

Medical Association was held in Cork, commencing August 5th, and continued in session four days. The attendance was as usual very large and the meeting was a most successful one. Among the visitors from abroad were Drs. Charcot, Mussy, Gallard, Ball and Bonnafonte of Paris; Martin, Weber-Lich and Hirschberg of Berlin; Pacchiotti of Turin; Cordes of Geneva, and Sayre, Seguin, Loring, Turnbull, Da Costa, Yandell, Palmer, Byford and Beard of America.

The President, Dr. O'Connor, Prof. of Medicine, Queen's College, Cork, delivered the annual address, in the course of which he referred to the improved sanitary condition of Cork, as evidenced by the diminished death-rate, disappearance of typhus, etc.—due to the increased water supply and improved sewerage. He showed that Cork had, during the last half century, regained its educational character. They had a school of design, a musical academy, and a large number of educational establishments, besides asylums, hospitals, etc. He then alluded to the objects of the Medical Association, in furthering the common brotherhood of the profession and in advancing medical knowledge, and the mutual advantages of the practical physician and the scientist, the work of each aiding the other in establishing a rational basis for the treatment of disease. He gave to hygiene a high place among the recent advances in knowledge.

The address in medicine was delivered by Dr. Alfred Hudson of Dublin, on "Laennec: his Labors and their Influence in Medicine," and was a most eloquent and interesting one. He pointed out that Laennec was the initiator of *method* in our investigations of disease, and alluded to the influences of his work on the progress of medicine, and its moral effect on the members of our profession. No one will doubt that the acquisition of the vast amount of subjective data upon which we now base our conclusions, must tend to make us more honest and truth-seeking. Although he was eminent as a pathologist, his fame will always depend in great measure upon his clinical investigations.

Mr. Savory's address in surgery, on "The Prevention of Blood-poisoning," was most interesting and instructive and was listened to with marked attention. Although he did not make an attack upon Lister's "antiseptic dressing," he laid parti-

cular emphasis on the statement that "the best results have been achieved by the simplest means," which, if admitted, would be fatal to the claims of Lister's method. He dwelt very strongly on the necessity of great care and attention to the dressing of wounds; the patient's health and surroundings; the selection of the operative procedure; and while he admits the ingenuity of Mr. Lister's practice, and the good which has followed its use in hospitals, he complains that what is called "antiseptic surgery" fixes the attention too exclusively upon the dressing of the wound, to the exclusion of other matters of at least equal importance. Mr. Savory is not a believer in the germ theory, for he says, "if it be true, what possible explanation is to be given of the kindly healing of exposed wounds?" This difficulty is one which has been felt by every surgeon of experience, ever since the theory was broached. If the air be thus loaded with germs, and if one or two of them slipping through the dressing or introduced by the fingers or an instrument are sufficient to cause an attack of pyæmia, how is it possible for wounds to heal kindly that are completely exposed? Mr. Savory's address shows the need of more definite information on many of the most essential points of surgical treatment, and more especially full and definite comparison between the results of antiseptic and ordinary surgery.

Dr. Sayre, of New York, gave a demonstration on Hip Disease before a large audience.

The address on "State Medicine" was delivered by Dr. Andrew Fergus, and was, as might have been expected, a most able and interesting lecture.

In the sections, Dr. Andrew Clark, of the London Hospital, delivered the address on medicine, taking for his subject "Medical Education—Present State of Therapeutics—Prospects of Experimental Enquiry." The address in the surgical section was delivered by Dr. W. K. Tanner of Cork, on "Surgery in Cork—a Retrospect," and the address in the obstetrical section was by Dr. Playfair, on "Intra-uterine Medication." Some of the most interesting of these addresses will appear from time to time in our columns.

The honorary degree of M.D. was conferred upon the retiring (Dr. Falconer) and incoming presidents by the Queen's University, Dublin, in commemoration of the meeting of the Association in one of the colleges of the University.