

Presidents, so that he must of necessity confine his remarks to a rather contracted area. It was the general opinion that, on the whole, Dr. Wilkinson acquitted himself well under the circumstances.

By eleven o'clock on Wednesday forenoon the spacious Chemistry Lecture Room of the College was crowded in every part by members anxious to hear what "that clever little fellow Roberts," as he was generally styled, would have to say in his address in Medicine. A treat was expected, and I am sure no one was disappointed, excepting it be the *de novo* theorists, who, of course, received no comfort from the address, but on the contrary carried away some very hard nuts to crack. William Roberts, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Owen's College, and Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, is best known to the profession as the author of an excellent treatise on Renal Diseases. In his general appearance there is nothing remarkable, and in his manner he is quiet and unpretending. He has a very large consulting practice in Manchester, and so high are his services rated, and so widely has his reputation spread, that he not unfrequently visits professionally the great metropolis. What can exceed the feeling of triumph and self-satisfaction that must possess the mind of the provincial physician or surgeon, when speeding to London to assist the Jenners and Pagets out of their difficulties? Sir William Jenner, in moving the vote of thanks to Dr. Roberts for his able address, spoke of him with pride as an old disciple of his own, and chose to instance this as an illustration of the pupil outscholaring the master. This was probably the greatest compliment that could be paid to any man of our day, and no doubt Roberts feels that in receiving this he has been amply repaid for all the hard work he has evidently done.

The addresses in Surgery by Mr. Spencer Wells yesterday and in Obstetrics by Dr. Barnes to-day were also well attended. These will be fully reported in the *British Medical Journal*, and in fact all the leading English periodicals, so that further comment is unnecessary. They were both able in their way, but not to be compared as intellectual efforts with that of Roberts.

Last evening the annual dinner of the Association was held in the hall of the Assize Court, the tickets being limited to four hundred. On the right of the President sat the Bishop of Manchester, and on his left the Mayor, Abel Heywood, Esq. The room was handsomely decorated with flags and festoons of evergreens and flowers, while two military bands, stationed at either end of the room, played alternately during

the dinner. Altogether it was a magnificent display. Many of the speeches were excellent. The Bishop certainly bore of the palm among the non-medicals. He is a vigorous looking man with a very fine presence and a powerful voice, so that he could be heard with the greatest distinctness throughout the length and breadth of the hall, which unfortunately was not the case with the great majority of the speakers. Dr. Matthew Duncan of Edinburgh proposed the toast to the orators of the Association, and Sir W. Jenner responded, both in able speeches. Gairdner of Glasgow, gave the House of Commons and the members for Manchester. Mr. Birley, M.P., and Mr. Charley, M.P., responded. They agreed that the Government had not paid that attention to sanitary matters which had been promised at the polls, and one of them was constrained to apologize for having aided with the anti-vivisectionists.

The sectional meetings have all been well attended. It would be absurd even to attempt to enumerate the various papers that were read or criticise the discussions that took place. On Wednesday, Professor Charcot of Paris gave a demonstration on microscopical preparations, illustrating alterations in the osseous system in locomotor ataxy, lesions of the spinal cord in progressive muscular atrophy and infantile paralysis, preparations relating to the different forms of cirrhosis of the liver, and others showing the tubercular nature of acute lobar, or so-called caseous broncho-pneumonia. These elicited considerable interest in the Medical section.

In the Psychological section I listened yesterday to a discussion on the treatment of habitual drunkards, the outcome of which were the following resolutions, which I think you might, as a journalist, take more extended notice of, as the matter, you must admit, is a most vital one, and does not receive that attention from our profession which it merits:—

"That it is the opinion of the Psychological Section of the British Medical Association that legislative action is imperatively necessary for the treatment of habitual drunkards, and that this object would be best effected by the establishment of distinct institutions for their treatment.

"That it is the opinion of this meeting that the establishment of Reformatory Institutions for the confinement of drunken offenders during lengthened periods ought to be urged upon the Government."

The subject of Hospital Out-door Relief was brought up in the Public Health Section, and the following proposition adopted:—

"That it be recommended to the general meeting