One word further. I have spoken without reserve—as I take it I was bound to do if I spoke at all—of this now famous plan of treatment. By this I think I have shown the truest respect for the author of it. If I esteemed the practice of Professor Lister less, it would have been easy to offer him the homage of flattery, to congratulate him on his renown. It appears to me that I have evinced more regard for his authority and placed a higher estimate on his work by studying to the best of my ability the method he has introduced, by not expressing an opinion adverse to it in public, or from a position of responsibility such as this, until my conviction had grown strong and clear; and then I think I best mark my appreciation of his purpose by thus speaking out freely and fully. And though I am thus—not on principle, but in practice—opposed to him, and many others whose ability and knowledge I admire and respect, I know very well that on a yet greater issue—the advance of surgery—we are heartily

together; and with unfeigned diffidence of my own judgment, I have yet further consolation in the assurance that, if I am in error, these words of mine, even from this place, will prove no serious obstacle to the progress of truth."

In his introductory address in October 1860 the following occurs. It is quoted here as an illustration, taken at random, of his views and teaching, and of the form in which his teaching was conveyed:—

"Gentlemen, life is before you. If Anticipation, the enchantress of youth, could by the touch of her bewitching wand disclose to your view the future of your lives—could you, as you are, see what you might become, there need be no misgiving of the course you would pursue. But what is now all mist and shadow, Time, the great magician, will soon, too soon, reveal; so soon, that before this session shall have passed, it may not be impossible to discern the destiny of many amongst you. Your choice is still free, but you have no hours to spare. Though that alone were not inglorious, there are far higher motives to industry than mere worldly advancement Industry will ensure knowledge, and knowledge is excellent for its own sake. The knowledge that you will acquire is most excellent and most useful. Most useful to yourselves, for it will, if rightly employed, enlarge every faculty, exalt the understanding, and ennoble your whole mind. Nay, more, the study of the last of Nature's works should teach the truest wisdom, for this transient structure tells, in every change it undergoes, of a life Elysian for the spirit it enshrines. And lastly, though not least, most useful to others, for the aim and end of your work is to do good: 'to give a true account of your gift of reason for the benefit and use of man.'"

Before this retrospect is brought to a close, some allusion must be made to Savory's life in his own household and among his personal friends, for often those who were brought into contact with him only in the routine of official life, and on occasions of discussion or controversy, were led into a misconception as to his real character and disposition. To many he seemed cold, distant, and unsympathetic; rather swayed by ready dislikes, and a too supercilious estimate of other men's powers and acquirements, than genial, tolerant, and ready to offer the right hand of fellowship. But this was to a great extent a mistaken estimate. Although only those who knew him well were aware of it, Savory was highly strung, and acutely, almost painfully, sensitive. Whatever he felt he felt intensely. He was warmly attached to his friends, and much concerned if they were anxious or distressed. It is generally known how much

he was shaken by the death of his old and intimate friend, Mr. Hulke, for whose character, ability, and accomplishments he had a genuine admiration. Any illness in his own family threw him into a panic, and he became depressed and miserable. On the other hand, no one enjoyed quiet fun, pleasant banter, or even frolic, more than he did. He could be intensely amused, and, though he usually made a strong, and more or less successful attempt to suppress the physical side of laughter, it sometimes looked as if the effort might be followed by serious consequences. The writer remembers him at one of the Inter-Hospital football matches, completely absorbed, pale with excitement, and apparently scarcely able to resist the impulse of rushing into the thick of the contest.

No one was a better judge of what was generous, single-hearted, and true; no one recoiled more instinctively from what was base, trumpery, or cunning; no one saw more clearly what are the things that elevate, and what are those which degrade a man or a profession. To the former he extended a hearty approbation; they satisfied him, and gave him positive happiness. From the latter he shrank with profound dislike. Any one of whom all this can be justly said must be a man, as assuredly Savory was, of elevated and fine character; but at the same time it may be granted that things which others, who were equally right-minded but less acutely sensitive, could take in good part, and pass by as unimportant, sometimes roused him to protest and opposition, and thus when his opponents thought him hard and uncompromising, his attitude was due merely to the fact that, unhappily, his fur had been stroked the wrong way.

