

ing priests—using this term in its accepted objectionable sense—and ignorant quacks, are the natural enemies of human weal; but they must ever flourish until an intelligent public in its indignation wakes and crushes them beneath its heel. And just why and how this public sentiment should be aroused, we shall further consider hereafter.

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The Slaughter of the Innocents.

WE have a word to say in behalf of an abused and persecuted class—the babies. Just now, we pass by the ante-natal assaults to which they are so subject, and to which so many succumb. But the survivors, who have succeeded in effecting an entrance into this world of aches and pains, ought surely to be allowed fair play in their struggle with the ills which baby flesh is heir to. Instead of that, while their nature is warring against infantile diseases, patent medicine dealers, mothers and nurses attack the rear of the defending body with the contents of a huge magazine of “cordials,” “syrups,” “paregorics,” and divers other deadly weapons with pleasant names.

That mothers and nurses administer these drugs with “intent to kill,” we are far from saying. It no doubt adds to domestic felicity if a fretful child can be quieted with a compound which the mother supposes to be harmless; but it is well that this blissful ignorance should be enlightened, and the dangerous character of the means taken to avoid these little annoyances freely exposed.

The leading element of all these compounds is opium. Now, an intelligent physician never gives this drug to a child except under extreme circumstances, and then with the greatest care; for he knows that in children its operation is exceedingly capricious, and that very minute doses have resulted fatally. And yet, what physicians fear to do, mothers and nurses in their ignorance, and patent medicine dealers wilfully, have no compunction in doing every day and every hour of the day.

Probably the preparation known as “Mrs. Winslow’s Soothing Syrup” has the most enormous sale of any. An analysis of this compound shows a large percentage of Opium; and several cases of poisoning have been reported in the medical journals. But this is only a sample; for all the preparations made, sold and used for the pur-