

patients. An Edinburgh correspondent of the *Medical Press* writes recently "that in that city it was a vacant vacation with a vengeance; there was absolutely nothing stirring, and he knew of one practitioner acting as *locum tenens* for seven others on their holiday, who, notwithstanding this weight of responsibility, yet found ample time to play golf every day."—*N. Y. Medical Record*.

OCULAR BALLOTTEMENT.—The diagnosis of fluid vitreous with floating opacities may be aided by a little method that is not usually laid down in the text-books. The retinoscopic mirror is used in the same way as in indirect ophthalmoscopy. The patient has to be "trained" a little or carefully instructed in order to carry out the manipulation rightly, the essential point of which consists in halting a downward sweep of the eye suddenly and at such a point that the oculist can have a good view of the post-pupillary field. Direct the patient to look up to the ceiling and then to swiftly look at an object in front and on a line horizontal with the eyes, holding the gaze steadily there. If opacities floating in a fluid vitreous exist, this sudden "flip" of the vitreous chamber upward, followed by a sudden stoppage, flings the opacities upward, and with the ophthalmoscopic mirror they will be seen again to descend like snowflakes falling outside of a window in the night. This method of diagnosis might appropriately be named *ocular ballottement*.—*Medical News*.

QUACK NURSES.—Quackery is contagious and widespread. There are quacks not only in medicine, but the infection seems also to have invaded the profession of nursing. From Detroit comes the announcement of the organization of a "Correspondence School of Health and Hygiene," which proposes to give "instruction by the correspondence method in the care of the sick." The course of instruction, it is believed, "if thoroughly studied by a reasonably intelligent person, will render the pupil as truly a trained nurse as the great majority of those who come from the training schools . . . No previous training or study is required other than the ability to read and comprehend." As to age, sixteen is not considered too young, nor fifty too old. It needs scarcely be said that the art of nursing is not to be acquired by correspondence, from reading, or even from didactic lectures; these measures may aid in the comprehension of the principles upon which intelligent and rational nursing is based, but actual experience by the bedside, in the hospital ward, and in the sick-room, is absolutely essential.—*Medical News*.

THE ABUSE OF DISPENSARIES AND HOSPITALS.—In an effort to correct the prevailing abuse of the privileges accorded by dispensaries and hospitals, the Medical Charities Committee of the British Medical Association has had printed notices for distribution among the institutions of London, with the request of display in a conspicuous place, stating that, as these institutions have been "established to relieve only those persons who are too poor to pay for suitable medical and surgical aid, . . . patients will be required to give information as to their means and circumstances, with a few to prevent the abuse of this charity by persons who are well able to pay." A canvass of the