

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1902.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

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THE visits of the British Association to a particular city recur with a certain irregular frequency and bring with them a temptation to the president of a section to dwell in his opening address on the progress made in the science associated with that section during the interval between such consecutive visits. This course possesses a certain fascination of its own, for it enables us to realize how far the patient investigations of years have ultimately led to definite advances in knowledge and to appreciate the difficulties that have involved disappointments, and that still have to be surmounted. We like to look back upon the struggles, to record the triumphs, to deplore the failures, and to brace ourselves for new efforts. The opportunity afforded hereby for criticism of methods, for reconsideration of what have been held to be fundamental principles, for the laying down of new lines of work based upon longer experience, shows us how desirable such a periodical retrospect may be.

Standing as we do almost at the threshold of a new century, it seems particularly advisable that we shall occupy our thoughts with some such considerations to-

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* Belfast meeting, 1902.