

## Joseph Lister

**Reference and contact details:** GB779 RCSEd GD/5

**Location:** RS R3

**Title:** Joseph Lister

**Dates of Creation:** 1856-1967

**Held at:** The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

**Extent:** 5 series

**Name of Creator:** Lister, Joseph (1827-1912)

**Language of Material:** English.

**Level of Description:** item



### **Administrative/Biographical History:**

Joseph Lister (1827-1912) was born at Upton, Essex on 5 April 1827. He was raised as a Quaker and went to a Quaker school in Tottenham. He attended University College London where he took the degrees of BA in 1847 and MB in 1852. He came to Edinburgh for a few months' study with James Syme, the Professor of Clinical Surgery, in 1853 and stayed for seven years, marrying Syme's daughter Agnes in 1856. He became Syme's dresser and subsequently his house-surgeon for one year. In 1856 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and took an active part in teaching the extra-mural school. In 1860, he was appointed to the Regius Chair of Surgery in Glasgow University, and a year later became surgeon to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. It was during these years at Glasgow that he made the observations and discoveries which revolutionized the treatment of disease and injuries.

His interest in the recently discovered pasteurisation process led to experiments with the use of carbolic acid to keep wounds clean and to the advent of antiseptic surgery. In 1869 Lister became Professor of Clinical Surgery at Edinburgh. In 1877 he left to take up the Chair of Clinical Surgery created for him at King's College Hospital, London.

He was granted a baronetcy in 1883; and was made Surgeon Extraordinary to Queen Victoria and was created Baron Lister, of Lyme Regis in 1897. Lister was the only surgeon to hold the office of President of the Royal Society and was a founder member of the Order of Merit. He died in London on 10 February 1912.

1st Baron Lister, of Lyme Regis; founder of antiseptic surgery.

### **Correspondence and papers of Joseph Lister, 1856-1912 and articles and papers relating to the Lister Centenary celebrations, 1965-7**

#### **GD5/1-137**

##### **Letters of Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron**

Dates of Creation: 1879-1911

Extent: 137 items

#### **GD5/138-149**

##### **Letters from Joseph Lister to Watson Cheyne**

Dates of Creation: 1880-1911

Extent: 12 items

#### **GD5/150-153**

##### **Copy correspondence between Joseph Lister and T. Morson and Sons Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists, and related papers**

Dates of Creation: 1889-1890

Extent: 4 items

**GD5/154-179****General papers and correspondence of Joseph Lister**

Dates of Creation: 1856-1912

Extent: 26 items

**GD5/180-198****Papers relating to the Lister Centenary Celebrations**

Dates of Creation: 1965-1967

Extent: 19 items

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**LETTERS OF JOSEPH LISTER TO HECTOR CAMERON 1879-1911**

## GD5/1

1879, March.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron describing an osteotomy case cited in the B.M.J. of October 31st, 1868 and the operation for a displaced foot after a fracture about the ankle during which the wound was kept aseptic by the application of carbolic oil while the incision was made; also congratulating Cameron on his "extremely satisfactory" statistics of hospital mortality and discussing analysis of bacteria in the blood in a case of pyaemia. [2 Sheets].

## GD5/2

1893, April 12th.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron informing him of Lady Lister's recent death in Rapallo.

## GD5/3

1894, December 10th.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron thanking him for his donation to the Institute and for his kindness and sympathy.

## GD5/4

1895, April 17th.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron remarking that "the presentation by the Prince passed off as pleasantly as could be", hoping that he was not wrong in accepting the presidency of the British Association and referring to his convalescence with Miss Syme in Dorset.

## GD5/5

1895, July 20th.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron from Harrogate referring to his portrait which "still awaits a finishing touch and Playfair, who has seen it quite lately, is pleased with it" discussing the affairs of the Royal Society and recounting the "almost universal feeling in the Council against Evans being president" and regretting the conclusion of Lord Kelvin's informal meeting which desired his (Lister's) presidency.

## GD5/6

1895, December 23rd.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron with good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

GD5/7

1896, February 4th.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron concerning a recurrence of Lord Kelvin's disability from a hip injury.

GD5/8

1896, March 21st.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron informing him that he, Lister, has been asked to represent the Royal Society at Lord Kelvin's Jubilee on June 16th and asking if he might stay with Cameron.

GD5/9

1896, June 23rd.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Hector Cameron remarking on Lord Kelvin's having told him at the Royal Institution that the students had serenaded Cameron's house on his behalf, and expressing gratification.

GD5/10

1897, January 11th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Hector Cameron thanking him for his cordial tribute [on the occasion of Lister's elevation to the peerage].

GD5/11

1899, March 5th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Hector Cameron thanking him for birthday greetings, commenting on Donald Morrison's "really distinguished pass".

GD5/12

1900, March 16th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron congratulating on his appointment and expressing his delight that now "antiseptic surgery will be taught in the great Glasgow school ex cathedra as it ought to be taught".

