

bably quite as applicable to Canada as to the United States. It is simply disgraceful that such a state of things is permitted. The harm done to all classes of the community by the traffic in the patent medicines is beyond computation. Temptations to make use of them, even by those who do not require any medicine, are flooding the country, chiefly in the form of deceptive and even indecent almanacs. This is surely a matter that demands legislation; and we hope the attention of some of our legislators may be turned toward it, and that they may devise some means by which the constantly increasing traffic in the vile nostrums may be suppressed.

INSULATION OF BEDS.—An interesting paper on the insulation of beds, as, for example, by placing the legs of the bedstead in four glass tumblers, was read before the Central Ohio Medical Society, and published in a late number of the *Philadelphia Med. & Surg. Reporter*. The writer, Dr. Wagenhals, gave the history of a large number of cases of rheumatism, acute and chronic, occurring in his own practice, in which most marked benefit appeared to be derived, almost immediately, by the insulation, and he asks, are they “specimens of the wonderful power the mind has over the body, or does it depend upon changing the electric state of the body?” It is certainly a matter worthy of investigation. It might prove at least a valuable prophylactic for those who are the subjects of attacks, more or less periodical, of rheumatism. It is well known that neuralgic, rheumatic and other pains are brought on or aggravated by certain conditions of the air, and experiments have apparently shown very clearly that attacks of epilepsy and mania correspond, in many instances, with changes in the electrical and other conditions of the atmosphere. It is not surprising that man, the most exalted and complex of all organic structures, should be thus so susceptible to such influences, when it is known that even plants predict the approach of storms with wonderful precision. The *Danbury News* man was, therefore, somewhat scientific while he probably only intended to be funny, when he dedicated his almanac to that distinguished weather predictor the inflammatory rheumatism.