

case in a thousand when he does, which is not encouraging information for the many good people who devote so much of their time in directing the heathen towards the true light.

The Chinese code of morality differs in many respects from that taught by Christianity. For instance, what may constitute a crime in the eyes of a Christian may be regarded by the Chinaman as a virtue. But it is wonderful the influence the Chinese in our midst have exerted over us. What used to be looked upon as an outrage to morality is now accepted as a pardonable vice, if it is a vice at all. I am told that opium smoking has become prevalent in Chinatown, and that those who once invaded the precincts of the "joint" to scoff, now remain to smoke, which goes to show that our people are gradually accommodating themselves to the ways of John Chinaman and his spouse.

This reminds me of a story I heard the other day of an English lady of high rank, who is, as is well known, a victim to the morphine habit. So entirely is she a slave to this pernicious influence that she never dines out without taking with her in her pocket a tiny syringe ready filled with the drug. Then, when she begins during the repast to feel the need of an extra dose, she will draw out her handkerchief with the little syringe concealed in it, will let fall the handkerchief and then stooping as if to pick it up, she will insert the point of the syringe in her ankle, and will so continue to take her extra "pique," as she fondly hopes, unnoticed. But one evening she was dining out after having indulged largely in the narcotic during the day. In the attempt to administer to herself the extra subcutaneous injection during dinner she was so dazed and confused by what she had already taken that she inserted the point of the syringe, not into her own ankle, but into that of the gentleman who sat next to her. Consequently the unlucky man, being wholly unused to such practices, was suddenly overcome with sleep in the middle of dinner, and was removed from the room in a state of total insensibility.

In view of the present stringency of the money market and general depression of business, I am forcibly re-

minded of California, as she was several years ago, after a mining stock boom. There and then, everything in the shape of mining shares "went," and buyers all pictured themselves millionaires in the future. Some who bought shares in bona fide mines prospered, but the majority had invested in wild cat, and the finale resulted in weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. We, here, are in the same boat, with only real estate at issue, in place of stocks. They who have invested in city realty are almost on velvet, whilst speculators in outside lands call for nothing but more mud.

That the matter of wild-cat real estate schemes will be thoroughly sifted seems now beyond doubt. I am told that at the next meeting of the Victoria Trades Assembly the practices of the projectors of townsites will be thoroughly investigated, and that the delegates from the different unions will carry back to their organizations reports from the central body that will have the result of protecting the members of trades unions and labor societies from further imposition. The working man is the one who suffers most, and it is within the province of the Trades Assembly to warn him of the ruin which must follow any attempt at chasing the mirage of fortune, so beautifully pictured to him by the real estate boomer.

However, there is a danger that the union men who are interesting themselves in this matter may go a little too far. The one great desire of every honest workingman is to secure for himself a home. In this he should be encouraged. To accomplish this object Victoria offers inducements that cannot be surpassed, and in placing the matter before the Assembly care should be taken to thoroughly instruct the delegates that a healthy movement in real estate in this city is not speculation. Further, it should be explained that money invested in city property remains in circulation amongst us, and in no way injures business.

The rumor that certain members of the Board of Trade will draw the attention of that body, at its next meeting, to the wild cat real estate schemes, is, I believe, a step in the right direction.

It is the duty of the Board of Trade to protect the business interests of the city, which it should *ex officio* perform.

That there is a depression in business circles in Victoria at the present time, is beyond question; but I do not believe that it can in any way be attributed to the sickly attempt of one or two curbstome real estate brokers to palm off their property on the public. The origin of the depression can be traced back a couple of years, when men who should have known better invested their surplus capital in property on which they will never be able to realize anything more than a fraction of their investment. They invested their last dollar, no matter from what source it came, in paltry patches of worthless wild cat townsites. Now they are borne down with a burden of a mortgage, and forced to resort to business retrenchments, which may ultimately result in ruin. No matter by whom the question of foreign speculation is taken up, it is entitled to the consideration which hope for the future of our city demands. Let the good work proceed.

I admire a slick advertiser who has sense enough to take advantage of every point, but have no use for the kind who use their friends simply because it costs them nothing. The medical fraternity, especially those of the old school doctrine, hold up their hands in righteous indignation whenever they hear of a physician who asserts his manliness, as well as good business points, in advertising. With the æsthetic set this is the one unpardonable sin which can never be forgotten or overlooked. But the self-same men have many little ways that are cunning and cute to get their names before the public. A reporter is seen (by accident) and a surgical case is reported in which a certain physician miraculously brought his patient to life. This, however, has been overdone, and the popular and latest fad is for the doctor to attend a theatrical performance, and after the first act have a summons on an urgent case. One of the actors, of course, steps in front of the curtain and inquires if Dr. So-and-so is in the house; if so, he is requested to call at a certain place on urgent business. This occurs generally when there is a crowded house, and the scheming doctor gets