GD5/13

1900, May 23rd.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron congratulating him on the honour [baronetcy?] conferred upon him.

GD5/14

1900, August 4th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron congratulating him on the clarity, style and elegance of his article on good wards and reporting on the Paris convention where "about 60 of the best men in the profession in Paris attended the banquets".

GD5/15

1900, September 3rd.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron applauding the latter's address which bears "the usual stamp of your capacity as a clinical observer and teacher" and enclosing a copy of the Rome Scientifique which contains an account of the Paris banquet as "I know it will interest you to see how extremely kindly our French colleagues expressed themselves".

GD5/16

1901, April 6th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron thanking him for birthday greetings, remarking that Glasgow has acted nobly in the small pox epidemic and discussing a curious tetanus case and the occurrence in Italy of tetanus caused in a scratch of an anti-diphtheria injection "owing undoubtedly to want of care in the preparation of the antitoxia. Of course the tetanus bacillus abounds everywhere; but it seems strange that it should have got a foothold in a vaccination scratch".

GD5/17

1901, June 16th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron written from Buxton and thanking Cameron and Miss MacDonald for their kindness to him during his stay in Glasgow.

GD5/18

1901, July 4th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron concerning the 80th birthday celebrations planned for Virchow in Berlin in the autumn.

GD5/19

1902, July 14th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron reporting on his attendance upon the King and his recovery, a cynical appraisal of Macewan's knighthood in the coronation honours, an account of Balfour's enthusiastic reception as the new Prime Minister and his regret that Lord Salisbury's resignation will be "a heavy blow to the empire".

GD5/20

1902, December 14th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the "Jubilee" publications quoting the telegram received from the King and Queen and commenting on other contributions, reminiscences, productions and editorial statements.

GD5/21

1902, December 30th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting Gairdner's mistakes, case attended by Lister when he was house surgeon to Mr Syme and complimenting Cameron on his contributions to the November "Jubilee".

GD5/22

1903, February 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding his ill health and inability to attend the Medical Council meeting.

GD5/23

1903, March 3rd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his disappointment at being unable to attend the proposed commemoration ceremony at the University in June due to his ill health.

GD5/24

1903, March 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, concerning his attendance at two ceremonies in the Guild Hall and Mansion House in celebration of Chamberlain's mission to South Africa, and also defending his decision to decline "the extremely high honour offered me by Glasgow University", due to his ill health.

GD5/25

1903, April 6th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for the birthday greeting by telegraph.

GD5/26

1903, April 14th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for his last letter, and writing that "many returns of my birthday are not to be expected nor with the inevitable accompaniment of failing power, much to be desired".

GD5/27

1903, October 1st.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, describing the nature of his illness, and that seven weeks previously he suffered a slight paralytic attack, which has occasioned "nervous irritability and general weakness". [2 Sheets].

GD5/28

1903, December 17th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, reporting on his state of health, and that he is much "kept back by muscular rheumatism", and writing of his having read "with much interest" the biography of Dr. John Brown.

GD5/29

1904, March 22nd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, wishing him and the rest of his party "a very interesting and refreshing course" in London and writing that his state of health has improved little.

GD5/30

1904, March 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, requesting his help in an experiment to ascertain whether the chronic gut is too slow of absorption for convenient use for sutures if aided by a solution of tannic acid and corrosive sublimate.

GD5/31

1904, April 20th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron wishing him well on his voyage to Gibraltar.

GD5/32

1904, May 10th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron to ascertain whether catgut could satisfactorily be used a long time after its preparation and for what time it could be kept in carbolic lotion.

GD5/33

1904, May 28th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron congratulating Cameron on his Cambridge appointment and professing his own perplexity at the [unstated] honour which Copenhagen wish to confer upon him (Lister).

GD5/34

1904, June 23rd.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron reporting that he is in London, but can only conduct the briefest of conversations because of his very frail health.

GD5/35

1904, July 24th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron on his return from London and reporting on settling into "this absurdly named house", Maison Rouge, Buxton.

GD5/36

1905, August 11th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron enquiring whether the recipient found the sample of tannic gut longer in being absorbed when used as a stitch than is desirable and explaining that his servant had tidied his drawers so that the sample sent was ten years older and prepared with twice the quantity of tannin than requested by Cameron.

GD5/37

1904, October 10th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron enclosing a hank of the right sort of tannic gut for Cameron to test.

GD5/38

1904, October.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the B.M.J. account of the discussion on "Aseptic Surgery" at the Oxford meeting of the association: "To me it was rather disheartening to see such strange varieties of endeavours after improvement, accompanied by indications that the results obtained are by no means so satisfactory as those which we used to get 11 years ago".

GD5/39

1904, November 1st.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron remarking how strange it is that the author of the article in The Realm [Chisholm?] is not in the professional register. He also reports having heard of Russell's death in a kind letter from his son, David, and describes how Russell was commissioned out of a large class of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students to read the document to Lister expressing the gratitude of the class for his lectures.

