

coffee drinker. It is true he has been fed a year or two of the most important, because most formative stage of his existence, on the poisoned streams of the body of another individual; and it is equally true that he has been compelled to breathe, for many a juvenile hour, an atmosphere poisoned with the smoke of another's pipe or cigar. But this, though bad enough for incipient human life, is not quite so bad for him as another, and in its results, more deadly form of treatment still, at the hands of those who should have been his benefactors. Lay open his intestinal canal, and you will find it, from beginning to end, having, as the vulgar phrase it, an angry appearance, and, perhaps, thickly studded with ulcers. Is this diseased membrane a suitable place for the exhibition of active medicine? Will any scientific medical man be so daring and reckless, in view of such considerations as are likely to present themselves to his mind, in these days, when called to a sick child, as to venture on what is usually called an active or bold treatment? Yet he is expected to do something—something, too, which will inspire confidence. The parents, who have given their dearest child saleratus, pepper, spice, salt, lard, butter, and all sorts of concentrations, and the grandparents, who have, either by stealth or otherwise, give him extra rations, at all hours, especially those which were unreasonable, of pie, cake, sweetmeats and confectionary, will be the last to be satisfied with an expectant treatment. The physician knows all this; yet he knows that the more imminent the danger, the greater the necessity of leaving nature so undisturbed and unembarrassed, that she may exert the full force of her recuperative power, without which recovery will be impossible. So great will be his difficulty that it should excite no surprise to hear him say, in the deep anguish of his soul, that if it must be so,—if people will live in this intemperate manner and thus irritate and poison their solids and fluids, it were far better to trust the issue to nature and good nursing, than to attempt anything by means of medicine. Indeed, it may be laid down as an incontrovertible maxim, that all forms of medication in such cases, are much worse than nothing; and were society but aware of the facts in the case, they would either abandon their habits, or abandon physicians and medicine. Both cannot, with safety, be retained.

In the few remarks here made, I have alluded to a few only of the almost innumerable difficulties which beset the medical man, and sometimes seem actually to hedge up his way. In a future article I may advert briefly to the course which a truly honorable practitioner, in the world's best days, may be expected to pursue.

DEMAND FOR NOSTRUMS.

Immensely large warehouses in all the principal cities of the United States are stored with all imaginable preparations for human sufferings; and the vast capital employed in this branch of trade, which at