

Editorial.

THE TRAFFIC IN PERCENTAGES.

This subject has, at one time or another, been fully discussed in this journal, and as often have we taken the opportunity of expressing an opinion, which, we are well assured, represents not only the true state of the case, but the *disinterested* belief of the majority of our readers. So long as an evil continues, it becomes our duty to aid in its extermination, nor should our efforts relax until this result be attained.

It is said that every evil will, in time, eradicate itself, and we are pleased to learn that the percentage system forms no exception to this rule, but is progressing favorably in the operation of starving itself out. This result is being accelerated by the well-directed efforts of those who oppose the system. The improved status of pharmacists, generally, has also brought with it an independence of feeling which is directly hostile and repugnant to the debasing truckling which characterises the trade in percentages. The severance of this self-imposed bond of servility will obliterate the sole remaining sign of medical domination, erase a most dishonorable blot from the pharmaceutical escutcheon, and remove a cause of ill-feeling, which, of all others, has been a most prolific source of contention.

Some time ago this subject was taken up by the medical and pharmaceutical press of Great Britain. The general opinion held there is well expressed by the following extract taken from the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of London:--

"In this country, as well as in America, it is a violation of medical etiquette and respectability for a physician to participate directly or indirectly in the profit arising out of the dispensing of his prescriptions. It would be a libel to accuse either a medical man of receiving, or a chemist of paying, a share of the spoil as an equivalent for patronage.

"A man who professes only to prescribe, and clandestinely takes a profit on the medicine, is deceiving his patients and robbing