

both trained and living here, working for their country's greatness, and dying how differently, but both with equal suddenness, one in the Senate of the nation, the other in the little Fellow's room of his beloved College.

I CRAVE my readers' pardon for this digression. I had intended to tell of the pleasant greetings, which I sat in the window and watched; how Nurses who had not met for years recognised old fellow-workers and renewed old friendships, or even, as in one instance which occurred close to me, made up some old disagreement, and spent the rest of the day most happily together. I heard there were Sisters and Matrons from all parts, even from Dublin Hospitals. Certainly every one seemed delighted with the novelty of the whole proceedings. I heard afterwards that it—our gathering in the Combination Room—was most thoughtfully arranged in order that we might form ourselves into groups with our own particular friends, which rapidly and most effectually we did; so that, when dinner was announced, we were enabled to go down and sit with them.

AND NOW was shown still another excellent piece of organisation; for the long tables were marked off at every fourth place by a coloured string, and, without the slightest trouble or confusion, we found ourselves seated, each six or seven Nurses, with one gentleman—a Fellow of one of the Colleges in every case, I believe—to whose care and tender mercies we found ourselves confided, and whose considerate kindness was beyond all expression of adequate gratitude. Having suitably discussed the excellent dinner, Grace was said by the Chairman—the Vice-Chancellor, or real Head of the University—and then the massive silver Loving-Cup was passed round, and then we adjourned upstairs again to the Combination Room.

HERE the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Searle, briefly introduced Professor Browne, who gave a short, but most interesting, account of the history of the University and of the Colleges. Then a message from the Master of Trinity College—the Royal College of Cambridge—the well-known Dr. Butler, formerly Head Master of Harrow, was given by Dr. MacAlister, to the effect that he greatly regretted another and sudden engagement prevented him from coming to add his welcome to the Association to that of his *confrères*, but that, if any Members would like to visit Trinity, orders had been given that the Royal apartments should be opened for them to see. Then our friends of the dinner table gathered us together, and each one of our groups went off for a separate tour of sight-seeing.

SPACE would fail me to describe the beautiful old Colleges, the works of art, and the antiquities; the grand Chapels and Halls, and all the interesting and wonderful things we saw in the next two or three hours. But finally we found ourselves converging with many other groups to the entrance of Pembroke College, and passing into the grounds were individually greeted and made heartily welcome by the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs. Searle. And so seating ourselves under the trees we thankfully received "the cups that cheer," and many other good things, and rested awhile and compared notes. Then we wandered through the lovely gardens, and some went off to join boating parties on the river, and others to tea parties in the Colleges, and others to go over Addenbrooke's Hospital, where they were most kindly received and entertained by Miss Cureton, and Miss Young, and the Sisters.

THEN at six o'clock we were entertained at dinner by our most hospitable host, to whom, and to Mrs. Searle and Dr. MacAlister, I was told on very good authority, very much of the great success of our Meeting was due. And then our numbers began to decrease, for many had to hurry off to catch local trains, or trains to great Midland towns. And so at 7.20 the London contingent gathered together at the gates of the College, where our friendly trams were in waiting, and quickly conveyed us to the station. There our "special" was ready, and by a few minutes past nine we were all landed safely at King's Cross, very tired, but we all agreed, after the most pleasurable day we had spent for a very long time. I have no room for any more Echoes this week, but am sure my various correspondents will forgive me for deferring their items of news until next week under the circumstances. S. G.

THE VALUE OF ADVERSITY.—How often has adversity developed strength, energy, fortitude, and persistence that prosperity could never have produced. How often has the dignity of self-support and self-respect been gained when the external prop has been removed.

GOOD BOOKS.—Instruction is but the stairway to complete erudition and ripe scholarship. Knowledge is infinite in its possible acquirements. Unless a system of intellectual acquirements is pursued, one will never go farther than mediocrity. To get the fullest benefit from those books one must have a literary appetite gotten by continual intercourse with books and you place him in contact with the best society, the fullest scholarship, the wisest persons, the grandest and most chaste characters that adorn humanity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)