

Matters Medical.

QUACKERY IN THE PROFESSION.

Some time ago, owing to unsavory methods, the authorities in Belgium politely but firmly requested that a certain physician practising there seek other and greener fields for the pursuance of his labors. This physician was an American, imbued with the spirit of liberty and tolerance of his native soil, courteously thanked the powers for their invitation, but stated that, owing to certain inherent principles in his eagle-screaming, stars-and-stripes disposition, he felt compelled to decline. The result was that the authorities, this time with more firmness than politeness boxed him up, labelled him "America," and shipped him home, where he is now practising without molestation, a sad commentary on the ethical standard of American professionalism.

There are many varieties of quacks, ranging in degree from the man in whom the attribute of honor is a negative quantity to the neophyte, who, within twenty-four hours after the solemn ceremony of posting his professional sign upon the front of his house, drives a disgusted and perspiring horse frantically down the street as an outward mark of a prosperous practice. The quack is indigenous to the soil of no particular locality, but the special providence that oversees the disposition of these gifts to the profession has been especially prodigal toward America, and it is to a few of the most popular methods of this class that we desire to call attention.

Prince of these is the man who will promise anything provided he will be paid for it. He is a past-master in the art of wheedling the almighty dollar from the pockets of those who have the misfortune to consult him, and the methods to which he resorts for this purpose are, to be most charitable, unsavory. Incurable diseases are as babies in his hands, and locomotor ataxia, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy are his favorite bait. It is past understanding why this genius has not long ago been driven from the profession.

The next exponent of perverted medical ethics is of an entirely different variety. He is a man seemingly without principle. One of the few delectable ways and means this man pursues in adding to his practice follows: He has a number of commissioned hirelings, whose work it is to call him in when they are requested to summon some other physician. Upon his arrival he informs the patient that the physician for whom the call was intended is either out of the city or too busy to attend, and that he has been sent in his place. Horsewhipping,