

Medical Items.

SULPHUR IN SCIATICA.—Dr. Duchesne lately communicated to the *Société Thérapeutique* his successful use of this medicament in sciatica, following directions given to him by Dr. Guéneau de Mussy. The procedure consisted simply in spreading a thick layer of flor. sulphur upon a cloth and placing the member on it in bed. The cure was said by Dr. de Mussy to be effected with great rapidity, and he cited a case in which the application needed to be made during one night only. No attempt was made by Dr. Duchesne to explain the action of the sulphur; he said simply that its only visible effect, apart from that made upon the sciatica, was to quickly give the urine an odor of sulphuretted hydrogen.—*Monit. therap.*

BOILED WATER AS AN ASEPTIC.—Microbian cultures flourish in the most concentrated solutions of carbolic acid; and this is also true of sublimate solutions actually as strong as usually recommended. The accidents occasioned by corrosive sublimate, by carbolic acid, and even by iodoform, are so frequent and so well known in the meantime, that one cannot too warmly urge upon surgeons the use of simple water, which after filtration and boiling at 100° C., or better at 120° C., if one has the proper apparatus, is certainly the best aseptic we have at our disposition. While solutions of hydrochlorate of morphine for hypodermic use, made according to the old method with distilled water, are full of micro-organisms and of microbes at the end of five to ten days of use, they are preserved pure and perfectly limpid during weeks, or even months, if water be employed which has been filtered and boiled.—*Gazette de Gynecologie.*

HOW A LONDON SURGEON WAS COMPLIMENTED.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "There is a story going about so good that it ought to be made public, and so improbable that it must be true. A very eminent London surgeon—one of the lights of the profession—the other day observed a gentleman fall in the street. He went to his aid, and found he had broken his leg. It was only a simple fracture, but the man was badly hurt. The surgeon used his umbrella as a splint, and with his