

## Miscellaneous.

---

### Hospital Economy.

The question of hospital economy is one that is of great interest to many practitioners. Dr. Gerster, of New York, in discussing this subject in a recent number of the *Medical Record* first compares the daily cost per patient in different hospitals in this country and Europe, the result showing that in America the outlay is very much greater. These facts serve as arguments in favor of the view that in order to meet successfully the conditions now existing, when the large hospitals usually show an annual deficit, retrenchment is the proper remedy, and not an appeal for greater liberality on the part of the comparatively few philanthropists who furnish most of the funds for the hospitals. In analyzing the conditions which underlie the extravagance and waste in hospital management in this country, the author emphasizes the necessity for more active participation in the executive control by the members of the medical staff. The plans of organization of the great hospitals of Hamburg, Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest are described in detail. The essential features are that the position of the lay superintendent is occupied by one or more salaried medical directors, the attending staff is very limited, so that the service is a permanent one with salaried visiting physicians and surgeons, and the house staff also is composed of paid assistants, whose positions are permanent. In this way all those concerned are able to give the necessary time to details of economical management, and also acquire the experience necessary to carry them out with effect. The present plan of conducting hospitals here resembles that in use in medieval Europe, and the author predicts that sooner or later a system similar to that now employed in Europe must be adopted. While opposition to reform in this direction is to be expected, restriction in the number of those who attend at our hospitals is essential to economical improvement, and is urgently required also to effect a betterment in the care of the individual patient. —*Medical Age*.

### The Relation of Pleurisy to Tuberculosis. von RUCK (*N. Y. Med. J.*)

Formerly the pleural cavities were regarded as exceedingly well protected against localization of bacteria, not only because of the protection afforded by the chest wall, but because the lymphatic system of the lungs was supposed to carry cephalically away from the pleura everything otherwise liable to