

Selections.

Oculists and Fakirs.

At present we oculists are most busy and earnest, and effectively so, in creating and commissioning "fake" ophthalmic and refraction schools, refracting opticians, peripatetic spectacle peddlers, and quack M.D. oculists. These things are the direct result of our neglect. No blame, of course, to them who make their chief corner-stone the block we have rejected. There are eighty or ninety good reasons why headaches may not be relieved by our prism glasses. At present osteopathy is influencing legislatures, and ignorantly, but far more successfully than many of the profession, it is treating the millions of distorted or weakened and diseased backs and bodies of our people; we neglect the study of the spinal column utterly and wholly in the functional and beginning stages of lateral curvature. Osteopathy is a product of our professional neglect and bigotry, and especially of the ophthalmic variety.

Great surgeons and orthopedists say, if a child does come into their hands with lateral curvature, "O, let it go; give it some exercises! it will get well as it grows older." But spontaneous cure never comes. If they pretend to treat it at all, they give it over to a nurse to handle. In truth they do not treat it until they can treat it surgically; and there was never a case of organic lateral curvature cured, either surgically, or by all the horrible torture chamber machines a Hoffa could devise or picture. Not a man knows the cause of this defect, and how, therefore, can there be a cure? The superintendent of schools of New York City orders his hundreds of thousands to carry their books on one side one-half the time, and on the other side the other half. In this same city great classes of poor children are formed in lines and taught to bend their bodies at command to one side, and then to the other. Better would it be to hold a black cat over the crossroads at midnight and mumble a charm. Osteopathy is a wretched thing, but it often cures, and, however blindly and stupidly, it is making some sort of use of deep massage, the stone which the medical architects refused.

Eddyism is rampant in the land, and professionally we are largely responsible for Mrs. Eddy, her foolish children, and her million dollar temples. As medical men we have wholly neglected the attitude of mind of the patient to himself, and to his disease. Especially to her disease! We have been so absorbed in our so-called "science," our professional dignity, our personal reputation and success, that we have forgotten the first duty of any human being: the duty to be kind, and to