

their heritage. Solemn persons in after years were not a little disturbed by the great enjoyment Robert Jones took in laughing at himself, and chaffing the most solemn of his contemporaries. It was a habit—and who can say how invaluable a habit—learned in those days when Rose—that irrepressible spirit of comedy—kept the table in a roar."

It was at the free clinics given by Hugh Owen Thomas on Sunday mornings, to relieve the terrible distress of the people in the surrounding neighbourhood, that the spectacle of deformed babies and young children first set the mind of Robert Jones upon the problem of crippling diseases. "Nelson Street on a Sunday morning was an extraordinary sight," recalls David Morgan, who assisted Thomas; "before the day of buses and electric cars, patients would be brought in hand carts, perambulators, wheelbarrows, donkey carts, and an occasional horse cab."

"Against Thomas was a strong, indeed practically unanimous body of professional opinion, headed by men of considerable academic and surgical opinion, like Mitchell Banks and Frederick Treves. Whoever threw in his lot with anyone so independent in judgments and formidable in controversy must be prepared for the consequences. Fortunately, Robert Jones had too much admiration for his uncle's work to hesitate for a moment between contemporary judgments and association with a man of genius.

"As a young surgeon, Robert Jones learnt the habit of working not only continuously but rapidly. He had no need to await or seek patients. From the age of twenty-one to seventy-four he made of his profession an unbroken record of uninterrupted toil."

In 1889 Robert Jones was appointed Hon. Surgeon and Dean of the Clinical School at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and that at the age of 32 he attained this position by merit is proved by the recommendation of the Medical Board of the Liverpool Stanley Hospital, which included a paragraph stating: "He has shown an indomitable perseverance in the vigorous prosecution of original research; and his numerous publications on the achievements of surgical science, together with undeniable skill in the various departments of operative surgery, mark him as one who will certainly add lustre to the already long list of names whose writings adorn English surgical literature."

The appointment of Robert Jones as Surgeon-Superintendent of the Manchester Ship Canal, the construction of which occupied several years, afforded exceptional opportunity for organisation, "unflinching tact, efficiency and enthusiasm, qualities which were instinct in him."

#### "THE GREATEST THING JONES EVER DID."

"The death of Thomas left Robert Jones in charge of Nelson Street at the comparatively early age of thirty-three. . . . It cannot be said that, fifty years ago, his inheritance was either secure or enviable. . . . and John Ridlon has well said: 'To go on from Thomas by the same road was not so easy as going by the road of one's own choice. Jones might have gained special recognition earlier had he not been Thomas's nephew, and his associate in practice and then his successor at Nelson Street. Thomas was suspected, even with all his wonderful work, because his father was an unqualified bonesetter.' And he concludes with a very profound truth. 'To my mind one of the greatest things Jones ever did was to make the main principles of Thomas acceptable to the profession.' . . . To the progressive surgeon in the heyday of Thomas the

field of orthopaedics made no appeal. Thus was the destiny of the crippled child practically concerned with 11, Nelson Street. The prevention of deformity had, in fact, not occurred to anybody as even a practical possibility. . . . It was not in America or upon the Continent, but in Liverpool that the first great step was taken upon which the whole structure was consolidated in surgery and medicine."

Robert Jones realised that there was little hope without consecutive treatment in some special institution, and further by him as by no one else forty years ago it was clearly seen that the future of the crippled child was *both surgical and social*, a state not only of limbs, but of mind, and ultimately not satisfied with the promise of recovery he laid eager hands upon the *means* by which so much suffering could be prevented.

#### THE GREATEST FORWARD STEP SINCE ÆSCULAPIUS.

The idea of treating chronic cases of crippled children in any special institution aroused instant opposition. The project was regarded as impracticable, and likely to injure existent

institutions. Nevertheless Robert Jones, "always helping and never claiming any reward, never seeking the limelight, caring very little for the approbation of the world," persevered, and on April 21st, 1900, the foundation stone of the Royal Liverpool Country Hospital for Children, Heswall, was laid.

"Henceforth, crippled children would pass beyond the town for treatment. The greatest forward step since Æsculapius had been taken in the treatment of the physically defective. And the children seemed to know it. 'I shall never forget,' said Lord Derby, at a public banquet to Robert Jones in 1921, 'the shout of delight of those children when he came into the ward'."

The Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, an institution of the most far-reaching scientific vision, "is famous for its



SIR ROBERT JONES, BT., K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S.  
During the War Years.

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