

our means of locomotion are so much improved that men undertake much larger practices now than formerly; and, thirdly, and this is by far the most important reason, should be mentioned the shameful and growing abuse of hospital and dispensary aid which goes on unchecked in this city.—*London Lancet*.

MEDICAL ÆSTHETICS.—The following from the *Medical Record* is being much passed from hand to hand in New York. It purports to be from the opera of "Patience."—

- A New York medical man,
 A very much advertised man,
 A pills-in-variety, talk in society,
 Each for himself young man.
- A Philadelphia man,
 An Index Medicus man,
 A think-it-all-gammon, this talk of Buchanan,
 Great-medical-centre young man.
- A Boston medical man,
 A hyper-historical man,
 An ultra-persimmon toward medical woman,
 A Harvard-or-nothing young man.
- A Chicago medical man,
 A wide-awake, ethical man,
 A good-as-the-rest-of-you, more-than-abreast-of-you.
 Down-on-the-East young man. J.
- A Toronto medical man,
 A money grub, get all you can,
 A societies shirker, night and day worker,
 Stick-in-the-mud young man.

QUACKERY, ANCIENT AND MODERN.—At the Metropolitan Counties Branch, Sir Joseph Fayrer, M.D., K.C.S.I., in the chair, Mr. Nelson Hardy read this paper. He said quackery had existed from time immemorial, and would probably continue to the end of time. Perhaps the most ancient form, the most respectable and successful one, and that which longest held its grasp on the human mind, was astrology—the most sublime and imposing of impostures—the most venial, in some respects, of delusions. Having traced the manner in which, in the earliest times, this typical form of quackery arose and grew, taking its origin, like other forms, as the result of vague experiences, of the misleading use of signs, and of the liberal use of the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy, he quoted some lines

from Chaucer to show that, in his time, astrology was practised by the eminently respectable doctor of physic who was described in the *Canterbury Tales*. So long did the belief in it continue, that Richelieu is stated by M. Andrien to have had the horoscope of Louis XIV. cast at the moment of his birth; and there could not be any doubt that many honest and well-informed individuals might have been found amongst those who practised it. Another form of imposture, which was practised by many doubtless honest and well-informed medical men, during the time that it was patronised by the rich and great, was alchemy, which bore the same relation to chemistry that astrology did to astronomy—the one a false science, the other a true one; the false believed in, caressed, and patronised by monarchs and ministers of State; the true having to battle hard for bare existence in opposition to its rival. It was important to remember how long, in each case, the false science impeded the development of the true; and how, as astronomy and chemistry rose to the dignity of sciences, they shook off all connection, not only with impudent pretenders to, but also with honest believers in, astrology and alchemy. Among modern forms of quackery, homœopathy, mud-bath cures, milk-cures, and whey-cures, deserved to be mentioned. Homœopathy stood first, as Holloway's pills and ointment did among quack medicines—not, he thought, from any intrinsic merit in it above the other forms of quackery, except it were its greater adaptability to all classes of the population (mostly fools, according to Carlyle) everywhere; unlike hydropathy, which required splendid hotel-buildings and beautiful scenery to carry its cures to perfection; or the mud-bath system, which could only be carried out in certain continental towns, the monstrous system of pretending to cure serious diseases by globules without taste or smell, or appreciable effect of any kind on the human body, could be carried out in every house, by rich and poor, learned and unlearned, and better probably by those who knew nothing of scientific medicine, than by the ablest M.D. of London University. Having referred to the advertisements of quack medicines, and quoted a