374 Editorial.

hotels. Negotiations with the various railways are also contempla ted and will no doubt be satisfactorily carried out.

The entertainment and amusement of our guests will involve a considerable outlay, and we have been requested to state that the President of our college will shortly issue to each member a circular on this subject, and it is hoped that a liberal response will be elicited.

PROSECUTION FOR COUNTER PRESCRIBING IN ENGLAND.

The doctors and druggists of England are now fairly at swords' point. Each party has, for some time, been making preparations for the encounter, and we may soon expect to see the question of counter-prescribing clearly defined and settled. The opposing parties are the Medical Defence Association, an organization composed of some of the more belligerent members of the medical profession, and the Chemists' Defence Association, which, we believe, has emanated from the Chemists' Trade Association, a body formed recently, but now numbering over two thousand members. The doctors hold their position by virtue of certain statutes, old and recent, while the druggists principally rely on the custom which, they maintain, has become established by long usage and which has allowed them to sell medicine for the trifling ailments of their customers.

A trial case has recently been brought before the Nottingham County Court. Mr. Shepperley, a druggist of considerable experience, was charged with practising as an apothecary, and three instances were brought forward in substantiation. In the first case a bottle of sarsaparilla was sold, for tenpence, to a customer who complained of a trifling eruption; in another, a lady was supplied with a solution of gallic acid which she apparently prescribed for herself, and in the third case an informer, rejoicing in the name of Thomas Jolly Death, received a mixture for "sore throat, cold and tightness of chest," which the druggist prescribed and prepared for him, and for which one shilling was paid. It appears that "Death had been watching the shop for some time," and, when he made his final swoop, managed to collect evidence sufficiently decisive to convince.