

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

ROBERT LEE, M.D., F.R.S.,

LECTURER ON MIDWIFERY AT ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, AND PHYSICIAN TO THE BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

[The Portrait is from a Crayon Daguerreotype just taken by MR. MAYALL, 433, West Strand.]

THE subject of this memoir was born in 1793, at Whitelaw, on the Gala, a river celebrated in Scottish song, in the parish of Melrose, and county of Roxburgh. His father, John Lee, was long one of the most extensive and opulent agriculturists in the south of Scotland. His second son, Robert, was educated at Galashiels, chiefly by the late Rev. Robert Balmer, D.D., of Berwick. The Rev. Dr. Lee, the learned Principal of the University of Edinburgh at the present time, is related to Dr. Robert Lee. His native place was on the opposite side of the Gala, about half a mile from Whitelaw. Principal Lee is without doubt the ripest scholar in Scotland. ROBERT LEE went to the University of Edinburgh in 1806. He was at first intended for the church, but after attending all the literary and philosophical classes, he relinquished his clerical studies, and devoted himself to medicine. He took the degree of M.D. in 1814, on the same day with Professor Grant, Dr. John Davy, Dr. J. J. Bigsby, Dr. Gairdner, (of Bolton-street,) and Dr. Musgrave, (of Antigua,) all of whom have risen to eminence in their profession. Dr. Lee was a member of the Royal Medical Society while at Edinburgh, and regularly attended the meetings during the whole period of his studies; but we believe he never once, from the great natural timidity under which he then laboured, spoke upon any subject, or attempted to take part in any debate. A similar circumstance is recorded of the historian, David Hume, who was for years a perfectly silent but regular member of one of the literary societies of Edinburgh. Dr. Lee was consequently known only to a few of his fellow students, by his great industry, his extensive reading, the diligence he displayed in attending the lectures of the various professors, and by his unwearied habit of taking full notes of the lectures in short-hand, especially those of Drs. Gregory, Hamilton, and John Thomson. Before this time an event had occurred, trifling in itself, but which influenced in a remarkable degree the whole of his future career. One day Dr. Lee was walking in Nicolson-street, and saw a copy of Taylor's "Stenography" in the window of a bookseller's shop. He went in and inquired the price, which was five shillings. He bought the book, and before the end of the session, without any help except that afforded by Taylor, he could, and did, take down the substance of every lecture he attended. Dr. Lee subsequently held, with reputation, the office of clinical clerk to Dr. Rutherford, in the Royal Infirmary. After graduating at the University, and also obtaining the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, he retired into the country for a year, and then returned to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where he acted as physician's clerk to Dr. James Hamilton, sen., till the close of 1817.

In 1817, when Dr. Lee was a physician's clerk in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, with no personal friends, it happened that Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. Zachary Macaulay, father of the historian, formed a benevolent plan of introducing a knowledge of medical science into St. Domingo, as a blessing fitted to follow upon the abolition of the slave-trade. Their intention was to found an university in Hayti, as an agent for the civilization of the black population. These philanthropists appointed a committee in Edinburgh, consisting of the late Dr. Abercrombie and some of the most distinguished men in that city, to select a physician fitted to teach anatomy and medicine in

the proposed university. The choice fell on Dr. Lee, and he was appointed by the committee Professor of Anatomy and Medicine, and directed to draw up lists of the books and apparatus required. Subsequently, these arrangements were altered by a committee sitting in London, and Dr. D. Stewart, the author of a paper on the Use of Opium in Uterine Hæmorrhage, in the fourth volume of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, was sent out to St. Domingo; and in a few years the whole island fell into a state of anarchy and bloodshed, in which Dr. Stewart unhappily perished. At the time Dr. Lee considered this a great misfortune, but it was, in reality, an escape from imminent danger, and a stroke of good fortune. Wilberforce and Macaulay continued his firm friends, and the matter led to a favourable introduction to Sir Gilbert Blane, and finally to his settling in practice in London.

Dr. Lee has the most vivid recollection of the kindness of these distinguished men, when he arrived as a comparative stranger in London. The following note, which he received from the great philanthropist about this time, shows the kindly feelings of this eminent man, and the incessant demands which his humane labours made upon his time.

Kensington Gore, Wednesday, five o'clock.

