

Medical Annotations.

"Ne quid nimis."

THE PROFESSION IN DUBLIN.

THE recent visit of so many English and Scotch practitioners of medicine to the capital of the sister island cannot but prove beneficial to all parties, both by increasing mutual acquaintance, and by cementing the bonds of professional brotherhood. There are certain distinctive peculiarities belonging to every nation, which tinge more or less the medical as well as every other profession, and which were well illustrated and exemplified at the recent meeting in Dublin. It would be invidious to particularise individuals; but few present on the occasion would have had any difficulty in noting well-marked examples of English optimism, Scotch caution, or Irish eloquence.

The feature in Dublin medical society most striking to the English visitor accustomed to all the jealousies and heart-burnings of London is the good feeling and unanimity which prevail, and which show themselves in numerous small matters. Colleagues who habitually address each other by their Christian names, and not unfrequently with the addition of some such personal expletive as "My darling fellow," cannot but get on pretty comfortably together, and consequently such a thing as two officers of one hospital not being on speaking terms is unknown. Where the competition is so keen, as it must of necessity be in a city of the size of Dublin, and with so many able men attracted to its numerous hospitals, the reverse might very well have been the case, and it needs but to glance at another capital to see the disaffection and party spirit which disunion in high quarters has produced.

The only point of distinction in the profession, no less than in the people of Ireland, is the question of religion; but this, though regulating to some extent the public offices, as well as the private practice of individuals, has no direct bearing upon their relation to one another. Roman Catholics and Protestants can meet not merely as professional brethren, but as firm friends, and can assemble round the festive board with equal zest whether the host belong to one party or the other. The religious differences pervade not merely the medical staff, but the whole management of many of the hospitals; and here the superior powers of organisation possessed by the Roman Catholics in their sisterhoods &c., enable the hospitals under their management to contrast favourably in respect of order and cleanliness with those under entirely secular guardianship. The same thing has been experienced in London in those hospitals placed under the care *quoad* nursing of the sisters of a quasi-religious order; and the most determined Protestants cannot but acknowledge the improvements visible in King's and University College Hospitals during the past few years.

One distinguishing and all-pervading characteristic of the medical profession in Dublin is their genial hospitality, as all visitors to the recent meeting must acknowledge. Not only did the various public bodies well fulfil their quota of entertaining, but all the leading members of the profession exerted themselves to receive and entertain their visitors with a heartiness and fraternity exceedingly gratifying to the recipients. We can only regret that so few of the leading physicians and surgeons of London embraced the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the profession of Dublin, and think it would have been but reasonable had they, even at some sacrifice, done honour to an occasion which will long live in the memory of those who witnessed it.

CHINCHONA CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

INDIA bids fair to become for Great Britain what Sicily was to the Roman Republic—the storehouse or *cella penaria* of most of our material necessities. The political strife in North

America, by arresting for a time the cultivation of cotton, gave an impulse to the growth of the plant in the Deccan; while disturbances arising from very much the same cause, and paralysing the chinchona cultivation, in South America, have given a like impulse to the production of the bark on the Neilgherry Hills. In the Madras Presidency, the quinine-bearing chinchonas, under the able superintendence of Mr. MacIvor, have thriven wonderfully; the yield of crystallised sulphates of the Chinchona succirubra having amounted, according to the last returns, to as many as ten per cent., while the Chinchona officinalis has produced as much as eight per cent. of quinine. The productiveness of the plant, moreover, may be multiplied almost indefinitely by removing a long strip from it, and covering the abraded part with moss, the cambium being uninjured in the process. The bark yielded by this second growth is found to be superior to that produced by the first; while the product of a third growth is found to be still better than that of the second. We are, indeed, on the threshold merely of quinine cultivation, and there is no saying to what perfection quinology may yet attain under the stimulus of a daily increasing demand for bark. Such expeditions as those of the discoverers of the Nile fountains, of the lamented missionary explorer, Livingstone, and of the army said to be about to start from Bombay for the relief of our captive fellow-countrymen in Abyssinia, are greatly dependent for their success on their supply of quinine, insomuch that African enterprise is at once the parent and the offspring of the chinchona cultivation in India.

DR. ROSS AND THE VICTORIA CROSS.

WE have not for a few weeks said anything of the claims of Dr. Ross to the Victoria Cross. The fact is that for this gift to have much value, it should come with some grace and spontaneity. Upon this ground we shall desist from much further remark upon the subject. Nothing, however, can be more unsatisfactory than the reason alleged for withholding this decoration from Dr. Ross—viz., that he is too late in asking for it; the truth being that he has only during this year been able, by the return of the 67th Regiment from the Cape, to collect the documents upon which he rests his claim to the Cross. As if time could alter the merit of such services as those which, by universal consent, Dr. Ross rendered at the risk of his life and to the salvation of the lives of others. Let Dr. Ross be comforted by knowing that such merit remains altogether unaffected by the recognition or non-recognition of it. But this is poor consolation for those who have the responsibility of withholding honours so nobly earned. The excuse of lapse of time is miserably inadequate to their defence. It is in the nature of less meritorious actions than Dr. Ross's to live far longer than the time which has elapsed since the taking of the Taku forts. If the fame of the Victoria Cross is to be maintained, it is as important that it should be in the possession of such men as Dr. Ross as that it should be withheld from those whose claim to it is doubtful or disputed. But we desire to leave the matter in the hands of those who have most to lose by withholding honour from those to whom it is due.

PEACE HAS ITS VICTORIES.

ON a certain day in last September, two French fishing-smacks, *S. Josephe* and the *Franclin*, were off the port of Scarborough, with ten of their crews affected with cholera. The fact being made known to the then mayor of the town, Ambrose Gibson, Esq., he gave orders for their removal to the workhouse infirmary, which order was promptly executed. The result, under the skilful management of Dr. Taylor, the surgeon, the assiduous attention of Mr. White, the master, and the liberality of Mr. Woodall, chairman of the board of guardians, was that eight of the unfortunate sufferers were restored to health. This fact was communicated to the French