

Miscellaneous.

THERE is no doubt about it, professions are overcrowded. Take the medical profession for instance. A few years ago the village was proud indeed that could boast of its physician. Now the rival shingles of rival doctors rattle against each other when fretted by a gust of wind. Every town of any pretensions has its every corner ornamented with a surgeon's office. And the majority of cities have a surfeit of medical men who earn but a miserable living. Here are the figures showing the number of doctors in Toronto for each of the last eleven years :

1881	109	1887	201
1882	125	1888	234
1883	149	1889	264
1884	163	1890	311
1885	185	1891	316
1886	186	1892	352

That is, in 1881 there was one doctor to about every 950 inhabitants, and ten years afterwards one to each 600. And Toronto is considered healthier now.—*Evening Telegram*.

OFFICIAL SURGERY IN A NUTSHELL. Dr. Carmichael thus explains it all in the *Medical Times* : "In these days of a more perfected knowledge of the nervous mysteries of the body, there is no difficulty in tracing the translation of such morbid irritations all through the endless mazes of the nervous tendrils, winding here, there, and everywhere, through an unbroken continuity, onward and upward in this case, through vaginal, uterine, and ovarian sympathetic plexuses by cell antennæ to ganglia; again, still onward and upward through hemorrhoidal and sacral plexuses to afferent nerves, to columns of cord, to medulla oblongata, to central, cerebellar, and cerebral ganglia. Finally, by tendrils of corona radiata and association fibres to the cortex of the brain, the efficient factor of mentality and intellect, all ending in the deplorable overthrow of the mind and the development of insanity. Thus in few words we have before us the details of the sad and sorry picture, and thus do we bring into bold relief the beneficent effects of 'Official Surgery.'"

Cows.—The late Sir James Simpson once discomfited a cross-examining counsel by saying that, for the purpose of his argument, a cow was as good as a countess. The physiological equality of human and bovine females is also officially recognized in the department of the Rhone, as appears from a circular recently sent to the medical inspector of the district, in which a reference is made to the necessity of increased facilities for the analysis of "samples of the milk of women, cows, or other [animals]" (*Jemmes, vaches, ou autres*). This reminds us of an advertisement which used to be—and, for all we know, still is—issued by a large shipping firm, in which the catalogue of the virtues and attractions of their vessels wound up with the announcement that they carried "an experienced surgeon and a cow."—*British Medical Journal*.

WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF RUSSIAN MARTYRS TO DUTY.—At a recent sitting of the St. Petersburg Municipal Council a proposition was brought forward by Councillor E. J. Kedrin that provision should be made out of the public purse for the families of any medical men, medical assistants, nurses, or members of the disinfecting staff who should fall victims to cholera in the discharge of their duties during the present epidemic. He suggested that the widows of medical practitioners dying under these circumstances should be awarded a pension of 900 roubles (£90) a year, and that a further yearly grant of 150 roubles (£15) should be made for each child till it was old enough to be sent to school, after which it should be educated at the expense of the city. The proposal was referred to a committee.—*British Medical Journal*.

PATENT MEDICINES IN TURKLY. The Turkish Government, as is well known, has prohibited the entrance of remedies whose composition is unknown. The merchants who deal in these goods recently petitioned the government to abrogate this law, but their request was not granted.—*Medical Review*.

A SERIOUS AFFLICTION.—"Well, I see old Mithomer has died at last."

"Yes; it was a sad loss to me."

"I didn't know you were a friend of his."

"No; I was his physician."—*Life*.