

The Friedmann Cure

NOW that a council of Canadian doctors has pronounced the Friedmann consumption cure a failure, it is of interest to quote what the medical journals have been saying about the scientific aspects of the case. Said American Medicine recently:

"Dr. Friedmann may be honest. His intentions may be of the best. His professional ideals may be of the highest. He may care nothing for money. He may have a great and noble mission which he aims to fulfil for suffering humanity. He may be anxious to demonstrate the efficiency of his remedy. Finally, he may be all—as a man and as a physician—that his supporters claim that he is. But one thing is certain, if he had deliberately gone to work to repudiate the good reputation and character given him by his friends, and justify the suspicions of his bitterest enemies, he could not have chosen a more consistent course than the one he has followed during the past month.

"It may be that Dr. Friedmann has a different way of manifesting his likes and dislikes than the ordinary physician. Thus is sudden loss of interest in the cases he was treating under Government scrutiny and equally sudden trip to Providence, R.I., may have indicated his lack of business acumen or his complete indifference to the call of opportunity. That Rhode Island was the only near-by State that would allow patients to force Dr. Friedmann to take their money was only a strange coincidence. It was certainly sad, moreover, after Dr. Friedmann had fought so hard against going to Providence, that he had to remain there for so many days at the mercy of patients who, in spite of his most strenuous efforts, would not let him treat them until he had accepted twenty or twenty-five dollars. . . . The anguish and suffering Dr. Friedmann was forced to undergo, with money constantly being offered to him, can easily be understood.

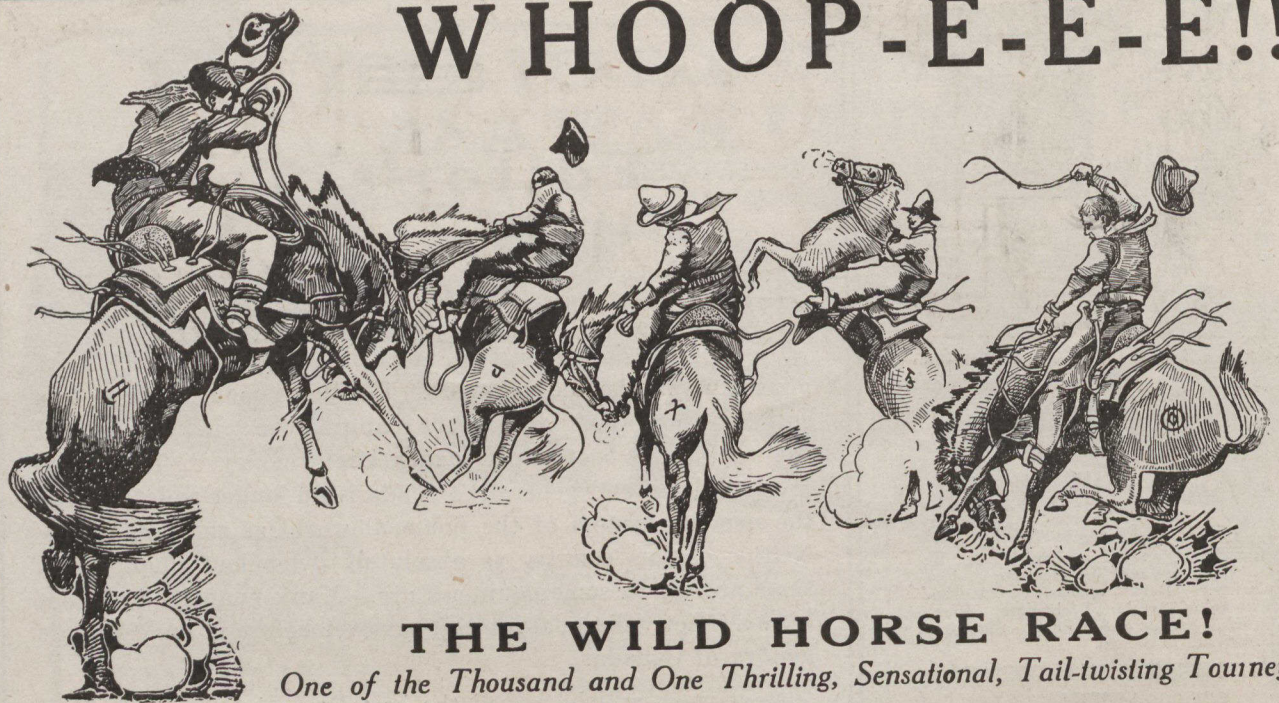
"The more we consider the 'grand finale' of the Friedmann drama—we refrain from referring to it as a comedy—the more we can appreciate Dr. Friedmann's talents. It was certainly a stroke of genius to consummate the sale of his remedy before its efficacy was established, but the real hand of the artist was shown in collecting \$125,000 cash on delivery. Our only hope is that those who bought what Dr. Friedmann had to sell will find that it can stand the acid test. But like the canny Scot, 'we hae our doots, we hae our doots.'"

The Journal of the American Medical Association says:

"The American medical profession has listened to the claims of Friedmann with an open mind. It has waited patiently for him to prove his claims and to show his real intentions. To wait longer is now unnecessary. At present its most pressing duty is to lay the facts before the public through the agency by which Friedmann has so shrewdly secured the free advertising, from which he is preparing to reap his golden harvest. A united movement to warn the people on this important question will, we are sure, meet with a cordial response from the same agency—the American press. Even if it should ever merit scientific classification among the many more or less helpful methods of treatment, the sensational publicity that has been given this 'vaunted cure' adds one more disgraceful chapter to the history of the exploitation of the sick for profit."

The Medical Record, New York, says: "When Dr. Friedmann first came to New York, we thought he had been ill advised, but we were looking at the matter from the side of ethics; we now see, looking at it from an entirely different side, that he has been very well advised.

"Whether the purchasers of this secret remedy have been equally well advised time will show. . . . The results of the New York experiments would hardly seem to warrant an outlay of \$125,000 for the Friedmann secret, but then the stuff has been widely advertised and moribund consumptives are hopeful and credulous. There has, as yet, been no official report on the experiments with the turtle bacillus culture in the hospitals in this city, but it is very generally known among medical men, if not among the laity, that the results have been not at all satisfactory—except to Dr. Friedmann."



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