

Miscellaneous Selections.

THE MISCHIEVOUS USE OF CHLORAL HYDRATE.—There is much reason to fear that the use of chloral hydrate is becoming indiscriminate and mischievous. Medical men everywhere would do well to strongly discountenance its consumption except under professional advice. Even in the most experienced hands it has proved fatal, and it may be remembered that twenty grains once given by a well known physician—now dead—as a hypnotic produced sleep from which there was no awakening. An inquest was held at Bedhill last week on the body of a lady, when the verdict of “Died from an overdose of chloral” was given. She appears to have taken the drug regularly for a long time, receiving supplies from a local chemist. Mr. F. B. Hallowses, who made the post-mortem examination of the body, concluded that she must have died from an overdose, although there was unmistakable evidence of diseased heart and lungs.—*Lancet*.

DOMESTIC MEDICINE.—The *Sanitary Record*, of London gives another instance of that pernicious habit of domestic drugging which need only be mentioned to be condemned. It says: “Another death in consequence of the culpable manner in which narcotics are administered to children occurred recently at Holloway. The child having been restless, the mother bought some syrup of poppies, and gave it a spoonful. On the following morning the child was found to be unconscious, and died shortly after. Dr. Shehy, who made the *post-mortem*, pronounced the cause of death to be opium poisoning; and, in answer to a question, stated that laudanum was sometimes mixed with treacle as a substitute for syrup of poppies. A verdict of death from narcotic poisoning was returned. The coroner, in his summing up, remarked that he believed the fault mainly lay with the public, who were utterly ignorant, or not very particular, as to what they bought for their children.”