

food, we should find that it amounted to a very considerable per-centage on the whole, and that one of the best friends of the doctor would prove to be the adulterator. But even our refuge fails us in our hour of need; the tools of the medical man, like those of the sappers and miners before Sebastopol, often turn out to be worthless. Drugs and medical comforts are perhaps as extensively adulterated as any other article."

"When Catherine de Medicis wished to get rid of obnoxious persons in an 'artistic' manner, she was in the habit of presenting them with delicately made sweetmeats, or trinkets, in which death lurked in the most engaging manner; she carried

'Pure death in an ear-ring, a casket,
A signet, a fan-mount, a filigree basket

"Her poisoned feasts are matters of history, at which people shudder as they read: but we question if the diabolical revenge and cold-blooded wickedness of an Italian woman ever invented much more deadly trifles than our low, cheap confectioners do on the largest scale.—We select from some of these articles of bonbonnerie the following feast, which we set before doting mothers, in order that they may see what deadly dainties are prepared for the especial delectation of their children:—"

For want of space we shall only quote the following as a sample:—

"MIXED SUGAR ORNAMENTS,

"Purchased in Middle Row, Holborn."

"The confectionery in this parcel is made up into a variety of forms and devices, as hats, jugs, baskets, and dishes of fruit and vegetables. One of the hats is colored yellow with *Chromate of Lead*, and has a green hat-band round it colored with *Arsenite of Copper*; a second hat is white, with a blue hat-band, the pigment being *Prussian Blue*. The baskets are colored yellow with *Chromate of Lead*. Into the coloring of the pears and peaches the usual non-metallic pigment, together with *Chromate of Lead* and *Middle Brunswick Green*, enter largely; while the carrots represented in a dish are colored throughout with

a *Red Oxide of Lead*, and the tops with *Brunswick Green*. This is one of the worst of all the samples of colored sugar confectionery submitted to analysis, as it contains no less than *four deadly poisons*."

"The painted feast contains then, among its highly injurious ingredients, ferro-cyanide of iron or Prussian blue, Antwerp blue, gamboge, and ultramarine, and among its deadly poisons the three chrome yellows, red lead, white lead, vermilion, the three Brunswick greens, and Scheele's green or arsenic of copper. The wonder is that, considering we set such poison-traps for children, ten times more enticing and quite as deadly as those used to bane rats, that the greater number of youngsters who partake of them are not at once despatched, and so undoubtedly they would be if nurses were not cautious about these colored parts, which have always enjoyed a bad name under the general denomination of 'trash and messes.' As it is, we are informed by Dr. Letheby that 'no less than seventy cases of poisoning have been traced to this source' within three years!"

Our succeeding remarks will fall, we fear, like a bomb upon many a tea-table, and stagger teetotalism in its stronghold. A drunkard's stomach is sometimes exhibited at total-abstinence lectures, in every state of congestion and inflammation, painted up to match the fervid eloquence of the lecturer. If tea is our only refuge from the frightful maladies entailed upon us by fermented liquors, we fear the British public are in a perplexing dilemma. Ladies, there's death in the teapot! Green tea-drinkers beware! There has always been a vague idea afloat in the public mind about hot copper plates—a suspicion that gunpowder and hyson do not come by their color honestly. The old Dutches of Marlborough used to boast that she came into the world before "nerves were in fashion." We feel half inclined to believe that this joke had a great truth in it; for since the introduction of tea, nervous complaints of all kinds have greatly increased; and we need not look far to find one