MY DEAR SIR,—I cannot tell you how vexed I am at being again disappointed in my intention of calling on you, in consequence of having received a hint from a kind friend that you were just now rather on the invalid list. Both Monday and yesterday I was engaged till late (by public business in committee) in a distant part of London, and did not reach Westminster till I was too late for the House of Commons, and to-day I have been imprisoned here till it is too late for me to go into Westminster at all. I beg your excuse for this trouble, and I am, with esteem,

My dear Sir, your faithful servant,

W. WILBERFORCE.

Dr. Lee.

Soon after this, Dr. Lee had entrusted to his care, by Sir Gilbert Blane, the only son of a distinguished statesman, who was afflicted with a hopeless disease. During this part of Dr. Lee's career, his life was spent in great seclusion in the family of the distinguished nobleman alluded to. The only persons whom he then mixed with in the performance of his duties, were men who have since achieved the highest honours this country can afford, several of them having risen to be lord chancellors and prime ministers, and other great officers in the State. Sir Gilbert Blane was himself one of the favourite pupils of Dr. William Hunter, was one of his most enlightened and enthusiastic admirers, owed his first important step in life to his patronage, and scarcely ever failed, to the end of his days, to hold up this distinguished physician to Dr. Lee as the model chiefly worthy of his imitation.

In 1830, Dr. Lee's certificate for admission to the Royal Society was written by Sir Gilbert Blane; and, in 1833, Dr. Lee's first work, entitled, "Researches on the Pathology and Treatment of some of the Most Important Diseases of Women," was dedicated "to his earliest benefactor and most revered friend, Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., who has for upwards of half a century devoted his talents to the advancement of medical science." Dr. Lee has never forgotten nor ceased to proclaim his obligation to this his earliest professional friend.

Dr. Lee, on relinquishing his first appointment, spent the winter of 1821 and 1822 in Paris, dissecting with his friend, the late Dr. William Cullen, in the private cabinet of M.

Breschet, visiting the hospitals, attending the lectures of Professors Beclard, Desormeaux, and M. Capuron, and studying the works of the best French accoucheurs, especially Guillemeau, Mauriceau, and Portal. After making an extensive tour with a family of high rank in the North of Italy and south of France, he returned to England. In 1823, he became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and a member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society. In 1824 he fixed his residence at No. 2, Upper John-street, Golden-square, and was appointed physician-accoucheur to a public institution; but when his prospects of professional success in London appeared promising, he was attacked with a severe indisposition, brought on by his incessant attendance on cases of difficult labour at public institutions. His recovery was slow, and fearing that his constitution was not sufficiently strong to endure the great fatigue which midwifery practice demands, he sought and obtained a medical appointment in the East India Company from the President of the Board of Control, and in the autumn was preparing to embark for Calcutta, when an occurrence took place which altered this resolution, and greatly influenced his future fortunes. This was an invitation to proceed to Odessa for nine months as physician to the family of his Excellency, Prince Woronzow, then governor-general of the Crimea, and the Russian provinces on the Black Sea.

This offer was accepted; and leaving London about the end of October, Dr. Lee set out for Odessa, crossing Europe by Vienna, Poland, and the Ukraine, and reached his destination before Christmas. In the autumn of 1825, Dr. Lee accompanied the governor-general and his family to the Crimea, where he was introduced to the Emperor Alexander, Count Diebitsch, and Sir James Wylie. The emperor had visited the Crimea, with an idea of building a palace on this beautiful coast, and an intention of retiring at no very remote period from the cares of empire. It, however, happened otherwise. He was seized with the epidemic fever then raging frightfully in the Crimea, and died after a very short illness. Dr. Lee dined with the emperor a few days before he was attacked. A narrative of all the circumstances attending the illness and death of his majesty, entitled, "The Last Days of the Emperor Alexander," was published by Dr. Lee, in the *Athenæum*, some years ago, to counteract the rumour which had been current, that the emperor did not die a natural death. The following is the conclusion of this interesting narrative, and which is conclusive respecting the suspicions which had prevailed.

"On the post-mortem examination of the body being made, the appearances observed were such as are most frequently met with in those dying from bilious remittent fever, with internal congestion. Two ounces of serous fluid were found in the ventricles of the brain, and all the veins and arteries were gorged with blood. There was an old adhesion between the pia and dura mater, at the back part, but of no great extent. The heart and lungs were sound, but too vascular. The liver was turgid with blood, and of a much darker colour than natural. The spleen was enlarged, and softened in texture."

