

### Miscellaneous.

THE OVER-SUPPLY OF DOCTORS.—The cry is still they come, and in increasing numbers. It will be noted with mixed feelings by the struggling practitioners who find it hard to get a living with their utmost efforts, and who have to content themselves with starting sixpenny dispensaries or attending clubs at 2s. a head, that the number of medical degrees conferred at the recent capping at Edinburgh University was the largest on record, including 202 Bachelors of Medicine, and 60 Doctors of Medicine. What hard struggles await many of these still happy and unconscious recruits in the fierce battle of life that lies before them!—*The British Medical Journal*.

ANOTHER BARRIER GONE!—The rule which renders women ineligible for election as members of the British Medical Association was one which though carried with enthusiasm in 1878, could not be defended with any pretence to logic. In view of the steady progress which the emancipation of women is making all along the line, its abrogation was obviously only a question of time, and that time has now come apparently, for at an extraordinary meeting held at Nottingham last week, the objectionable rule was expunged—that is to say, subject to ratification at the subsequent meeting to be held on the 24th inst. We do not sympathize to any great extent with the invasion of the profession by women doctors, but consistency is a virtue, and if we admit them to practise, it is unfair and oppressive to withhold the collateral advantages of the medical status. The time is approaching when the question of admitting women to the Fellowship of the medical societies will have to be discussed, and, judging from appearances, it will not be long hence.—*Med. Press*.

QUACKERY IN AFRICA.—“An agent in south-western Africa has written an account to Berlin of the present condition of quackery in that region. A year ago a foreigner went through the country carrying on his back a bag filled with plasters, wafers, and different concoctions, which he made out of anything that came at hand, and replenished

as they became exhausted. He advertised himself as much as possible, and received a most enthusiastic welcome from the natives. He remained only two or three weeks in one place, and took payment in cattle, which he drove with him from place to place. When he reappeared upon the coast he had a herd of about a thousand cattle. The German agent writes that the natives, after he had left the country, found out that they had been swindled, and that it would not now be safe for any dealer in medicines to travel through the district.”—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

WYETH'S COMPRESSED TABLET TRITURATES.—Combining absolute accuracy of dose, convenience in administration, speedy disintegration, and consequent rapid absorption, thereby insuring the most effective results. The triturates are absolutely exact, and will keep indefinitely with little or no danger of loss; they can be readily swallowed with a mouthful of water; or, if smaller doses be required for infants, the tablets can be reduced to a fine powder, by simply crushing with a knife or the thumb nail. By “triturates” are meant the preparations made, not only by carrying the subdivisions to the utmost extent, but by varying the doses to the lowest limits of physiological power. It has always been known that the size of the dose affected the degree, and to some extent, the character of the action. Since the physiological study of medicine has been introduced, the real nature of the difference in the effects of small and large doses has been clearly demonstrated, for the most important of the remedies in use. Again, it is to be noticed that small doses, frequently repeated, may accomplish better results than large doses at long intervals. Such differences in the therapeutical effects have been observed in the administration of opium, aconite, veratum viride, calomel and others. The extent to which reduction in the dose may be carried, compatible with ascertainable effects, has been the subject of scientific investigation, and exact data have been obtained. By the precise methods of chemistry and the spectroscope, it has been ascertained that no dilution beyond the sixth and seventh decimal contains demonstrable portions of any medicaments. As these dilutions contain quantities so infinitely minute as to be entirely without action, physiological or curative, it