

Miscellany.

WALKING CASES OF YELLOW FEVER.

The term is a technical one, understood in yellow fever districts. A "walking case" is a patient who refuses to go to bed and keeps his feet until he drops dead. Sometimes he refuses to admit that he has yellow fever; sometimes he realizes that he has the dread disease and despairs of recovery from the start. Sometimes the "walking case" manifests the most abject fear, and again he displays the courage and indifference of a spy led out to execution. Sometimes the "walking" is confined to the patient's chamber, and then again he roams the streets, with the seal of death on his brow, the dreadful black vomit oozing from his lips—an object of horror to all whom he encounters. This stalking death is not an uncommon feature of life in New Orleans during the prevalence of an epidemic. Many who passed through the fearful ordeal of 1853, in which nearly eight thousand victims perished, will remember the case of John C., a Memphis printer. He was a man of splendid physique and handsome presence, but an unfortunate love affair had made him reckless. He developed a "walking case" of yellow fever, and for two days and nights roamed the streets and frequented the drinking houses of the city, in spite of all his friends could do, finally falling on the street, and dying before he could be conveyed to his lodgings. *Indianapolis Herald.*

ANCIENT PERFUMERY.

M. Jules Simon traces back the origin of perfumes to the early times of the Chinese Empire, and mentions a curious habit which prevailed amongst the fine ladies of the Celestial Empire of rubbing in their hands a round ball made of a mixture of amber, musk, and sweet-scented flowers. The Jews, who were also devoted to sweet scents, used them in their sacrifices, and also to anoint themselves before their repasts. The Scythian women went a step farther, and, after pounding on a stone, cedar, cypress, and incense, made up the ingredients thus obtained into a thick paste, with which they smeared their faces and limbs. The composition emitted for a time a pleasant odor and on the following day gave to the skin a soft and shining appearance. The Greeks carried sachets of scent in their dresses, and filled their dining-rooms with fumes of incense. Even their wines were often impregnated with decoctions of flowers, or with sweet-scented flowers themselves, such as roses and violets. There were also appropriate scents for each limb, and each feature, and the elegants of Athens resorted to such effeminate refinements of luxury, anointing pigeons with a liquid perfume and causing them to fly loose about a room, scattering the drops from their feathers over the heads and garments of those who were feasting beneath.

A HOSPITABLE ISLAND.

Captain Garth, of the steamer Ariel, in a recent voyage from Melbourne to Fiji, called at Lord Howe Island, on which he found 25 inhabitants,—men, women and children, all told. The island is mountainous, of volcanic origin, but well wooded, about five miles long, and from a mile and a half to two miles broad, 400 miles E. of Sydney. As the steamer approached the island on the west side, with ensign flying, a boat came off with two men in it, and brought the vessel to an anchorage. Shortly afterwards a bullock was seen in harness coming towards the beach, drawing a sledge loaded with fowls, oranges, bananas, eggs, &c., which the settlers brought off and gave to the captain, without making any charge or taking any payment. A blacksmith's shop was given up to the engineer to do whatever he required. The inhabitants assisted in cutting wood and getting water for the vessel, and rendered every possible assistance. Captain Garth speaks very highly of their hospitality.