"The prevalence of fever in the Crimea during the autumn, the sudden change of the weather when the emperor left the coast, the usual symptoms appearing in the course of a few days after quitting Perecop, as I had before observed in others, with the subsequent history of the disease, and the appearances after death, rendered it certain that the Emperor Alexander was cut off by the bilious remittent fever of the Crimea. During the six weeks I remained at Taganrog, after the emperor's death, I never heard that any one entertained a doubt, or expressed a suspicion, that his majesty's death was attributable to any other but a natural cause."

Dr. Lee had the honour of introducing the use of quinine for treating the fevers of the Crimea, which had never previously been known in practice there, but which was attended by the most beneficial results.

He returned to London from Russia with the Prince and Princess Woronzow, at the end of December, 1826. Sir John Malcolm, the intimate friend of his Excellency, was at this time about to quit England for the East Indies, as governor of Bombay; and Dr. Lee, who still held his Indian appointment, was introduced to Sir John Malcolm, with the view of his proceeding to Bombay in the suite of the governor, as his physician. Being now, however, in comparatively independent circumstances, and still suffering from attacks of Crimean fever, eager, also, to remain in London, and follow in the footsteps of his immortal countryman, Dr. William Hunter, whose career he had ever placed before him, these tempting prospects were renounced.

Dr. Lee first resided at the same house in Upper John-street,

which had been occupied by Mr. T. A. Stone at the commencement of his successful career. On the opposite side of the street Sir Charles Clarke lived for many years, and delivered his lectures on midwifery. In about a year he removed to the house in Argyll-street which had likewise been occupied by Mr. Stone, and where that gentleman and Mr. Blagden had delivered their lectures. These lectures Dr. Lee had formerly attended. Here also Dr. Lee himself delivered his first lecture on midwifery.

Since the commencement of 1827, Dr. Lee has never been absent from London for a single day, except on professional business, and his whole time, almost without interruption, has been devoted to the laborious study and practice of his profession. Of the public appointments which he has held, and of his contributions to anatomy, physiology, pathology, and midwifery, we now propose to give a short sketch.

In 1827, he was elected physician to the British Lying-in Hospital in Brownlow-street—an institution which has now existed for upwards of a century, and to which many eminent physicians have been attached—namely, Drs. William Hunter, Macaulay, C. Kelly, Layard, Bromfield, Garthshore, Underwood, Sir Richard Croft, Sir Charles Herbert, and Dr. Henry Davies. In 1829, Dr. Lee became lecturer on midwifery in the School of Webb-street, and physician-accoucheur to the Southwark Lying-in Institution. In 1830 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London, and secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and held the office till 1835. During the two succeeding years he was elected one of the vice-presidents. In 1832 he was elected physician-accoucheur to the Saint Marylebone Parochial Infirmary and Parish. In 1834 he received from the Crown the appointment of regius professor of midwifery in the University of Glasgow, which he soon resigned; the following year he was appointed lecturer on midwifery and the diseases of women and children at St. George's Hospital, an office he still holds. In 1841 he was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. In 1850 Dr. Lee succeeded Sir B. Brodie as President of the Western Medical Society. For a number of years Dr. Lee resided at 14, Golden-square, but eight years since he removed to No. 4, Savile-row, Burlington-gardens, where he now resides.

The lectureship in Webb-street was the first solid indication of success which he received in London. It was worth £150 a year, and was entirely owing to his paper on Inflammation of the Veins of the Uterus. He resigned Webb-street on being appointed Professor of Midwifery in the University of Glasgow. He was induced to accept the Glasgow appointment, from his veneration for William Hunter, whose splendid museum enriches that city. He went down, and read his introductory thesis to the Senatus Academicus; but before this was delivered, he had resolved to resign his appointment, and return to London, which he did immediately. His post at Webb-street had been filled up, and for a session he lectured to twelve students in his dining-room at Golden-square. One day, Dr. McLeod and Mr. Barington called upon him, and most unexpectedly offered him the lectureship at St. George's Hospital, just vacated by Dr. Henry Davies and Mr. Stone. This offer was gladly accepted, and St. George's became thenceforth the scene of his labours as a teacher of midwifery.

