

lessons which it teaches, and to see how and to what extent they can be applied to the present and the future; and it is also good in a great city like this, where there are foreign visitors and distinguished guests and special delegates from our branches overseas, to give them some idea of the work of their and our Association.

I. ANNUAL MEETINGS.

I could not, of course, give a history of the Association in this address; indeed, I would not if I could, for a large part of it would have no interest for many of my audience. But I would deal with certain features of the Association, and would illustrate them with word-pictures where that is possible. And, first, of the annual meetings, at which everyone knows there is a good deal of eating and drinking and giving of toasts, without which no civilized country seems able to conduct its business. But you shall soon see that the meetings are not for the sole purpose of feasting and junketing. For that purpose go back to the meeting at Plymouth nearly forty years ago (1871), where the Address in Surgery is read by an English surgeon practising in Edinburgh, to which he has recently been transferred from Glasgow. His name has been during the last two or three years in the mouth of many persons, and there is a good deal of difference of opinion on the value of the doctrines which he professes. As you see him now he is a man some 40 years of age, rather above the middle height, but not tall, of stately presence, with a broad brow and a face which betokens earnestness and amiability, but scarcely, perhaps, that determination of which he gave such signal proof in the course of the next five-and-twenty years. He is very neatly clothed in garments of a sombre hue (indeed, I think he belongs to the sect of Quakers), and his address is slow and without the attraction of eloquence, and he describes his methods with such detail and exactitude as must have been tedious to many of his audience, most of whom do not profess his principles and few of whom follow his practice. Yet this is none other than the great Lord Lister, as yet almost an unknown surgeon, and he is telling to probably the largest number of persons he has hitherto addressed the principles of anti-septic surgery. And thus he finishes: