

Specialism Gone Mad.

THE tendency of the age to run to specialism in all branches of business is perhaps more noticeable in the profession to which we belong than in any other. For instance, laparotomists, laryngologists, rhinologists, ophthalmologists, otologists, pædeologists, and so on, contend for public favor. Now we have "Doctors of Refraction." Pretty soon we will have "Doctors of Eczema," and "Doctors of Scabies." Could anything be more farcical? Of course such degrees are not recognizable by law, and are meant to delude the unwary by giving the impression of having had a medical education. It is a question if the Legislature should not take some action to protect the public against the spectacle fakirs who are overrunning the country. Their *modus operandi* is to offer "scientific examination free," and to charge for the glasses only. They discover that every other person has astigmatism, and load the people up with cylindrical lenses at three times their normal value to the detriment of the eyes and purses of the purchaser.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Abdominal Injuries and Hæmorrhages.

DR. JOHN B. DEEVER recently read an able address upon the above subject before the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery. He first of all directed attention to the fact that severe intra-abdominal injury, either with or without hæmorrhage, may occur, and yet no external marks of violence. This is important, as most medical men have met with cases where the stomach or bowels have been ruptured, or the spleen, kidney or liver lacerated or comminuted into a pulp, without the slightest external mark of injury.

The mortality in these cases of intra-abdominal rupture or hæmorrhage is very high. In laceration of the liver or spleen, where the patient does not die of hæmorrhage or shock, a violent peritonitis ensues, to which he is almost certain to succumb. In those cases where the stomach, bladder or intestines are ruptured, and their contents poured into the abdominal cavity, a rapidly fatal peritonitis is the result. In the case of rupture of the mesentery the great danger is from hæmorrhage, but even should death not occur from hæmorrhage, peritonitis is produced by the blood-clots in the abdominal cavity. When the lesion is a ruptured extra-uterine pregnancy, death results from the hæmorrhage or peritonitis.