

paid the press in twenty years, most of it within the last few years, no less than \$100,000,000. To show the princely way in which the patent medicine men subsidize the press, secular and religious, and thus give newspaper men an interest in the trade, we may mention that Vogler & Co., the St. Jacob's Oil men, spent in this way, \$400,000 in one year. A glance at the columns of any leading newspaper is sufficient evidence of the truth of this statement. It is no secret that the revenue derived by the press from this source is very large, and rapidly increasing. Under such circumstances it would be folly to look to the press for aid in a movement having in view the curtailment of this traffic, or its regulation within certain bounds.

The most unreasoning will not contend that even a tenth part of these millions is obtained for value received. These vast revenues are obtained by misrepresentations and exaggerated statements regarding the efficacy of the nostrums in question. Worse than all, the money is filched from the pockets of the sick and suffering, most of whom are too poor to provide themselves with needful food and clothing, yet are induced to invest in these vile compounds in the vain hope of realizing the promises of cure held forth in the attractive patent medicine literature scattered broadcast throughout the land in the form of almanacs, pamphlets, advertisements, and entertaining articles on other topics spiced with particular nostrums which now adorn the pages of every newspaper. This traffic not only robs the poor and the sick but destroys life as well. A rich syndicate—for this is the modern way of "booming" a nostrum—obtains possession of the columns of every influential newspaper on the continent. Able writers are employed, and the remedy is dished up to us whether we have ordered it or not, in the shape of reading articles, and every newspaper reader is compelled to swallow the nauseous dose. History records many infamous swindles, such as the Holland Ruses, and the South Sea Bubble, but the patent medicine humbug is the most gigantic and inhuman the world ever witnessed.

#### THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, which took place in Hamilton on the 4th and 5th ult., under the presidency of Dr.

Clarke, of Toronto, was a most successful gathering. Although a comparatively young association, it gives evidence of great vigor and a long career of usefulness. The papers read were numerous, varied, and of more than ordinary merit. The discussions which followed were in most cases interesting and instructive. But in view of the increasing number of valuable papers presented from year to year, we think it would be advisable to extend the time of the meeting to three days instead of two, as the time is rather short to do justice to all. Some important papers and reports are left over every year from want of time to read and discuss them. This is not only most undesirable in itself, but also most discouraging to those who spend much time and labor in the preparation of papers and reports. With regard to the next place of meeting, although in principle opposed to the peripatetic system, we are pleased that London has been the place chosen for next year's meeting, and sincerely hope that our confrères in the "Banner city of the West" and surrounding country will bestir themselves so as to make the meeting a great success, far outstripping any of the previous ones. In future, however, we hope to see Toronto become the fixed place of meeting. It is confidently expected that the Medical Council will have the new College buildings erected by that time, or at all events very shortly, and as it is the intention to establish a pathological museum in connection therewith, this will be the most suitable place for the meetings of the Association.

The papers read at the meeting will be published from month to month in the Toronto medical journals and will no doubt be read with interest by the profession generally. An important change has been made in regard to the work of the committees on medicine, surgery, etc. In accordance with a resolution passed at the last meeting, the chairman of each committee will read a paper and open the discussion on some previously selected subject, instead of presenting, as formerly, a comprehensive report which was almost invariably taken as read, owing to its inordinate length. This is an improvement in the right direction and one which, if properly understood and acted upon, will give zest to the work. Dr. Addison Worthington, of Clinton, was chosen president, and the next meeting, as above stated, will be held in London on the first Wednesday and Thursday in June, 1885.