GD5/40

1904, December 4th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron requesting him to trace the current address of D.H. Menzies who had some years before published an engraved portrait of Lister, of which he wishes to have a copy for Howard Marsh, Professor of Surgery in Cambridge.

GD5/41

1905, January 15th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting Miss Syme's new ailment and Sir Douglas Powell's care and requesting the results of tests Cameron proposed to conduct with tannic gut.

GD5/42

1905, February 2nd.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron requesting that catgut be further tested for stitches so that in publishing he could state exactly the number of days noted in the experiments.

GD5/43

1905, February 5th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the trial of tannic acid in order to meet Lauenstein's objection that chromic gut remained inconveniently long unabsorbed when used for sutures and the possibility of the absorption of the gut happening too quickly.

GD5/44

1905, August 14th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the letter to Dr. Edington and Cameron's new "grand neighbourhood".

GD5/45

1905, March 6th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron expressing the hope that the recipient will not publish his lectures in a local medium, but in the B.M.J. which is most widely read in this country or The Lancet which is most widely read abroad.

GD5/46

1906, March 13th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron promising to read with interest Cameron's typewritten lectures and advising that The Lancet would be the proper medium for publication: "I trust you will not scruple to disappoint the Glasgow Journal".

GD5/47

1906, April 25th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting Cameron's second lecture and suggested modifications to certain passages and advising him to read Mr Gray's work "On Vaccines in Surgery" upon which he lavishes generous praise. [2 Sheets].

GD5/48

1906, May 7th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron regretting that Cameron was unable to visit Gray in Aberdeen and stating that he would like some of the passages dealing with his early teaching in Glasgow alluded to in Cameron's second lecture to be expressed differently.

GD5/49

1906, May 12th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron requesting him to defer his visit for a further week.

GD5/50

1906, May 20th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron confirming the postponed visit and wondering "what you will say to my revolutionary proposals as regards some passages in your second lecture".

GD5/51

1906, March 26th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron thanking him for a letter and enquiring whether he has yet corrected proofs of his lectures, since the time is approaching when they ought to appear in the B.M.J.

GD5/52

1906, June 4th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron referring to a case of tetanus in a compound fracture of the jaw, the observations of the French bacteriologists Vaillard and Vincent, and antiseptic treatment.

GD5/53

1906, June 17th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron enclosing a note on the preparation of double cyanide and apologising that "it comes in such a shabby form" to be attached to Cameron's lectures.

GD5/54

1906, June 20th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron complaining of fatigue after the journey to Devonshire Lodge, Buxton.

GD5/55

1906, June 28th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron recommending a small correction to the MS of Cameron's first lecture: to the reason stated for not using solution of bichloride of mercury for damping the cyanide gauze, (viz. that it forms with cyanide a triple compound that is very feeble in germicidal action), should be added the more important reason that this compound is also highly irritating.

GD5/56

1906, July 4th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron regretting that Cameron's having to take Macewen's place at the examinations will delay publication of his lectures, and wishing him, Miss MacDonald and his daughter a good trip to Canada.

GD5/57

1906, July 16th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron expressing no surprise at his not having time to get his lectures "through the press" before starting out for Canada.

GD5/58

1906, July 30th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the voyage to Canada and including Mrs Seligman's address.

GD5/59

1906, November 21st.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron enquiring about the prospects of the publication and stating: "I cannot help feeling that I really trespassed too much on your goodness in asking you to make such great changes as I did, and to put in so much of what was mine".

GD5/60

1906, November 24th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron stating his preference for publication of the lectures in *The Lancet* rather than in the *B.M.J.* since the latter is preoccupied with the Soronto Meeting and *The Lancet* would be more likely to give whole-hearted support to the antiseptic doctrine.

GD5/61

1906, December 4th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting alterations to Cameron's Lecture 1.

GD5/62

1906, December 20th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting suggested alterations to Cameron's Lecture 2.

GD5/63

1907, January 12th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron expressing grave doubts as to the publication of lectures in separate form because of the labour of republication and distribution and insisting upon bearing the costs if Cameron determines to proceed with separate publication and including a list of those to whom it might be sent. [3 Sheets].

GD5/64

1907, January 19th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron stating his gratification at the proposal of Dr. Williams and Cameron that his lectures be published in a number of the *B.M.J.* referring to Lister's birthday and commenting on the possibility of publishing some of his articles in the same edition.

GD5/65

1907, January 21st.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron concerning the possibility of republishing some of Lister's early articles in the birthday edition of the *B.M.J.*

GD5/66

1907, February 15th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron concerning the final arrangement for the publication and distribution of his Huxley lecture which he hopes will be interesting as a prelude to Cameron's lectures.

GD5/67

1907, February 19th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron containing the confidential disclosure of his having set aside in his will £1000 for his nephew, Dr. Lister of Aberdeen, to undertake the republication of his works after his death. However, he expresses his willingness to allow them to be republished, as Martin has suggested, under the auspices of a committee including Cheyne, Godlee and Martin himself during Lister's own lifetime.

