

humorous description of one, Mr. Hardy formulated the following propositions. 1. Quackery is more profitable pecuniarily than scientific medicine, but not so profitable mentally or morally. 2. Quackery most readily finds its victims among the highest and lowest social strata, not amongst the more intelligent middle classes; readily also amongst religious people—hence certain quacks always advertise largely in the (so-called) religious periodicals. 3. Various forms of quackery have, in former times, been intimately connected with the practice of medicine; but they have always impeded its scientific progress. If the members present agreed with him on these three points, they would have no difficulty, he thought, in arriving at the same conclusion that he had—viz.: that it was the bounden duty of every honest practitioner, by every means in his power, to discourage and discountenance all forms of quackery, however profitable or plausible, and whether practised by those within or without the profession. Dr. Dowse said he was somewhat disappointed at not hearing more about the modern forms of quackery. He thought some reference might have been made to the sly advertising which was done by members of the profession. He would like, too, to have a definition of a quack. The writer of the paper had been, he thought, too sarcastic with reference to certain forms of cures. It did not matter whether it was homœopathy or mud-baths that cured those who came to medical men. They wanted to be cured; and scientific medicine too often overlooks the most important part of its work—therapeutics. Science did not do much for the treatment of disease. So long as they cured their patients, and did not resort to villany, medical men were perfectly at liberty to resort to any system whatever. Dr. Iliff agreed that the great point was how to cure patients. He thought the bone-setters had taught the profession a great deal. The water-cure had been spoken of somewhat contemptuously; but he thought hydropathic establishments were great benefits. Faith had great influence in the treatment of disease. He remembered, when a student at Guy's Hospital many years ago, he cupped and bled one

hundred and fifty patients in three months simply because it was the fashion at the time. Mr. Barwell thought quackery rather consisted in the manner in which a thing was done, than in the thing itself. Any one who deceived another for his own pocket advantage was a quack; but the man who believed a decillionth of a grain was not a quack, but a lunatic. The Chairman, though he could not say he had not previously paid much attention to the subject, was inclined to agree with Mr. Barwell as to the definition of a quack. It was certainly very curious to look back on the connection, to which attention had been directed in the paper, between astrology, alchemy on the one hand, and astronomy and chemistry on the other. Mr. Hardy, in answer, said he agreed with the chairman and Mr. Barwell, that a medical man who deceived a patient as to his treatment, for his own advantage, was a quack. He could not say he had with Dr. Dowse or Dr. Iliff, that it was a matter of indifference what system was adopted, so long as the patient was cured. He believed many people were cured who took Hobb's pills and ointment, but that did not make any the less quackery. Dame Nature was kind to all. But he believed there was, nevertheless, such a thing as scientific treatment of disease, founded upon a knowledge of anatomy and physiology; and that all else was quackery.—*British Medical Journal.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

By the Rev. D. C. McDowell, of Bowmanville, on the 28th Dec., at the residence of the bride's father, 12 Charles street, Dr. Jerrold Ball, to Emily, daughter of Frederick A. Moore, Esq., all of Toronto.

At St. John's Church, Ancaster, on December 28th, by the Rev. W. R. Clark, Dr. Stevenson, of Brantford, Ont., to Helen L. M., eldest daughter of Amos Hubbard, Esq., of Brundale, Ancaster.

At Emerson, Man., on 28th December, by the Rev. C. J. Brenton, M.A., Dr. John Smith, of Winnipeg, to Laura Lillian, only daughter of the late Mr. McLeod, M.P.P., of Dunvegan, Bowmanville, Ont.

DEATHS.

On the morning of the 11th January, at Grand Haven, Michigan, Dr. A. J. Whitehead, aged 29 years.

On the 15th January, at the residence of his son, Caniff, Jonas Caniff, aged 92 years.

At Cobourg, on the 17th January, James Pringle, M.D., in his 85th year.