

Miscellaneous.

RADIUM AND ITS DISCOVERER, MADAME CURIE.

The following, taken from *Harper's Bazar*, written by W. G. Fitzgerald, may be agreeable reading to many of our subscribers, who have shown such deep interest in the valuable contributions recently published from the pen of Dr. Louis Wickham, of the Curie Laboratory for Radium, in Paris:

"One day last spring I halted in astonishment outside the stately Sorbonne University in Paris. 'Surely,' thought I, 'this hoary centre of learning must have been turned into a show-place for the rank and fashion of all Europe?' Great titled ladies in sables and silk were alighting from superb motors, escorted by men whose names are known the world over—gray-haired savants, too, of the rank of Lord Kelvin, Sir William Ramsay, and Sir Oliver Lodge. Russian and American girl-students were pouring in, with the miscellaneous crowd of cosmopolis that represented the beauty, wealth, wit, and intellect of half a dozen nations. And last of all came King Carlos and Queen Amélie of Portugal, with the President of France, escorting Madame Fallieres.

"What could it be? The secret was soon out, for I caught a whisper—'Madame Curie is lecturing!' That marvellous woman, to whom is due the discovery of radium, which has revolutionized all previously held ideas of physical science—Madame Curie, the only woman ever appointed to a professor's chair in the great Sorbonne; a woman now courted by princes and governments. Did not the Shah of Persia himself take jewelled orders from his breast and attempt to pin them on this shyest of women?

"I went to the lecture. It was to be on 'polonium,' the first element discovered by Madame, and thus named for her native country.

"Believing that only the few cared to hear her, she had arranged to speak in a small class-room, seating barely thirty. But now the gay *monde* flocked from far and near, and there was nothing for it but the huge amphitheatre of the University of Paris.

"Even that was packed to the doors, and hundreds shut out, clamoring in vain to see and hear the world's greatest woman of science, whom the foremost thinkers of to-day have been proud to honor and accept as an intellectual equal. On the platform were arrayed a strange jumble of instruments and tubes, bottles