

severe lesions or complication of other viscera to the same extent. Especially so is this since intestinal anastomosis has been so much written about and performed, and every organ either removed or sliced by the surgeon's knife. But Mr. Phair was an elderly man (sixty-three years of age) and had received most complicated injuries to important viscera. It is admitted, I believe, that age and alcohol are two of the most potent factors against repair in disease, and lobar pneumonia, uncomplicated with any kidney or abdominal symptoms, to say nothing of the diaphragm, is in the majority of cases fatal to a patient of that age, even though the history reveals a most exemplary life. I do not assert that Mr. Phair was ever what is vulgarly termed "a hard drinker," but he was addicted to stimulants. Here, then, was traumatic pneumonia, and injury to the pleura with comminuted fracture of a rib, with softening of the lung, as revealed at the *post mortem*, and although the inflammatory process is not usually so extensive as in general acute pneumonia, yet sufficient in this case, considering the age and history, to cause death, especially if statistics are of any value. I was well aware that during the six days of treatment, every physician and surgeon interested in his profession was watching the results of this brutal crime that raised such intense excitement all over the Province, and in those results there may have been some who nursed laparotomy as a means of removing the missile, healing the bowel, renovating the entire visceral lesions and bringing back health and strength to the unfortunate man doomed so soon for the great unknown land. In my humble opinion, and eminently so in that of each of the consultants, the injuries received were from the inception unavoidably and necessarily fatal.

THE EVILS OF SUBSTITUTION.

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The term "substitution," in its commercial sense, is the perpetuation of a fraud by the seller upon the buyer, the former selling the latter something different from the article demanded, under the same name. This fraud is really but another

phase of commercial adulteration, and in the practice of pharmacy its evils are as insidious and harmful as those of any crime committed by man. These evils are both direct and remote in their effects. They injure, first, the patient; second, the physician; third, the manufacturer. From the standpoint of the patient, the evil affects him directly and indirectly. The dishonest pharmacist has, of course, palmed off on his unsuspecting customer a cheaper preparation than that ordered by the prescriber, because the motive for the crime is, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, a mercenary one. The result to the patient from the inhibition of the substituted article may be one of the following: first, no therapeutic action; second, therapeutic action of less potency; third, therapeutic action of greater potency; fourth, therapeutic action of different character than aimed at by the prescriber. It needs no argument to prove that any of these four results would, under certain conditions, be likely to be disastrous to the patient.

The pharmacist is the responsible and trusted dispenser of the physician's order, and when he acts differently than ordered by the doctor, he snips at the threads of fate, possibly without the slightest idea of what will result from the snipping. Then he is no better than the man who fires a bullet among a crowd of people. The result in either case may be manslaughter. Let us take a less extreme view of the crime from the patient's standpoint. The latter fails to get benefit from his medicine, and, as a result, loses time and money. He was cheated when he bought the preparation. Now, indirectly, he has lost the fee he paid the physician, and last, but not least, he has lost confidence in his doctor.

From the standpoint of the physician, the evils of substitution have a wider range in their effect than on the individual patient. Medicine has been said to be an inexact science. The reason of this is because it is very difficult to ascribe a given effect to a certain cause. In other words, so many causes operate to produce a given effect in the human economy that it is difficult to ascertain and fix upon a definite cause. Modern therapeutics is the outcome of the physician's observations and experience of the effect of drugs upon the human system. It is a science to which every physician