William John Little (1810–1894), orthopaedic surgeon, was born on 7 August 1810 at the Red Lion inn, Red Lion Street, Whitechapel, London, the only son and eldest of three children of John Little, proprietor of the Red Lion inn, and his wife, Hannah. The family were related to the Littles who for many generations lived in Carbrooke, Norfolk. From 1837 Little began to introduce the Stromeyer technique of tenotomy into England.