GD5/68

1907, February 21st.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron in which Lister writes that if the committee should see their way to republishing all that he hoped to have had reproduced after his death, it would be far better done than would have been possible under the previous arrangement.

GD5/69

1907, February 25th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron observing with satisfaction that Martin has dispatched a letter to 50 persons inviting them to be members of a committee for the publication of all Lister's scientific papers.

GD5/70

1907, April 7th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron expressing sympathy for some unexplained reference regarding "an opposite character" and praising Miss MacDonald's noble, if misguided, self-denial. He also applauds the very satisfactory manner in which the lectures have appeared.

GD5/71

1907, April 13th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the "torrent of congratulations" which reached him on his birthday and the especial pleasure received from the kind and generous address of the Dean of the University of Glasgow: "The applause that now greets me from my professional brethren has this satisfactory about it - that it shows that the antiseptic principle has received pretty universal acceptance".

GD5/72

1907, April 13th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron offering to forward to him a copy from the printers of a list of those to whom the Huxley Lecture was sent, should it be useful to the recipient in the distribution of his lectures.

GD5/73

1907, April 17th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron enclosing a list of U.K. surgeons to whom the Huxley Lecture was sent and expressing his astonishment at ovation, addresses and accolades

he has been receiving and at the change of opinion within the profession as to the value of his work, which has been taking place after his absence from active contributions to surgery. He mentions with particular gratification the address from the Council of the College of Surgeons of England published in The Times. Reference is made to Lister's "great domestic grief", a long concealment, an engagement and the advanced age of the bride-to-be.

GD5/74

1907, April 28th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron expressing the hope that Cameron's stay at Loch Achray will have given him strength with which to face "your heavy burden". He compliments Cameron on the good his lectures are doing in America where "Baltimore is one of the foremost seats of medical practice and teaching in that continent."

GD5/75

1907, May 6th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the list of addresses for distribution of Cameron's Lectures in Canada, America and on the Continent.

GD5/76

1907, May 17th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron suggesting that cost should not be an obstacle considering the importance of having Cameron's book sent to the American and Canadian surgeons, and offering to bear a considerable part of the expense incurred.

GD5/77

1907, May 30th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron commenting on tributes to the writer's contribution to antiseptic surgery and arranging a meeting between Cameron and Lister.

GD5/78

1907, June 23rd.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron returning Tundelenburg's letter about Lister and commenting on some of the inaccuracies it contained.

GD5/79

1907, July 9th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron describing his ceremony at the Guildhall, discussing reviews and articles, particularly Finlayson's account of Gairdner's career in the B.M.J.

GD5/80

1907, October 11th

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron asking about Cameron's daughter's wedding and reporting his attack of shingles.

GD5/81

1907, October 20th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron respecting the publication of Lister's papers, offering to send him letters from America and giving details of personal news.

GD5/82

1907, November 13th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron requesting the letters from America.

GD5/83

1907, November 15th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron returning the American letters including one from Collins Warner and approving the Lord Provost's idea of conferring upon Lister the freedom of Glasgow in absentia since poor health prevents his going to Glasgow to receive the honour.

GD5/84

1907, November 25th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron notifying him of Lister's letter to the Lord Provost accepting the freedom of Glasgow.

GD5/85

1907, November 29th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron thanking him for the part he has played in the conferring of the freedom of Glasgow upon Lister.

GD5/86

1907, December 9th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron requesting Cameron to be his representative on January 21st, 1908, the occasion of Lister's receiving the freedom of Glasgow.

GD5/87

1907, December 28th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir Hector Cameron approving Martin's plan regarding the preface of a publication.

GD5/88

1908, January 7th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding the arrangements for the introduction to the republication.

GD5/89

1908, January 16th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding the speech he has composed for Cameron to speak on his behalf at a Luncheon which the Lord Provost has arranged and asking Cameron to receive on his behalf the box containing the Freedom of Glasgow, and bring it with him to London.

GD5/90

1908, January 20th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his doubts on the rebuilding of a hospital in Glasgow: "I trust that in the new building they will have each ward under one surgeon only and that he will have his nurses to himself".

GD5/91

1908, January 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for taking part "in the proceedings of Tuesday... and your speech at the luncheon was, except for being far too laudatory, truly admirable, well deserving Fraser's eulogy."

GD5/92

1908, January 25th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding the proceedings at the last meeting of the General Council and expressing the belief that it would not be for the good of the University if the high office of Chancellor were held, "as an absolute sinecure", and intimating thereby his decision to decline the office as Chancellor of Glasgow University.

GD5/93

1908, January 28th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding his correspondence with the Principal about his candidature for the chancellorship at the University at Glasgow.

