

a partial eclipse, for would not Hunter, Harvey, Sydenham, Jenner, Simpson and Lister present a resplendent galaxy?

Our gathering to-day is in a sense—limited it may be—a cosmopolitan one. International comity has always prevailed in our profession. Disease knows no distinction of country or race, and is the common lot of humanity. In the face of a ubiquitous foe it is natural that mankind should be as a unit in defence, and that the confraternity of the healing art should be undivided. The recognition of English talent and experience on the part of the late Emperor of Germany, and by the British Sovereign in the case of that master of the science and art of bacteriology, Koch, and the action of the United States in calling to its counsels British experts in tropical medicine upon the threatened invasion of yellow fever—these are graceful and forcible proofs in point. And we are glad, in obedience to the unwritten code and by means of this gathering, to cement the tie that already binds the great Anglo-Saxon people and those of the land of professional culture and erudition, France and Germany. Our *confreres* from the United States delight to honor the names of Physick and Rush, Wood and Warren, Biglow and Bowditch, Alonzo Clark, Flint, Weir Mitchell and others; and yet I am sure they are not one whit behind the Briton of Britons here to-day in their respect for the great men of the British school, from Harvey to Lister, who have laid the world under tribute. We in turn delight to honor Laennec, Bichat, Corvisart, Trousseau, Charcot, Pasteur, Langenbeck, Virchow, Billroth and Koch.

The Association, which has just met on this occasion for the second time in its history outside of Great Britain and Ireland, was founded in 1832 in Worcester, and had a membership of 140. It was reorganized in 1856, and took its present name. It has now a membership of 20,000, grouped in many divisions and branches in the old country, and in various parts of Greater Britain. We have with us an honored member from Egypt and one from New Zealand.

The *Journal*, which is published under the aegis of the Association, takes rank as a leading exponent of the thought and researches of the profession and the practice of the healing art. It forms a strong bond of union amongst its members, who rightly value it as a depository of knowledge and a most useful medium for the exchange of opinion and the discussion of live topics that concern the profession and the public. The Editor may well felicitate himself upon the weight of its influence in moulding public opinion, and in safeguarding the in-