

For so long a time has the public mind been systematically debauched and demoralized by the prominently published notices, widely disseminated pamphlets, and universally circulated advertisements of criminal abortionists, that the frightful enormity of the offence inculcated has long since ceased to be fully realized. Nor can the Canadian and Briton rejoice in "the flattering unction" that things are much better with themselves. It is true, their stringent Medical Acts, to a certain extent, are preventive of a like amount of publicity in its practice, and a closer legal surveillance necessitates a greater degree of precaution to secure concealment and evade the penalty; but the columns of nine-tenths of the Canadian newspapers are polluted with announcements of the same description; and the published reports of the London and provincial police courts (with their recent revelations in relation to "baby-farming") show that while less obtrusive in its workings, the destruction of offspring, in various ways, is largely engaged in, and that, though quieter on the surface, there is similar rottenness beneath. Throughout this country a serious consideration of the loathsome subject has been shirked—the appalling frequency of the perpetration of the iniquity quietly ignored—until, at length, it has assumed proportions so formidable as to startle even the most heedless. To a great extent (notwithstanding its much greater enormity), the treatment it has received has been the same as that given to "the social evil"—a furtive covering up, or hurried pushing of it out of sight. There needs an earnest effort on the part of all good men to create a healthier public sentiment. The press, the pulpit, and the bench—all public teachers everywhere—should aid in doing away with this foul thing; and legislative enactments for its repression, of the most effective character, should not only be passed, but rigidly and righteously enforced. In conclusion, from what has already been said, it cannot but be apparent that the mass of American readers are not in a more enlightened condition relative to hygiene and anatomy than the mass of readers anywhere else, that there is an ample field for a popular medical literature of quite a different description from that which so extensively obtains throughout the length and breadth of the land; and that even humble and unpretending works like that of Dr. Hope might fill an advantageous place in thousands of households where are now only to be found the mercenary fly-shoots, unclean pamphlets, and satanic hand books, to which we have adverted.