GD5/94

1908, February 2nd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding his correspondence with the Principal about his candidature for the chancellorship at the University of Glasgow, which he has refused on grounds of ill health, and trusting that "this will dispel any lingering doubts he may have that my refusal of this wonderful offer was absolutely necessary".

GD5/95

1908, February 16th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding the wedding plans of Cameron's daughter.

GD5/96

1908, February 20th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, enquiring about the cost of publishing Cameron's lectures, and enclosing a copy of his note on catgut.

GD5/97

1908, February 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, intimating his decision to accept the position of patron to the Children's Hospital, and that he has sent a copy of the note on catgut to Lauenstein.

GD5/98

1908, April 7th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for copying his letter on the treatment of fracture of the patella, which he hopes will be published in the next editions of the B.M.J. and The Lancet.

GD5/99

1908, May 7th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, agreeing about the "inscription to be placed

under the medallion", and proposing a new title-page for the book written by Dawson Williams.

GD5/100

1908, May 11th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, intimating that he has written to Dawson Williams in the hope that he may have the title-page of the book amended to include his position as President of the Royal Society at one time.

GD5/101

1908, June 15th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for sending Lord Rosebery's address, and requesting that a note be appended to an article in "Virchow's Fertschrift" regarding the details of the procedure for avoiding fistula.

GD5/102

1908, July 23rd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for his letter of condolence on his brother's death, which has been to him "a tremendous blow".

GD5/103

1908, August 27th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his satisfaction that Cameron is nearly at the end of revising his papers.

GD5/104

1908, September 29th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding his health and the delay in the printing of the illustrations for the publication.

GD5/105

1908, October 7th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his surprise that Cameron is contemplating giving up the Chair [of Clinical Surgery] at Glasgow.

GD5/106

1908, October 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, enquiring after the number of physicians at the Western Infirmary and of how many beds each has charge.

GD5/107

1908, October 28th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his distress at the proposals to abandon the Western Infirmary for teaching purposes and that medical students of the University of Glasgow should be compelled to attend clinical teaching given to mixed classes of both male and female students, as reported in the B.M.J.

GD5/108

1908, November 10th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his relief that the report on the proposed introduction of mixed classes in clinical teaching at the University of Glasgow is untrustworthy.

GD5/109

1908, November 20th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding the proposed introduction of mixed classes in clinical teaching, which he feels is "perfectly monstrous...such a system constitutes what ought to be regarded as an insuperable barrier to the admission of university students to their courses".

GD5/110

1908, December 1st.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, seeking affirmation that the proposed introduction of mixed classes in clinical teaching has been adopted, and asking if there is any chance of the decision being reversed, since such an arrangement he feels, "would be irrevocable and would prove disastrous".

GD5/111

1908, December 24th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, seeking information from Cameron's experiments on sulphur chromic catgut.

GD5/112

1908, December 28th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, wishing him luck with his Newcastle address and thanking him for the information on catgut.

GD5/113

1908, December 30th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, asking who supplies the catgut to Cameron and who prepares it.

GD5/114

1909, January 2nd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for the information on catgut and remarking that Godlee hardly uses catgut either in private or hospital practice.

GD5/115

1909, January 9th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, enclosing a note on the sulphur chromic catgut which he hopes may be used in the forthcoming publication of his papers.

GD5/116

1909, January 17th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding the introduction of mixed classes in clinical teaching in Glasgow, and voicing the opinion that it would be better to follow the example of Edinburgh in appointing two of the ordinary Surgeons of the Infirmary as University lecturers and examiners in Clinical Surgery, rather than transferring the Clinical Professorship of the University to the Royal Infirmary.

Also encloses a letter from Charles J. Martin, of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine,

regarding the imminent publication of Lister's papers.

GD5/117

1909, January 26th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, requesting Cameron's observations on the use of catgut in wounds and the importance of its use in septic conditions.

GD5/118

1909, February 11th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regretting the proposed abolition of the Clinical Chairs at Glasgow in the case of surgery, "where...main principles and important details of pathology and treatment can be discussed with great advantage to large classes in an operating theatre", and suggesting an alternative arrangement whereby there could be a Professor of Surgery teaching in the University and giving at the Western clinical illustrations of his lectures, and at the Royal a University lecturer and examiner in surgery. [2 Sheets].

GD5/119

1909, February 13th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing the wish that he should not think anything of what he had said regarding the catgut in his letter two days ago.

GD5/120

1909, February 22nd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his satisfaction that Cameron's address in Newcastle had been successful.

GD5/121

1909, March 8th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his delight at the excellent reception Cameron had received at Newcastle in the reading of his address.

GD5/122

1909, March 13th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding Cameron's address in Newcastle and taking issue on his remark that breast cancer is a disease "which probably invades the body from without", stating that many hold contrary opinions.

GD5/123

1909, March 22nd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his delight at Cameron's proposal to visit him.

GD5/124

1909, April 21st.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, regarding his reading of "Richardson's" paper, and remarking that if the catgut is properly sterilised in its preparation then it cannot possibly communicate disease.

