

THE GROPINGS OF MEDICINE.—A physician was once conversing with a prince who spoke of medicine as a science of guess-work. "But, sire," he said, "let us suppose that an Egyptian darkness were suddenly to come over the land. Would you not rather trust to a blind man to guide you to Paris than to one who might see in the light; to one who had learned to grope his way in the darkness than to another who would stumble and go astray the moment his clear sight was dimmed?"—*Med. and Surgical Reporter*.

FAITH HEALING.—Rev. Dr. Buckley, editor of the *Methodist Christian Advocate*, has a long article in the June *Century* opposed to the claims of Christian "faith healers." "Its tendency is to produce an effeminate type of character which shrinks from any pain, and to concentrate itself upon self and its sensations. It sets up false grounds for determining whether a person is or is not in the favor of God. It opens the door to every superstition. It directs attention from the moral and spiritual transformation which Christianity professes to work, a transformation which, whenever made, manifests its divinity, so that none who behold it need any other proof that it is of God. It destroys the ascendancy of reason in the soul, and thus, like similar delusions, it is self-perpetuating; and its natural, and in some minds its irresistible, tendency is to mental derangement."—*Albany Medical Annals*.

THE MALE NIPPLE.—During the late war, at a period when the success of the Union cause was pretty well assured, President Lincoln was invited by some distinguished engineers of the army to inspect a plan which had been drawn for a very elaborate and expensive system of defence for the City of Washington. After examining the drawings attentively he inquired what was the necessity for the works. "The defence of the capital," was the reply, "in the contingency of a Confederate invasion." The President thereupon was reminded of a story of a debating society of a Western town, where the question was discussed, "Why does a man have breasts?"

Several nights of debate failed to elucidate the problem until the matter was submitted to a referee, who decided "that if, under any circumstances, however fortuitous, or by any chance or freak, no matter of what nature, or by what caused, a man should have a baby, there might be breasts to nurse it."—*Med. News*.

THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN RUINS.—The following letter to Dr. L. A. Sayre, of this city, will explain itself: "Charleston, S.C., September 11, 1886. Dear Doctor: In the great calamity which has befallen the people of this city, the Medical College of the State of South Carolina has been seriously injured—to such an extent that the Faculty have felt constrained to appeal to members of the profession to aid them in repairing the damages. I have been requested by the Faculty to write to you, asking that you will use your influence among friends to obtain any assistance in their power. We hope to begin lectures on October 15th, perhaps in a temporary building. The entire roof of the college will have to be reconstructed; the walls also parted. The contributions to the people here have been very generous, but medical institutions and physicians derive no benefit from such. You know what peculiar position in a community we occupy: every service expected of us, and the most unselfish devotion to relieving others; while we are supposed to be endowed with the faculty of living on air. I need not give you any description of the scenes through which we have passed—the character of which has not been exaggerated in the papers—as these last have furnished the entire country with full particulars. We are still sleeping in a tent in a garden, as women and children complicate the difficulty, and are not readily moved out of the house in case of a shock. These have greatly subsided in force and frequency, and confidence is being fast restored. My house, being of brick, is seriously injured, but habitable. I remain, dear doctor, with best wishes for your health, sincerely yours. F. PEYRE PORCHER, M.D., Professor in Medical College of the State of South Carolina."—*N.Y. Med. Record*.