During the last twenty-three years Dr. Lee has preserved written histories of all the important cases of puerperal and uterine disease, and all the cases of difficult preternatural and complicated labour which have come under his observation. This could never have been accomplished without the use of short-hand writing, the art of which, as already stated, he taught himself at Edinburgh when a student attending the medical classes. All the cases and dissections he has seen have been more carefully registered than the fees he has received. He has expended very considerable sums on preparations, drawings, and engravings. His last paper in the *Philosophical Transactions*, "On the Ganglia and Nerves of the Heart," required an expenditure of about £100, less than £30 of which was defrayed by the Society. This he did for an institution, the council of which had endeavoured, by the most malicious and illegal deeds, to rob him of the scientific reputation he had merited by a discovery which is now considered almost universally as one of the greatest anatomical advances of the present or the past century.

Some idea may be formed of the number, variety, and importance of Dr. Lee's contributions to medical science, and the extent of his labours, by the following list of his writings published since 1827. Scarcely a year has passed without some proof of his industry and research.

1. Observations on the best Method of Accomplishing Delivery in Presentations of the Superior Extremities, where

Turning is Unadvisable or Impracticable. *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*. 1827.

2. Observations on the Functions of the Intestinal Canal and Liver of the Human Fœtus. Read to the Royal Society, June 19, 1828; and printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

3. A Contribution to the Pathology of Phlegmasia Dolens. Read to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, December, 1828; and published in vol. xv. of the *Transactions*.

4. Pathological Researches on Inflammation of the Veins of the Uterus; with Additional Observations on Phlegmasia Dolens. Read to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, October, 1829; and published in vol. xv. of the *Transactions*.

5. Pathological and Practical Researches on Uterine Inflammation in Puerperal Women. Read in March, 1831; and published in vol. xvi. of the *Transactions*.

6. On the Structure of the Human Placenta, and its Connexion with the Uterus. Read to the Royal Society in 1831; and published in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

7. A Description of the Appearances Observed in a Case of Double Uterus, in which Impregnation had taken place; with Remarks on the Structure and Formation of the Membranes of the Human Ovum. Read to the Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1832; and published in vol. xvii. of the *Transactions*.

8. The Articles: Abortion, Diseases of the Ovaria, Puerperal Fever, Pathology of the Uterus and its Appendages, and Diseases of the Veins,—in the "Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine."

9. Researches on the Pathology and Treatment of some of the most important Diseases of Women. 8vo. 1833.

10. Case of Pulmonary Phlebitis. Published in vol. xix. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

11. Observations on Fibro-Calcareous Tumours and Polypi of the Uterus. Published in vol. xix. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

12. Observations on the Functions of the Fœtal Kidney. Published in vol. xix. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

13. The History of a Female who has Four Mammæ and Nipples. Read to the Medico-Chirurgical Society; and published in vol. xxi. of the *Transactions*.

14. An Account of a Fœtus of Seven Months, with its Placenta partially Adherent to a Nævus occupying the Scalp and Dura Mater. Published in vol. xxi. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

15. On the Structure of the Corpus Luteum. Published in vol. xxii. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*.

16. The Anatomy of the Nerves of the Uterus. Folio. Plates. 1841.

17. On the Nervous Ganglia of the Uterus. *Philosophical Transactions*. 1841.

18. An Appendix to a Paper on the Nervous Ganglia of the Uterus; with a further Account of the Nervous Structures of that Organ. *Philosophical Transactions*. 1842.

19. On the Circulation of the Maternal Blood in the Human Ovum during the Early Months. Read to the Royal Society. 1842.

20. Observations on the Structure of the Corpus Luteum, and its Value as a Test of Early Pregnancy. *Medical Gazette*. 1844.

21. Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery. Delivered in the Theatre of St. George's Hospital. Illustrated with numerous Wood Engravings. London. 8vo, pp. 552. 1844.

22. A Discourse on the Life and Writings of Dr. William Hunter. *Medical Gazette*, October 14th, 1844.

23. Supplement to a Paper on the Nervous Ganglia of the Uterus. *Philosophical Transactions*. 1846.

24. On the Ganglia and Nerves of the Virgin Uterus. Read to the Royal Society, 1846.

25. Clinical Midwifery. First Edition, 1842. Second Edition, 1848.

26. Pathological Researches on the Diseases of the Uterus. Two Parts, folio: the First, about 1840; the Second, 1849. With Twenty Coloured Engravings, from Original Drawings by Joseph Perry, representing the most important Organic Diseases of the Uterus.

