

Miscellaneous.

Lumbago.

Lumbago, or pain in the back, it is hardly necessary to explain, is a symptom and not a disease. In its ordinary form it is a painful manifestation limited to the muscles of the back, which serve to regain or maintain the erect position, hence it is very apt to follow a strain or effort such as that involved by remaining standing in one position for an unduly long time. Very often the so-called lumbago coincides with, and is probably due to, some functional disturbance of the kidneys; indeed, pain in the back is always an early and prominent symptom of renal congestion. The precise significance of the pain can only be ascertained by further examination and observation. The rheumatic form of lumbago is a very distressing and obstinate affection, but except for the irksome disability which it entails has not much importance. That due to the kidneys, on the other hand, may pass off as suddenly as it has come, or it may prove to be the prelude of graver trouble, according to the degree to which the renal functions are disturbed.—*Medical Press and Circular*.

The Viewpoint in Medicine.

If asked such questions as "How are you getting along?" "How is everything?" "How does the world use you?" nine out of ten will reply in a way going to show that in calculating the degree of success, dollars and cents is the factor with which we compute our progress. Such answers as "I find plenty of opportunity to do good," "Nothing delights me more than the practice of my profession," are rarely heard. "Business is bad," or "Business is good," or "Collections are slow," or "Collections are brisk," are the replies most likely to be received not only in commercial life, but in professional as well. It is said that we get what we want in this world. If money be the chief object for which we strive, its accumulation will be the *summum bonum* of life; if something else—professional honor, scientific investigation, public beneficence—these, too, may be realized. Is it not often true with many of us that what we are hoping to make is secondary only to what we fear we may lose? As professional men—physicians—do we not find ourselves reckoning, too often perhaps, financial gain rather than fraternal good? The sum of our success cannot always be told in figures. When the steward comes to give an account of his stewardship, success will not depend altogether upon the multiplication of the one or the two or the five talents, as the case may be, but rather upon the uses to which they have been put. It may be asked, "Are we not entitled to pecuniary reward?"