Savory's generosity and warmth of friendship for those with whom he was intimately associated were shown by the relations which existed between himself and every one of the long list of his House-Surgeons. It would be hard to name any appointment, open to men of two or three and twenty, the duties of which are more highly responsible, arduous, and, on occasions, difficult, than are those of the House-Surgeons of the large London hospitals. The best may find himself, either because he has been for a moment off his guard, or because circumstances have conspired to entrap him, placed in a very embarrassing position, and exposed to blame which he by no means deserves. Savory always appreciated this. His attitude towards his House-Surgeons was one of magnanimous loyalty and hearty support. He evidently felt that his junior colleague was, so to say, *ex officio* entitled to special consideration. This attitude won for him the warm thanks and devotion of all his

House-Surgeons, and made them proud to have held office under him. Out of these sentiments there arose in 1888 an event which gave him the keenest gratification. His House-Surgeons, to the number of thirty-five, subscribed for his bust, and this was produced in marble by Mr. Hope-Pinker. It was a remarkable success, and was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1890, having been already, in 1889, presented to Savory by his first House-Surgeon, Macready, at the residence of Chune Fletcher, in the Charter-house, in the presence of almost all the subscribers. It has been decided by the Council to place a replica of this bust by Mr. Hope-Pinker in the Royal College of Surgeons, where it will have for its companions the busts of Pott, Abernethy, Lawrence, and Paget.

It was a matter of course that the feelings entertained on all sides for one who had rendered such great services to the Hospital and School should find a permanent expression and record, and Savory, on his retirement from the Hospital in 1891, was asked by his friends and former pupils to sit for his portrait. This was painted by Mr. Walter Ouless, R.A., and, after exhibition in the Royal Academy in 1892, was presented by Sir James Paget, in the name of the subscribers, to the Governors, and placed in the great hall of the Hospital.

In 1887 Savory became Surgeon Extraordinary to the Queen, and in 1890 her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of a baronetcy.

The following is from the pen of Mr. Oliver Pemberton, an excellent judge of men and manners, who knew Savory intimately in his early days, and who throughout a long life was one of his intimate and most highly valued friends.

"It was at the commencement of the winter session of October 1846 that I first saw William Savory—the place the dissecting-room of St. Bartholomew's—the time soon after nine in the morning, when the early refreshment of Paget's lecture at eight had ended, and his audience dispersing, broke the deep silence that had held them listening spell-bound to the words of the master of surgical pathology during the previous hour.

"The envied possessors of a 'head and neck'—absolutely unlearned in the first steps of dissection—were gazing helpless at their property. The scalp, removed in pieces, bore testimony to their difficulties and struggles.

"What next was to be done?

"Happily their tools looked handy, and, as I stood behind them, it was not without misgivings, being a stranger, that I proffered assistance.

"Pleasingly accepted, the work made way, smoothed by an

interchange of those occasional and original reflections peculiar to the men that hang about a dissecting-table and never dissect.

"The last touch of saw and scalpel had been made, and I was laying them down, when I felt a firm hold of my shoulder. I turned suddenly as I caught the clear tones of a voice that said, 'This is not the first time, sir, let me tell you, you've managed this business. I've been watching you.'

"I found afterwards the speaker was Savory, and the next day, without further preface, began a friendship which death only closed at the end of nigh fifty years.

"In his student days Savory displayed clearly the chief features of character, conduct, as well as language, that marked him, well nigh unchanged throughout life. At this time he was twenty and I a year older.

"These comprised extreme accuracy in all things he undertook; as applied to memory an infallibility. The fellow-student had only to ask regarding a minute point in anatomy or physiology to at once receive the information; but it would be given with the invariable smile—the kindly correcting light of surprise in eye and turn in lips that said more plainly than words, 'You ought to know this without my help. Why do I know?'

