

to be of service to the medical student and most practitioners will find it of great assistance. We congratulate Dr. Purdy upon his work and upon the success it has so far met.

THE Patent on Diphtheria Antitoxine. From time immemorial it has been the crowning glory of the Medical Profession that any discoveries made in the causation, treatment or prevention of disease by any individual member of the fraternity, at once became the property of the whole profession. Medical practitioners the world over have avoided the appearance of secrecy. The methods they employ and the composition and preparation of the drugs they use have always been open for investigation, and the manufacture and sale of medicinal supplies has ever been free to all who wished to engage in the business. The doctor has ever been a worker for humanity. At the close of this nineteenth century, (with shame be it confessed) a German scientist has lent his name to a proceeding which trails in the mud the honour of our philanthropic profession. A patent on the mode of manufacturing Diphtheria Antitoxine has been granted for the United States. Application for this patent had been made five times previously and five times refused. Persistent effort, however, had its effect upon the authorities and the patent has been issued. Now we have no hesitation in saying that Prof. Behring, in whose name the patent has been issued, cannot prove before any body of men competent to judge of such a question, his claim to priority in the manufacture of Diphtheria Antitoxine or in its application to the cure or prevention of diphtheria. Many investigators had given their labour to serum therapy long before he did and this preparation was being manufactured in different parts of the world long before he set up any claim to priority of discovery or invention. But even granting him priority in this matter, what shall we say that will be strong enough to express our condemnation of this attempt to confine the manufacture of this serum in the United States to those to whom he grants permission for a consideration. Fortunately no other country has granted a patent; fortunately for the honor of the profession no one else has asked for a patent. For the credit of the United States and for the good of humanity we trust this patent will not be upheld by the Courts.