GD5/125

1909, April 26th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for writing to Clarendon Press

with the result that he has now received volume one of his published papers, with the promise of volume two to come shortly.

GD5/126

1909, May 9th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, enclosing a letter from Dawson Williams, who states that the fire at Oxford University Press, while destroying all of the bound volumes of the collected papers, did not reach the loose sheets, but in the meantime the date of publication has been postponed for another two weeks.

[2 Sheets].

GD5/127

1909, June 28th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his surprise at the suggestion by the University Court of Glasgow that University chairs should be given the names of particular individuals: "I should feel special objection to such an arrangement in the present instance, considering the relations the new Chair will have with the teaching of women", and concluding that he would firmly decline the honour.

GD5/128

1909, July 1st.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking Cameron for writing to the University Court of Glasgow and dissuading them from writing to him on the subject of the Chair of Surgery at the new Royal Infirmary.

GD5/129

1909, July 27th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, suggesting that in the preparation of his address to Guy's Hospital, "one of the most important medical schools of the Metropolis", he include a few lines on the antiseptic treatment of abscesses.

GD5/130

1909, September 11th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, lamenting the delay in the publication of the volumes.

GD5/131

1909, September 22nd.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, expressing his satisfaction that "the marriage" had passed off well, and that Cameron's preparation of his address to Guy's Hospital was practically finished.

GD5/132

1909, September 28th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, requesting that he might come and visit him before returning home after his lecture at Guy's Hospital.

GD5/133

1909, October 30th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, explaining that he shall be unable to attend the Tercentenary Dinner, since he feels obliged to attend the Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society on the following day.

GD5/134

1910, May 11th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, congratulating him on the birth of his grandson, and lamenting the King's death, which "has indeed been a terrible blow to the country...it seems the worst thing that could have happened to it at this time".

GD5/135

1910, June 7th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, approving of his decision to resign the Chair of Clinical Surgery due to his ill health, and hoping that "there are still many years of usefulness and happiness before you".

GD5/136

1911, April 25th.

Letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister, thanking him for his very kind birthday greeting.

GD5/137

1944, December.

Proof from an article in The Lancet, by H. Charles Cameron, son of Sir Hector, examining Lord Lister's research into nerve repair. Also enclosed is a letter to Sir Hector Cameron from Lord Lister on the above mentioned topic.

LETTERS FROM JOSEPH LISTER TO WATSON CHEYNE, 1880-1911.

GD5/138

1880, February 10th.

Joseph Lister's testimonial in favour of Mr. Watson Cheyne extolling his "extraordinary excellence" as a student, his diligence in his studies of the most recent methods of pathological research in Vienna and Strasbourg and his great merit displayed as house-surgeon, demonstrator and registrar and in his publications.

GD5/139

1892, May 5th.

Letter of condolence from Sir Joseph Lister to Mrs Cheyne on the death of her daughter.

GD5/140

1897, July 3rd.

Note from Lord Lister to Dr. Cheyne congratulating him on his election to the Council as evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by his surgical brethren.

GD5/141

1901, February 11th.

Letter to Mrs Cheyne from Lord Lister offering to give his vote for "the boy Taylor" and congratulating her on the honourable mention of her husband's name by Lord Roberts, quoted in The Times.

GD5/142

1901, April 21st.

Note from Lord Lister to Mr Cheyne congratulating him on the C.B. awarded to him in recognition of the value of his work.

GD5/143

1902, October 27th.

Letter to Cheyne from Lord Lister declining an invitation because of poor health and congratulating him on his election to the Presidency.

GD5/144

1902, December 27th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Cheyne expressing sincere gratitude for the articles he and [Sir Hector] Cameron had contributed to the "Jubilee Number". Lister adds: "Now that I am on the shelf, my professional brethren seem to gain in kindly feeling to me".

GD5/145

1908, March 2nd.

Note from Lord Lister to Cheyne requesting him to examine a bad cut in his groom's hand.

GD5/146

1908, June 15th.

Note from Lister to Cheyne stating that "Miss Syme much prefers Sir Watson to Sir William for you" and offering renewed congratulations.

GD5/147

1908, June 16th.

Letter from Lister to Cheyne respecting the public announcement of his baronetcy, reporting Sir Douglas Powell's pleasure at the news and replying to Cheyne's gratitude towards him that "the obligation is far indeed from being all on one side".

GD5/148

1910, January 5th.

Letter from Lister to Cheyne thanking him for the care he has taken of his groom and regretting that in the article Cheyne wrote in The Lancet he preferred the use of gloves "because it may convey to some minds the idea that you distrust carbolic lotion for the disinfection of the hands".

GD5/149

1911, November 14th.

Note from Lord Lister to Cheyne regretting Butlin's retirement on account of his health and requesting some details of his condition.

COPY CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN JOSEPH LISTER AND T. MORSON AND SONS LTD,  
MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS, AND RELATED PAPERS

GD5/150

1889-90, 1907.