27. Memoirs (four in number, with five engravings) on the Ganglia and Nerves of the Uterus. London. 4to. 1849.

28. Clinical Reports of Eighty Cases of Sterility. *THE LANCET*. 1849-50.

29. On the Use of the Speculum in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Uterine Diseases. Published in vol. xxxii. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*. 1850.

30. Supplement to a Paper on Fibro-Calcareous Tumours

and Polypi of the Uterus. Published in vol. xxxii. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*. 1850.

31. Analysis of 108 Cases of Ovariectomy performed in Great Britain. Read to the Medico-Chirurgical Society at the Commencement of the present Session. 1850.

Of all the numerous publications of Dr. Lee, none exceed in value his "Clinical Midwifery." This small work contains the histories of 545 cases of difficult preternatural and complicated labours, with commentaries, the results of the most extensive observation. It is doubtful if this work has not done more good than any other of his publications. It has been declared to be "more instructive to the juvenile practitioner than a score of systematic works;" that "it will be consulted by every accoucheur who practises his art with the zeal which it merits;" that it is "an invaluable record for the practitioner;" that it is "an admirable book of precedents;" and that it is "a storehouse of valuable facts and precedents." Dr. Lee followed, in this, the example of some of the most distinguished accoucheurs of modern times. Portal's work, published in 1685, consisted of the histories of eighty cases, with short commentaries. Mauriceau's second volume consists entirely of cases, 700 in number, and 150 in the appendix, but many of the cases are not cases of labour. His observations were carried on during a period of twenty-four years. In 1733, Giffard published an account of 225 cases of difficult and dangerous labour. Smellie's last two volumes are almost entirely filled with cases. Ramsbotham and Collins' work are chiefly collections of cases; and these are the materials from which the sound principles of midwifery can alone be extracted. Teaching by example is the only secure mode of teaching midwifery. The most irrational opinions have recently been promulgated, and attempts made to subvert the fundamental doctrines of midwifery, by some young men placed in the office of teaching without any practical experience.

Dr. Lee has been, from the outset of his long career, a clinical lecturer. All his lectures are emphatically clinical. Their copious illustrations are drawn from his own vast experience, and from the works of the greatest practical and systematic writers of France and England. He has ever entertained a deep dislike to the mechanical doctrines which have prevailed on the Continent so extensively during the last fifty years, and which now begin to appear in this country. As an operator in midwifery, we question if, at the present time, there is one who possesses equal skill, decision, and vigour, in cases of real difficulty. We have never heard that he was ever appalled by any danger.

Another great point in the career of Dr. Lee is the admirable investigation of the pathology of phlegmasia dolens, inflammation of the veins of the uterus, and puerperal fever. Modern pathology can scarcely produce a more important monograph than his researches on the pathology and treatment of some of the more important diseases of women. It is important not only as regards obstetrics, but as regards general pathology and practice, for it must ever remain the basis of the whole subject of phlebitis, and the entire pathology of the venous system, a department of great and rapidly increasing consequence.

Dr. Lee's contributions to the ovular theory of menstruation place him in the first rank as a cautious and skilful physiological observer. To his sagacity we owe the facts upon which this beautiful theory rests. Cruikshank had observed and recorded a single case of rupture of a Graafian vesicle at the catamenial period; but to Dr. Lee we owe the first series of cases exhibiting this remarkable phenomenon, and which gave it all its meaning and significance. He was the first to examine the ovaria during menstruation, with the view of ascertaining what was the condition of the organs at this time. It was the observations made in this subject by Dr. Lee which ultimately led to the discovery of the escape of ovula at each monthly period. Dr. Lee's observations were made six years before M.M. Gendrin and Negrier published upon this subject.

Dr. Lee has been, and still is, one of the most laborious men in the profession. Without this the great subjects he has devoted himself to could not have been accomplished. For seven years, during the spring, summer, and autumn months, he rose at daylight, to dissect the ganglia and nerves of the uterus, and continued dissecting preparations in alcohol till eight in the morning. Then followed the labours of the day. Often, on returning home from a labour at five or six in the morning, having never been in bed, instead of retiring to rest, he went into his dissecting-room to work till the business of the day began. Often his labours with the lamp and con-

denser were continued through the greater part of the night. Such was the toil required to work out the nervous system of the uterus.

