

pitals and nurses will, for the sake of their own comfort, if from no higher feeling, fervently echo the wish. Melancholy and constantly repeated experience makes them dread "visiting days," as almost inevitably followed by general rise of temperature throughout the ward, and too often by intestinal disturbance of one kind or another. It is hardly to be wondered at that fruit, and even food, should be smuggled in by sympathetic relatives, for in convalescence from acute ailments the appetite is often ravenous almost beyond belief. This is naturally hailed by the friends as a sign of returning health, and it seems hard to withhold the food which is so eagerly craved for. It cannot be too widely known that, in typhoid fever especially, what is wanted before everything is rest for the ulcerated intestine, and unexpected death when everything seemed to promise speedy recovery has often been due to the clamorous hunger of the patient overthrowing the judgment of the medical attendant. If this can happen even to well-informed professional men, it is a thousand times more likely to occur to persons who have no knowledge of the patient's real condition, and only see his suffering. There is probably not a hospital in the kingdom in which relapses and disasters due to the ignorance of well meaning friends are not of frequent occurrence.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES AT EIGHTY.—Dr. Holmes celebrated his eightieth birthday recently. His house was filled with children and flowers and the mementoes of friends. He was serene and happy, with just a slight infirmity in respect of his organs of hearing. He was able to illustrate, in his own person, his dictum made some months before, that it was "better to be eighty years young than forty years old." The year 1809 was no mean year, for it gave us Holmes, Gladstone, Tennyson, Lincoln, and Darwin. A newspaper paragraph has appeared stating that Holmes, the genial, has grown cynical in his eightieth year, and the writer sees fit to offer Dr. Holmes the suggestion that he should take up his own early writings and thus revert to his original type of thought. In the first place, we beg to doubt the allegation concerning Dr. Holmes' cynicism, unless, perchance, he had been reading some of his own books and

then reading some of those "just out"; almost anybody would feel like uttering a caustic word or two under those circumstances. In the second place, the advice to him to read his own books has no sting in it, as it might have to some authors who began by writing in a cynical vein and repented of it afterward. A characteristic little story about Holmes' early days at the Harvard Medical School has found its way into print lately. Holmes, it is said, was about to give one of his anatomical demonstrations—he had only recently come from the Dartmouth school to take his professorship—and he was surrounded by a small company of his colleagues, most of them of great stature in comparison with him; and he seemed for the moment or two at a loss for words. But finally he said: "Why, gentlemen, do you know that I feel a little strange here? I feel like a small silver coin rattling round among just so many great big coppers." That broke the ice, the constraint was dismissed, and the lecture went smoothly on. Holmes had no fear of giants, as was seen when he measured foils with Hodge and Meigs regarding puerperal fever as an infectious disease. As he himself has said, "I had a savage pleasure, I confess, in handling those two professors—learned men both of them—skilled experts, but babes as it seemed to me in their capacity of reasoning and arguing."—*New York Medical Journal.*

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

DIGBY—On October 10th, at Brantford, the wife of James W. Digby, M.D., of a son.

BRUCE—On the 10th October, the wife of Dr. P. H. Bryce, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GARRATT—FLETCHER—On Thursday, Oct. 3rd, by the Rev. John Langtry, at St. Luke's Church, Mima M. Fletcher, to Alton H. Garratt, M.D., Toronto.

GILMOUR—EDGAR—On October 8th, by the Rev. E. B. Harper, D.D., Dr. J. T. Gilmour, M.P.P. for West York, to Maggie, only daughter of the late John Edgar, Esq.