

of the nostrum vendor, as the result of an alluring and lying advertisement.

Such a business is probably the meanest and dirtiest in which anyone could engage. But they do not stop at that. Remedies are put on the market with the apparently deliberate intention of developing drug habits in innocent purchasers. We know cases where workingmen, users of a largely advertised catarrh snuff, have become so addicted to its use (it probably contains cocaine) that they have been compelled to spend as much as a dollar a day in the purchase of it. Whiskey would be cheaper, and certainly less harmful ; but the sale of whiskey is governed by all sorts of legislative enactments. We believe that no proprietary medicine should be allowed to be exposed for sale unless it were first proved to the satisfaction of a competent authority that it could reasonably be expected to be of value in the conditions for which it was supposed to give relief, and that without any supervision it could be safely used. The ingredients should be plainly stated on the bottle or package.

TREATMENT OF INEBRIATES.

Another matter which will probably come up at the present session is the advisability of appropriating a sum of money for the treatment of inebriates. It seems a difficult matter to convince the ordinary man that drunkenness is often a disease and should be treated as such. The idea that dipsomaniacs have only to exert their will power and make good resolutions in order to reform, is so deep-rooted that it is hard to dig it up. The best argument which can be advanced in support of the suggestion that drunkards should be committed to some other institution than the jail, is that imprisonment has proved utterly useless from either a deterrent or corrective standpoint. There are now sent to jail every day as drunkards those who have no more right to be punished for their drunkenness than they should be for having typhoid fever. It is to be hoped that the present session will see the inauguration of a more humane and more scientific treatment of inebriates.