

Miscellaneous.

Reminiscences of Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet.

One of the most interesting figures in medicine still with us is undoubtedly Thomas Addis Emmet, of New York, who has recently been persuaded to make public some reminiscences of his earlier days (*a*). How much medical education in America has altered since his student days is shown by the fact that, although he numbered Robley Dunglison and J. K. Mitchell among his teachers at the University of Virginia, yet he passed "a creditable examination" at the graduation in medicine, "without having dissected more than the sartorius muscle, without having written a prescription, or having attended an obstetrical case." Of the academic instruction, of the time Dr. Emmet gives one specimen, which should render its author, Dr. Wallace, known to fame. The subject was hernia, the weather hot, the professor a man of twenty-one stone, and the lecture was as follows: "When you come to operate for hernia you will find little you have been taught to expect, and I cannot now enter into a fuller explanation, but it is, in a nutshell, cut until you come to the gut, and you will be a damn fool if you cut it; good-day." Dr. Emmet's earliest professional work was as emigrant refuge physician in New York, and as illustrative of the horrors of an outbreak of cholera, he tells us. "On two occasions, when a larger number of bad cases than usual had been admitted, I found next morning all the patients and nurses had died since my last visit.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

Cheerfulness in the Sick Room.

Too much cannot be said about the value of cheerfulness in the sick room. An easel, with a bright, pretty picture, changed as often as possible, is an attractive thing in the sick-room. A bright bit of china, any curios or dainty bit of bric-a-brac, borrowed for the time, will help to relieve the monotony of the long wait in bed or even more tedious confinement on a single floor during the long convalescence. A growing plant which is coming into bloom or a fernery will often give a great deal of pleasure. Try to furnish quietly a series of dainty surprises to the invalid in the preparation of the food and the china service. Use first one pretty cup and then another, unless, indeed, she fancies one and insists upon it, as often happens. Above all things, be calm and equable, in spite of querulousness, and humor fancies where they are not a source of absolute harm. A nervous person should never attempt to be a nurse. It requires abundance of nerve and presence of mind to meet