

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

No. IX.

When I concluded my last letter, the annual meeting of the British Medical Association was on the eve of being held in London. The College of Physicians, with the greatest liberality, threw open their princely mansion to the Association, and for four days, viz., on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, a stir was witnessed which has not been before equalled in the annals of this venerable College. A large number of members from all parts of the country assembled with the twofold object of seeing the Exhibition and attending the meeting of the Association. The great advantage of these meetings is that it brings together annually from all parts of Great Britain a number of persons who would otherwise have no chance of becoming acquainted with one another, and it encourages such kind and friendly feelings that makes the whole thing most agreeable. The country members of the Association have invariably shown so much hospitality wherever the meetings have been held, that this time the Metropolitan members were determined not to be behind hand in the same good work. The consequence was, that each day of the meeting a magnificent collation was spread in the great hall of the College, which obviated the necessity of resorting elsewhere for the mid-day pabulum to keep up strength; and every evening of the first three days, dinner parties were given to all who came up from the country by their brethren in London, so that not a single gentleman was left uncared for. On Tuesday, the first day, the President, Dr. Burrows, (one of the physicians to St. Bartholomew's), delivered the opening address, which was listened to with great attention. In the evening a *conversazione* took place at the College of Surgeons, attended by some thousands. It was a decided success, and pleased everybody, for the three museums, library, and other rooms were thrown open and brilliantly illuminated, the company being received by Mr. Luke, the President. This is the first time since the foundation of the College that such an entertainment has been given, and it is to be hoped that it may become an annual thing as at the College of Physicians. Besides hosts of objects of scientific, literary, pictorial, and living interest, the refreshments were on such a scale as no one could cavil at. Ice-cream in profusion, and wine *ad libitum*, were the most approved of, and, the way the former disappeared, was, to the non-professional mind, quite a caution.

Next day a number of papers of general interest were read, but the address in Medicine, delivered by Dr. Walshe, took everybody by surprise. It was a truly eloquent one, and drew forth frequent raptures of applause. It, in common with all the other addresses and papers has been published in the medical journals, and to them I must refer such of your readers who may wish to enjoy the treat of reading them. To my mind, hearing is better than reading them, but those who have not heard *must* read them. A soiree was given at the College of Physicians, not so numerously attended as the one at the sister College the night previous, but still very much crowded. The visitors were received by Dr. Watson, the President. The associations of the College of Physicians are of the most deeply interesting kind, because in the upper gallery of the library are preserved all of Harvey's original dissections illustrating the discovery of the