"Herein was evident the existence with him of an intense satisfaction—a supreme pride that moved his entire nature, producing, as it were, a thrill of joy that he had worked, and knew that which others had failed to grasp.

"This was not ill-natured pride, but rather that self-congratulation that justly is the sweetest reward of mental culture. Here was ever Savory's triumph. He enjoyed the victory he himself had gained over knowledge, but he never failed to convey the impression, whenever he solved a difficulty, that the solution held, in addition, a kindly rebuke.

"I think, imperfectly as this peculiarity is set down, that it remained unaltered. In hospital work, in scientific meetings, in professional and social intercourse with his most intimate friends, it ever existed. In the every-day work of the world it never seemed to me that he felt any sense of inferiority; there was a loftiness of nature about him—a high-minded sense of what was fitting, that led him to regard the arts of deceit, with all its cunning devices—to gratify personal ambition—with a withering scorn that meant degradation in the mere knowledge of its existence. Yet with all this there was not any assertion of superiority—no conceit.

"No one can have been familiar with Savory's manner without becoming aware in numberless things, said and done, that

there was evident in him a supreme consciousness of power. From this arose the earnest desire to acquire that which, to my mind, constitutes in its attainment the summit of worldly hopes—the admiration of one's fellows—the hearing the 'breath of human praise.' His devotion to this object, the legitimate expectation of culture and personal honour, never ceased, and the reward came.

"This came in the shape of an acknowledgment, never cancelled, not even challenged, that he possessed the gift of speech, the faculty of lucid statement, at once brief yet complete. It was with him from his earliest days, and it never left him. As time went on the endowment grew, so that, as it grew, it became refined and polished, compelling, on supreme occasions, acclamation, again and again maintained, in appreciation of the speaker. Who will fail to agree in this who listened to Savory's address at Cork before the British Medical Association, or the Hunterian oration at the College of Surgeons? Faultless in elocution, in language, in expression, each oration for an hour riveted the attention of audiences skilled for criticism and not averse for censure.

"His choice of words always struck me as vividly realising a purity of style attained but seldom, save by those with whom public speaking constituted the main avocation. Doubtless he took his model, and for this he had only to look within the area of his own calling; for from his earliest days as a student he had Lawrence—at the college, Joseph Henry Green—and amongst us, now eloquent as at the beginning, the Nestor of the profession, Sir James Paget. With Savory the courtesies of everyday life were never absent, and though his intercourse with the world was neither infrequent nor unsympathetic, his friendships were few in number. Those who knew the inner life—the home surroundings, the occupations and thoughts apart from the profession—recognised both the firmness and the constancy of his friendship. It was never capricious. He could find fault, and no one who knew him would deny his capacity for disagreement; but his manner of differing, from its convincing strength of utterance and truth, served only in the end to draw closer the bonds of attachment.

"There was one that I too most dearly respected, and knew to be a friend, whom Savory regarded with the closest affection—I mean John Whitaker Hulke. By the sudden and untimely death of Hulke—one of the most learned and accomplished of men—Savory was deeply affected. He wrote me a few days afterwards a most touching reference to Hulke's integrity and personal honour, and to the irreparable loss

that he had sustained by his death. Within a week, Savory himself was stricken with fatal illness, and soon followed his friend to the grave.

"It was impossible to look on Savory without being struck by his intellectual grace. In gesture, in movement, this was especially remarkable, whilst the sparkle of eye and play of mouth gave evidence of his keen enjoyment of those flashes of wit which he regarded as giving a new life to our thoughts and understanding.

"Words once spoken by a great jurist in reference to the premature death of a fellow-worker commend themselves to my judgment as applicable in all ways to William Scovell Savory:—

> 'Pulcher, pulcher et acer
> Et nobilis et generosus.'"