

him made whole. If that doomed man gets a new lease of life through the potency of the drugs dispensed at the hands of the physician who advertises of himself in the newspapers, he has a right to be thankful and a further right to tell the story of his rescue to his friends and neighbors, and to have all whom he can influence or appeal to through the press to go and do likewise. The State should recognize his worth, crown him with honor in life, and revere his memory when dead by practising his virtues.

Now, in this practical age and time of quick adaptation of means to an end, it should not be a very difficult task to find out definitely whether the advertising physician is really all he claims to be. The consensus of opinion in reputable and disreputable medical circles alike, is, that he is not. The public has also about the same opinion, but the opinion of the public oscillates, like the pendulum of a clock, and is often uncertain. It is shifty in medical matters and on the whole, in the safe keeping of the quack.

Public opinion, in matters pertaining to the public health, has always been of the nebulous order, where rapid changes and unstable conditions alternate, and is known to find its greatest expression in the field of bustle, clamor and excitement. Those varying public sentiments should be harmonized and crystallized to a concrete substance that can be acted on by common-sense and practical demonstration as to actual facts.

The public should be schooled to recognize that its own interests lie rather in the line of investigation and demonstration of the fallacy of chimera and superstition rather than the taking of them to their hearts and adopting them as their own without inquiry or thought of fraud or imposture. This is why the quacks and newspaper doctors are so rich, and the great body of regular physicians so poor.

Now, gentlemen, we of the medical profession have a double duty to perform—to point out to the people the error of their ways, and to thoroughly ventilate the methods of the quacks and abortionists, since we are willing to abandon the field of our professional labors if they prove their worthiness to public gratitude by demonstrating before an impartial tribunal the truth of their miraculous cures, with accounts of which the newspapers teem, they, in turn, failing in their purpose, should follow our example and cease from further robbing and fooling the public; but such a course on their part would be wholly foreign to their feelings and history of their callings.

Now, if we are able to impress the public with the fact that the quack did not cure the consumptive, whom we abandoned as a hopeless case, but on the contrary, lulled him with hopes, delusive ones, of course, until he drained every dollar from his slender purse, then found a pretext—and it was, that he failed to comply with the conditions which pointed to success—that he might the easier sneak from the responsibility with good grace, he, like us, abandoned the sick man, but not on lines converging towards ours.