Dr. Lee has never attended any members of the Royal Family of England. The high estimation in which his fame is held on the Continent has led, however, to his being consulted by foreign personages of the highest rank. On his return from Italy in 1822, he saw in Paris the Duke of Orleans, surrounded by the late Royal Family of France. The next time he saw the same distinguished personage was on being summoned to Claremont, last year, to attend the princesses of the house of Orleans.

As an anatomist, Dr. Lee's future fame will chiefly rest on his discovery of the ganglionic nervous system of the uterus and the heart—one of the most important ever made in human anatomy. The attempts made at the Royal Society, in 1845, to throw discredit on this great discovery, only ended in the exposure and disgrace of all the individuals concerned in the transactions. The erasure of confirmed minutes from the journal-book of the Council, to conceal the illegal deed, was discovered; the resignation of the Marquis of Northampton and Dr. Roget, and the entire destruction of the committee of physiology, and all the other committees, followed.

Dr. Lee's conflicts with the Royal Society have already occupied our pages sufficiently. With the main points of this extraordinary history, and the conduct of the parties involved, many of our readers must be familiar. To those who wish to enter more minutely into it, we recommend the perusal of the last memoir on the nerves of the uterus, in which the whole of the transactions are carefully recorded. The following account of an interview which Dr. Lee sought with the Marquis of Northampton, never before published, and which contains, we believe, an almost verbatim description of the conversation which took place between them, will be interesting. In the pursuit of his just rights, Dr. Lee put aside all care for rank and station, and boldly stood up for the truth, as more sacred than the coronet or ermine.

"My lord," urged Dr. Lee, "you must restore the minutes which have been erased at the Royal Society to conceal the most disgraceful doings. How came you, a peer of the realm, and a member of the highest court of judicature of this country, to do such a deed as to expunge a confirmed resolution from the minute-book of the council of the Royal Society, to conceal the most nefarious transactions?"

The Marquis replied to this appeal, "I implored them to pause, but they would not do so."

Dr. Lee again said, "Restore the erased minutes, my lord, or I will take legal proceedings, and bring your conduct before the lord chancellor."

"Hold your hands, Dr. Lee," was the answer of the president, "or you will ruin the Royal Society."

"No! It is you, my lord," was the rejoinder, "who have ruined the character of the Society over which you preside."

The Marquis of Northampton, upon this, observed, "It is impossible for the erased minutes to be restored, and I will retire from the chair of the Royal Society."

Dr. Lee assured the deceased nobleman that he had no personal animosity towards him, and that he deeply regretted he should contemplate his retirement under such circumstances. Here this remarkable interview terminated.

His lordship's resignation was soon announced.

During six years, in violation of a formal statute of the Royal Society, Dr. Lee was prevented from seeing the minute book of the Council of the Royal Society, though he had found means to ascertain the fact of the erasure of the minutes of Oct. 30, 1845. It was only on the 24th of last month, after an appeal to the present Council, that the volume was produced. He then found that the minute upon which the award of a Royal medal was made, had been obliterated by some chemical process. Not a letter was left to record this transaction. In its place a vacant space, more eloquent and convicting than words, remained. Below appeared, in the handwriting of the late senior secretary—

"Expunged by order of the Council.—P. M. R."

No order of the Council has ever been recorded for the perpetration of this act, which is unparalleled in the history of the Royal Society of London, or any other corporate body in Great Britain!

Dr. Lee is still, after twenty-three years of unremitting toil, in full health and vigour, both of mind and body. To this our pages have borne ample witness.

Dr. Addison, at the close of his presidential year at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society a few weeks ago,

referred, in his eloquent valedictory address, with a just pride, to the importance of the discussions which had recently taken place in the Society. It is not too much to say, that the almost entire body of the Society, and the great mass of the profession, have thoroughly appreciated the consummate talent and address which Dr. Lee brought to these discussions. On other points there may be difference of opinion, but as regards the extraordinary and profound knowledge of obstetrics displayed by this physician, there can be no doubt or question. The result cannot but be of immense service to the science and practice of midwifery. The very foundations of this department have been exhibited and secured by the hand of a master.



Robert Lee