

LONDON CORRESPONDANCE.

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The excitement caused by the great International Exhibition, the entertainment of numerous friends and visitors who have come from a distance, the constant run of festivities, public and private, added to one's ordinary labours both literary and professional, 'at any time onerous enough, have prevented me resuming my letters for some months back. Indeed so many members of my profession, who are subscribers to the *British American Journal*, are over here just now, that it really seems as if none of its readers had been left behind in Canada. So many old and familiar faces have turned up since the opening of the exhibition, that it has quite carried me back to the time when I was a joint laborer in the cause of science on the Western side of the Atlantic.

What with the thousands who are daily coming and leaving the metropolis; the curiosity excited by the Japanese; the volunteer reviews; soirees; conversaziones and balls; public laryngoscopic and other exhibitions; dinners in countless numbers; and various other matters too numerous to mention, the ordinary quiet and soberness of London life, is for the present completely revolutionised. I can therefore refer only to some of the more recent and striking events in this great city, those especially that have influenced the medical mind.

Most of our Hospitals and other Institutions were visited by the medical members of the Japanese embassy, who were also present on several occasions at some of the operations. Now these individuals are distinguished from their brethren by having their heads shaved, which are generally left uncovered; at least I did not see them on any occasion with anything upon their scalps; they always reminded me of patients just convalescent from fever, whom it had been necessary to deprive of their hair during its progress to keep their heads cool. On a fine warm Sunday afternoon, I happened to be at the Zoological Gardens (the Fellows' day) when the Japanese entered, accompanied by their Doctors, and the latter were exposed to the influence of the sun on their uncovered palls. The extraordinary appearance presented by the entire suite, may be imagined, when it produced a regular uproar amongst the lions and tigers, who darted forward against the bars of their cages, as if they wanted to spring at some of their natural enemies. I was also present at King's College Hospital on the 10th May, when the following operations were performed before them by Mr. Ferguson, namely, removal of a nasal polypus, necrosed bone from the tibia, tumour from the pharynx, excision of a knee and a breast, closure of two cleft palates, and removal of a tumor from the neck. It is impossible to describe the eagerness with which all these were watched, and careful notes were taken of every feature of importance, likely to be of use to them in their native country. The presence of the Japanese, necessarily drew general attention to their court in the great Exhibition, which is filled with objects of wonder and curiosity. Amongst other things are multitudes of little figures in Jade or Nephrite, carved into every imaginable shape, in which the ludicrous and grotesque largely predominate.

Amongst the medical men of London no one seemed to appreciate the peculiarities of the members of the Japanese embassy more than the late Mr. Stanley. His sudden demise, in harness we may truly say, created a general gloom. I