

MISCELLANEOUS

Mentioning this a medical friend, he told me of a squaw in Oneida Co. Ontario, who thirty years ago, finding the mid-wife could not extract the head of a child after the birth of the body, thought she'd make sure of the latter, and severed it from the head with a knife. Twelve hours afterwards a physician removed the head.

In times gone by, barbers performed minor operations in surgery, and, in particular, when much bleeding was in vogue, it was to barbers that patients applied to be bled. The barber's pole represents the staff held by persons during the process of venesection; and the two spiral ribbons painted round it represents the two bandages, one for twisting round the arm previous to blood-letting, and the other for binding up the arm afterwards. The gilt knob at the pole represents a brass basin which in former times was actually suspended on it. Lord Thurlow, in a speech in the House of Lords, July 17, 1797, said that "by a statute, still in force, barbers and surgeons are each to use a pole as a sign. The barbers are to have their blue and white, striped, with no other appendage; but the surgeons', which was the same in other respects, was likewise to have a galley-pot, and a red rag, to denote the particular nature of their vocation." The last barber-surgeon in London was a man named Middleditch, of Great Suffolk Street, in the Borough. He died there in 1821. Mr. Timbs in his "Autobiography" says: "I have a vivid recollection of his dentistry." The "barber-surgeons" still retain their "Hall" in Monkwell Street, Cripplegate. Consult p. 46 of "Words, Facts and Phrases" by Eliezer Edwards (Lippincott); p. 266 of William Pulleyn's well-known "Portfolio of Origins and Inventions," (London, William Tegg,) p. 65; Dr. E. Cobham Brewer's "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," (London, Cassell & Co.); and p. 125 of "Things not Generally Known" by John Timbs, F. S. A. (London, David Bogue). Mr. Timbs writes at the end of his article: "Barbers have in our time let blood and drawn teeth. The last we remember of this class (and with praise), was one Middleditch, of Great Suffolk Street, Southwark, in whose window were displayed heaps of drawn teeth." The mention of this operator subsequently in the "Autobiography" of Mr. Timbs is calculated to make us all rejoice that barbers are no longer permitted to try their hands on surgery or dentistry.

THE application for a private bill without examination by Mr. Alex. Graham, L. D. S. of Ontario, upon the ground that he was actually practicing in Quebec when the Bill granting the privilege passed in March, 1883, was granted by the Local Legislature. A similar Bill on behalf of Mr. W. S. Cotton, upon the ground that he obtained a diploma in Boston, was rejected, and the applicant ordered to appear before the Board for examination.