Bundle containing twenty-two photocopied letters between Lord Lister and T. Morson and Son's Ltd., manufacturing chemists, concerning the preparation of certain antiseptic substances and of chromic catgut.

GD5/151

1907.

Photocopies of the back and front of an envelope, addressed by Lord Lister to T.D. Morson, showing the one penny stamp and the baron's coronet.

GD5/152

[N.D.].

Copy of the Memoirs of Lord Lister by Clifford and Basil Morson, with particular reference to the correspondence between Lister and the Morson firm.

GD5/153

1973, October 1st.

Covering letter to I. Simson Hall, Honorary Librarian of the R.C.S., regarding the enclosed reproductions of the correspondence between Lord Lister and the Morson firm and suggesting that "they should be with other Listeriana in the city".

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GENERAL PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JOSEPH LISTER

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GD5/154

[N.D.].

Photocopy of extract of the marriage certificate of Joseph Lister to Agnes Syme, 23rd April, 1856.

GD5/155

1856-60.

Return showing the number of volumes borrowed from the University Library by Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons, including Struthers, Lister, Lizars and Gairdner.

GD5/156 [N.D.].

Photographs (5) of Joseph Lister, from 1863-1897.

GD5/157

1870, July 3rd.

Letter to Dr. McNeil from Lord Lister, submitting his diagnosis on a patient in the Infirmary with an infection of the shoulder.

Presented by Mrs. Charles McNeil, 1965.

GD5/158

1873, December 15th.

Letter to Dr. Brotherton from Joseph Lister, agreeing that the Rev. William Dennison be allowed to continue his duties as parish minister, despite the small abscess of the neck, since he is "likely to enjoy vigorous health".

GD5/159

1877, March 28th.

Letter to William Turner, Professor of Anatomy, University of Edinburgh, from Joseph Lister informing him of his decision not to accept the Chair of Clinical Surgery at King's College, London. [Framed].

GD5/160

1877, August 28th.

Letter to Mr. McPhail from Lord Lister, enclosing his First Class certificate of merit in clinical surgery and congratulating him on the good position he has gained. [Glass Framed].

GD5/161

1885, November 8th.

Testimonial presented by Joseph Lister in favour of Francis M. Caird in his candidature for the office of Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.

Presented to the College in 1968 by Dr James Caird OBE FRCP, Professor Caird's son.

GD5/162

1886, February 18th.

Letter from Joseph Lister to Dr. Caird referring to him a patient on whom he had operated for goitre which was subsequently discovered to have assumed malignant features. Despite apparent progress, he believes the patient is terminally ill, apologises to Caird for imposing such a distressing case upon him and describes the treatment and dressing which ought to provide the best alleviation. [3 Sheets].

GD5/163

1886, March 11th.

Letter to Mr W. Caird from Joseph Lister, requesting that he pass on his kindest regards to Mrs McAlpine and tell her that he feels assured "that all is being done for her that can be done".

GD5/164

1887, May 19th.

Testimonial presented by Joseph Lister in favour of George T. Gifford in his candidature for the House Surgeoncy of Gloucester Infirmary and fragment of typescript copy thereof.

GD5/165

1900, December 28th.

Testimonial presented by Joseph Lister in favour of George T. Gifford in his candidature for the post of Factory Surgeon to the Darwen district, and fragment of typescript copy thereof. [Found in association with 166, 167].

GD5/166

1957, May.

Letter to the Secretary, R.C.S. Ed., from Mrs L.D. Cooper Key, London, niece of George T. Gifford, enclosing two testimonials presented by J. Lister in favour of her uncle, George T. Gifford.

[Found in association with 165,167].

GD5/167

1903, December 14th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Sir John Halliday Croom expressing gratitude for the honour conferred upon him by the College by placing his portrait in their hall, but regretting he cannot accept Croom's [unstated] proposal because of poor health. [Found in association with 165, 166].

GD5/168

1905, October 8th.

Letter to Mr Cadell from Joseph Lister, returning the form of declaration which he has duly signed.

GD5/169

1905, December 2nd.

Note from Lord Lister to C.W. Cathcart agreeing to his photographing the preparation provided Professor Cunningham has no objection and thanking him for the abstract of his lecture and kind references to Lister's teaching.

GD5/170

1908, June 27th.

Note from Lord Lister to Mr Cathcart thanking him for the copy of his testimonials.

GD5/171

1907, June 18th.

Letter to Lord Lister from F. Trendelenburg, Leipzig, thanking Lister for sending him a copy of his lectures, which he has read with "the greatest interest".

GD5/172

[original, 1907, July 27th].

Copy of a letter from Lord Lister to [Sir William] Turner expressing his wish to add the gold casket conveying the Freedom of the City of London to those things which he has offered to bequeath to

the University of Edinburgh should his proposal be acceptable to the University authorities, and stating as his reason that his "sympathies have never been with a merely examining body, but with a teaching University, and above all with that of Edinburgh". He attributes to its "very liberal and wise policy regarding the extra-academical school" that he was induced to teach surgery and this led to his work on Inflammation, the essential preliminary to that on the Antiseptic Principle. [Found in association with 173, 175].

