

Providence says so plainly shall grow? —for the more a man shaves the more the hair grows, even to the hour of his death. The head shall become bald, but the face never.

In conclusion, when man was created he had given him a beard, and who will dare to say it was not a good gift? Turn to the first chapter of Genesis, and you will find that God saw everything that he had made, and beheld it was very good!—*London News.*

### MEDICAL HUMBUGS.

Having heard frequent inquiries relative to certain remedies which are announced as specifics by their originators, and the formulæ for which are transmitted by mail to various persons, I am fortunately able to respond to such inquiries, and give publicity to the formulæ.

The first is a "Prescription for general Nervous Debility," which may be had from a certain Rev. J. M. Dagnall, who, it seems, has labored under almost every form of nervous derangement, and has permanently cured himself by his *prescription*, which he now *very generously* offers to others. The prescription is as follows:—

R. Alcohol. Ext. Ignatia Amara, grs. xxx.  
Acacia Pulv. grs. x. Mix.

Divide into forty pills, one of which is to be taken in the morning, and one in the evening.

The Bean of St. Ignatius is the product of a tree indigenous to the Philippine Islands; it has an extremely bitter taste, no odor, a horny consistence, and contains a large proportion of strychnia, which is, indeed, its medical principle; while the nux vomica seeds yield only 0.4 per cent. of strychnia, the bean of St. Ignatius gives 1.2 per cent., and, consequently, an extract of the latter article must contain three times as much of this alkaloid as that prepared from the nux vomica, provided equal parts of each article yield an equal amount of extract.

The dose of the extract of nux vomica, as given by authors, is from half a grain to two grains, to be repeated three times

a day; but, if the extract be properly prepared from a good article of nux vomica seeds, there are very few persons with whom the exhibition of even half a grain three times a day would be advisable. In the above prescription, each pill contains three-fourths of a grain of the extract of St. Ignatius bean, which, according to the preceding calculation, is equal to two and one-fourth grains of the extract of nux vomica, or more by one-fourth of a grain than the maximum dose of the latter extract, as recommended by medical writers. From this statement may be learned the absolute danger of this rev. gentleman's prescription, and I should not be at all astonished to learn of many deaths among those who employ it without any prudence or circumspection.

Again, the bean of St. Ignatius is rarely met with in this country, never being used by physicians, and the person who receives the printed prescription and directions from the Rev. Mr. D. will, in most cases, after a fruitless attempt to obtain the remedy from druggists, be obliged to see the gentleman for a quantity of the extract, or of the pills already prepared; and in no case can the patient know whether he receives the extract of the bean or of the nux vomica.

The next medical humbug is that of one H. James, M.D., Jersey city, N.J., Post-office, box 520, who advertises himself as a retired physician, and who professes to have become acquainted with a cure for consumption while in the East Indies, the recipe for which he will furnish to consumptives at the very low and unprofessional price of one shilling each. The prescription is as follows:—

R. Alcohol. Tinct. of Cannabis Indica, 6 oz.  
Extract of Calabria Liqueurice, 1 lb.  
Salts of Tartar, one quarter of a lb.  
Hot water, two gallons. Mix.

The dose is a teaspoonful three times a day.

The Cannabis Indica is a plant growing in the East Indies, closely resembling the hemp cultivated in this country, and most hotanists believe the eastern plant to be identical with that of our