

a practitioner to treat a chronic ailment for a long period, in a satisfactory manner. Hence, too the extensive demand for the multitude of Pain Killers, Destroyers, Annihilators, Pains and Panaceas, Soothing Compounds, Anodynes, Whiskey Bitters, Elixirs, and Syrups, which narcotize patients into a condition of false security, or temporarily exhilarate them by the production of semi-intoxication. The Hon. Horace Greeley understands the peculiarities of the people much better than does his inland contemporary. In a recent *Tribune* we find the following remarks—called forth by the certificate device already mentioned.—

"Of all methods of pushing quick medicines down the popular throat, there is none more frequently practiced efficaciously than that of obtaining a certificate from some "State Assayer," who declares (for a fee) that he has analyzed the remedy in question, and "finds it free from injurious substances." At the best, this is but a negative kind of recommendation. It assures the public that it will not be poisoned, but of course it gives no similar assurance that the "medicine" is good for anything. Here is a decoction called "Old Doctor——'s——Bitters." The proprietor informs us that it contains, among other things, "Sarsaparilla, yellow dock, dandelion, gentian, wild cherry, anise, saffron, wintergreen, and juniper berries." Well, suppose it does? Why should it be any more curative because it includes a dozen different kinds of roots and herbs? Why should not one root or one herb be just as effective? Yet this dose for a horse (though no horse would willingly take it) is recommended by S. Dana Hay, the Massachusetts State Assayer, whose certificate is on the bottle. People read, then admire, then believe, then buy, and then swallow it, because S. Dana Hay says it is "an official medicinal preparation." They guzzle it in the Spring for their blood, in the Summer for their stomachs, in the Autumn for their bowels, and in the Winter for their livers."

Were, however, a general consumption of such abominable mixtures the only consequences of the "popular" medical literature under consideration, we might be disposed, in some measure, to permit the mischief to antidote itself. But, passing by such minor results, and leaving also unnoticed the hideously disgusting details of the "sexual debility" charlatans, we come to one particular section of our subject of a graver and more sombre aspect,—one too which, from its eminently repulsive nature, can only be approached with feelings of the greatest reluctance.