GD5/173

1956, January 27th.

Copy letter [to Sir Edward Appleton] from Miss Bertha Wilson donating the letter written by Lister to Turner. [Found in association with 172,174,175].

GD5/174

1956, January 30th.

Letter from Sir Edward Appleton, Principle and Vice Chancellor of University, to Professor Sir Walter Mercer enclosing a copy of a letter by Lister explaining how the Civic Freedom

Caskets of Edinburgh, Glasgow and London all came to be in the Upper Library . [Found in association with 172,173 and 175].

GD5/175

1956, February 6th.

Copy letter from Walter Mercer to the Principal, Sir Edward Appleton, thanking him for the copy of Lister's letter. [Found in association with 172 - 174].

GD5/176

1908, March 18th.

Letter from Lord Lister to Mr Stiles respecting enlargements of a photograph of Lister taken by Annan of Calton Hill Stair, Edinburgh, when he was an extra-academical lecturer and engaged in physiological and pathological work and offering no objection to further copies being made and disposed of.

GD5/177

1908, June 27th.

Reprint from an article in the British Medical Journal by Lord Lister, entitled "Remarks on Some Points in the History of Antiseptic Surgery".

GD5/178

1912, February 15th.

Hymn sheet for the funeral service in memory of Joseph Lister at the University of Glasgow.

GD5/179

1912, February 16th.

Hymn sheet for the funeral service of Joseph Lister at Westminster Abbey.

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PAPERS RELATING TO THE LISTER CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS, 1965-1967

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GD5/180

1965-7

Lister Centenary brochures of the University of Glasgow Lister Centenary Scientific Meeting, Sept, 1965, and conference, April, 1967; the Centenary Appeal and the R.C.S. Eng programme and Exhibition Catalogue.

GD5/181

1965, February 3rd.

Unsigned [copy?] letter to Sir Charles Illingworth accepting the invitation to attend the Glasgow Lister centenary celebrations.

GD5/182

1965, June 22nd.

Letter from A.A. Jacobs of Glasgow University to Mr L.A. Bailey F.P.S., F.I.B.S.T., of Ethicon Ltd requesting financial assistance in reaching the £500,000 target for improved facilities for Postgraduate Medicine in the Lister Centenary year.

GD5/183

1965, August 23rd.  
Letter from Ethicon Ltd to Sir John Bruce respecting a donation of £500 to the Lister Centenary Appeal.

GD5/184  
1965, September 27th, 28th.  
List of speakers and themes at the "Progress Since Lister" scientific meetings. [4 Sheets].

GD5/185  
1965, September.  
List of names and addresses of international medical men . [6 Sheet s]

GD5/186  
1965, September.  
Pamphlets and programmes of the Lister Centenary celebrations, University of Glasgow.

GD5/187  
1965, April 21st.  
Letter from Sir Charles Illingworth, Convener of the Executive Committee, to Professor Sir John Bruce of Edinburgh University Department of Surgery welcoming him as a delegate to the Glasgow Lister Centenary Celebrations.

GD5/188  
1965, October 11th.  
Unsigned [copy?] letter to Sir Charles Illingworth congratulating Glasgow University on the Lister Centenary celebrations and the "tour de force" presentation of honorary graduands.

GD5/189  
1966, February 23rd.  
Poster advertising the Royal Medical Society Lord Lister Centenary Oration to be delivered by Sir John Bruce CBE, TD, F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E.

GD5/190  
1966, November 18th.  
Minutes and agenda of the Lister Centenary committee meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. [12 Sheets].

GD5/191  
1967, February 19th.  
Sunday Times Magazine\_with Lister centenary feature: "The man who made surgery safe".

GD5/192  
1967, February 17th.  
Letter from "Russell" [Lord Brock of Wimbledon] to Professor Sir John Bruce of the Department of Clinical Surgery, Edinburgh University, thanking him for his help and inviting him and his wife to be present at the conference as guests.

GD5/193  
1967, February 27th.

Letter from Lord Brock inviting Sir John and Lady Bruce to a supper party at his house on the evening of the Lister Oration.

GD5/194

1967, March 6th.

Reply to Lord Brock from the secretary to Sir John Bruce accepting on his behalf the supper invitation.

GD5/195

1967, March 15th.

Letter from A. Harding Rains to Professor Sir John Bruce respecting the meeting of speakers and chairmen on 2nd April.

GD5/196

1967, March 21st.

Letter to Professor Sir John Bruce from Professor A.J. Harding Rains, Hon. Organising Secretary of the Lister Centenary, requesting him to announce a change in the order of papers at the Historical Symposium.

GD5/197

1967, April 2nd.

Note inviting all conference members and their wives to the reception by the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

GD5/198

[1967]

Notice of a small party to visit Lister's memorial bust in Portland Place.

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