

Miscellaneous.

THE AMERICAN PHYSICIAN.

To look at ourselves and our affairs through the eyes of others is often very enlightening; it is at least suggestive. The *Medical News*, Jan. 7th, 1905, quoted a chapter from "As a Chinaman Saw Us," a book published by D. Appleton & Co., New York City, from which we quote certain portions as follows:

"The Americans have made rapid advances in medicine and surgery and they have some extraordinary physicians. From two to four years of study completes the education of some of the doctors, and hundreds are turned out every year. Some are of the old and regular school of medicine, but others are called homeopathic, which means that they give small doses of the more powerful medicines. Then there are those who practice in both schools. Indeed, in no other field does ignorance, superstition, credulity and lack of real education display itself as among the American doctors and healers. I believe I could fill a volume by a mere enumeration of the diabolical and absurd nostrums offered by knaves to heal men who profess to hold in ridicule the Chinese doctors."

After enumerating with astonishment the varieties of healers, as Eddyites, faith curists, spirit doctors, fake hypnotists, water curers, osteopaths, color doctors, electric healers, etc., he continues:

"But the most amazing class comprise the patent medicine men, who are usually not doctors at all, but buy from someone a 'cure' and then advertise it, spending in one instance which I investigated, \$1,000,000 a year. Every advantageous wall, stone or cliff in America will be posted. You see the name at every turn, and the gullible Americans bite, chew and swallow."

"It is not overstating facts when I say that three-fifths of the people buy some of these patent nostrums, which the real medical men denounce, showing that the masses of the people are densely ignorant, the victim of any faker who can shout his wares loud enough. In China such a thing would be impossible; the block would stop the practice; but the Americans assure me that China is a thousand years behind the times, for which let us be devoutly thankful."

"I have not enumerated a tenth of the kinds of doctors who prey on these unfortunate people. There are companies of them who guarantee to cure anything, and skillfully mulct the sick of their last penny. There are retreats for the unfortunate, farms for deserted infants, and homes for unfortunate women, carried on by villains of both sexes. There are travel-