

PART II.—OCCASIONAL NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Annual Meeting.

The scientific and practical work accomplished at the Fifty-Third Annual Meeting at Dublin amply realized the most sanguine anticipations, and the success achieved marks an epoch in the history of the Association. The first time the Association met in Dublin, under the presidency of the late Dr. Lalor, there was a small gathering out of a membership of some two hundred. After the lapse of thirty-three years the membership has more than doubled, and the attendance was not confined to a narrow circle, but was representative of the most distant parts of the kingdom, of Europe and America. It included the leading physicians and surgeons of the Irish capital. In place of meeting in a Sackville Street Hotel the Association was received in the Halls of the College of Physicians, and made welcome to use the handsome class-rooms of Trinity College.

When it was proposed to extend the Annual Meeting over several days there were those who doubted the expediency of such an undertaking. And it will, undoubtedly, be no easy task to maintain the high level of excellence at which the President inaugurated the new era. The founders of the Medico-Psychological Association had high aims, and if in the earlier days of its history there were no four-day meetings with demonstrations and exhibits such as engrossed our attention in June, it should not be forgotten that the strenuous workers and leaders of our specialty were even then preparing the way for results which are as yet inconsiderable compared with those the future will reveal; and that, with the further development of our branch of science, and the fuller recognition of its claims, we have ever fresh incentives to more splendid achievement.

On looking over the report of the meeting of 1861 we find that the introductory part of the proceedings was Dr. Bucknill's address as retiring President, and that he concluded it by "venturing to anticipate that, as a consequence of that meeting, they would be able to make no inconsiderable advance in their specialty." Fresh from another Dublin

meeting, where the vote of congratulation to Sir John C. Bucknill, full of years and honours, was hailed with acclamation, we can fitly re-echo his valedictory words of so many years ago.

The Annual Meeting has made important changes in the official ranks of the Association, notably so in the resignation of Dr. Paul, after his long service as Treasurer. His interest in the duties of his onerous position is not a whim of yesterday, nor has it diminished with the flight of time. The vote of thanks accorded to him by the meeting was no mere formality, but an expression of hearty goodwill elicited by many kindly memories.

This Journal has also suffered serious loss by the resignation of Dr. Savage, co-Editor for the past sixteen years. At the Dublin Meeting the survivor spoke feelingly of the official severance from his colleague (p. 688).

It is to be regretted that time did not permit of the completion of the programme prepared for the meeting. Valuable papers were held as read, and discussion on various points of interest was impossible. Full reference to these papers is given in the foregoing report; and it will be observed that the present number of the Journal is devoted to the record of the transactions of the Annual Meeting, and that the papers and discussions have been grouped in such a manner as to facilitate reading and reference.

That Dr. Conolly Norman would read a Presidential Address of the highest merit—a reflex of his cultured mind—no one could doubt; but his labours on behalf of the Association were not limited to the production of an Address, however able. He awakened an enthusiasm, and enlisted a sympathy with the objects of the Association, that brought together on common ground labourers in the divers fields of medicine, and concentrated their efforts on the work which the Association has taken in hand. His complete arrangements and cordial welcome left an impression of Irish hospitality which cannot be readily effaced, and his energetic leadership will render somnolence impossible.