

Miscellaneous.

THE STORY OF A SPA.

Superstition, intuition,
Universal imbibition,
Disappointment and vexation ;
Then again sound observation,
Clinical empiricism,
Diet rules and regulation.
Theories of chemist, analytical ;
Puffs of cure-all, hypocritical ;
Grateful touts of "perfect cures" ;
Wealthy, pampered epicures !
Science scoffing, Fashion smiling :
Yet the wells are still beguiling
Men and women for their healing—
Pace reason—proved by feeling !
" Powers of nature occult still " ;
Atoms, cosmic force, or veil ?
So the cycle we fulfil,
And the fruit of erudition
Mystery—like superstition !

—*Quarterly Medical Journal.*

Sulphate of Duboisin in Paralysis Agitans.

X. Francotte, in the *Journal de Neurologie* for May, 1899, gives the result of his treatment of twelve cases of paralysis agitans with duboisin. In nine of the cases there was a marked amelioration in the symptoms, though, of course, there was no case which could be considered cured. The drug seemed to exercise an especially favorable influence over the rigidity, and in the cases which it helped the tremor was much decreased. The drug was used in the form of granules which contained half a milligramme each ; these were given two, three or six daily, according to the physiological effects. The drug was held at its full dose for a long period of time. Marked tolerance for the drug was not established, and its favorable influence seemed to continue nearly as long as the administration. Two of the cases treated were not improved, and these showed marked intolerance of the drug from the beginning.

Cock-Sureness in Prognosis.

Dr. Boardman Reed says: "Floating around among the daily papers we have observed a story concerning an old citizen of a Western town, who, twenty-eight years ago, was said to have been given up to die by eight different physicians on account of advanced lung trouble. He has lived to see five of the eight erroneous prognosticators die before him, and, as the story goes, expects to bury the other three. This yarn may or may not be true—probably not; but cases do frequently