

Miscellaneous.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MEDICINE.—It is altogether to be regretted that even the rising generations of physicians are not imbued with this idea. In spite of the hopeful scientific tendencies of the last half century, there still exists a depressing atmosphere of practicality. Young men of marked ability are forever weighing their scientific tastes in the balance with the practical demands of their profession, and entirely apart from the pressure of circumstances, are finding the greater weight of inducement in the practical fields.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

FEMALE OR WOMAN.—Dr. Howard A. Kelly writes as follows to the editor of the *American Journal of Obstetrics*: "A good friend with a fine English sense who occasionally looks over my shoulder as I write, left this note ('Female' or 'Woman'?) pinned to one of my papers a few days ago. I think the fault common enough to be worth while correcting publicly. And as it is manifestly an error to which a gynæcologist is more prone than other men, the correction ought to appear in the *American Journal of Obstetrics*: 'Take care not to use the word "female" as meaning a woman. It is correct to speak of the female pelvic organs, but a "female" is not a woman; it is a cow, a mare, any animal of the female sex. It is old-fashioned English to call women females, and the expression is coarse in this sense.'

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.—The following instance where a bad cold caused a startling conversation is reported in the *Sanitarian*: "A modest young newspaper man was invited to a party at a residence where the home had recently been blessed with an addition to the family. Accompanied by his best girl he met his hostess at the door, and, after the customary salutations, asked after the baby. The lady was suffering from a severe cold, which made her slightly deaf, and she mistakenly supposed that the young man was inquiring about her cold. She replied that though she usually had one every winter, this was the worst she ever had; it kept her awake at night a good deal at first and confined her to her bed. Then, noticing that the scribe was becoming pale and nervous, she said that she could see by his looks that he was going to have one just like her's, and asked him if he wished to lie down. The paper came out as usual the next week, but the editor has given up inquiring about babies."