

number presented through them to be patented. Each inventor who pays them \$5.00 for an "examination," sets the mighty machinery of this board of award to work with the result that a "medal," bright and shining, is turned out, having upon one side the advertisement of the firm or individual issuing it, while the other side certifies that "the bearer possesses superior genius."

These big hearted people never fail, in each instance to embellish the "medal" with their own names, business and address and the deluded medalist becomes a walking advertisement for the firm "presenting" it, when he shows his certificate of "high genius" to his admiring friends. We sometimes see men upon the street carrying on their person conspicuous signs of various kinds and it is to be hoped they are paid for such service, but how any intelligent man can gratuitously carry around a sign or advertisement and exhibit it with seeming great satisfaction, is very singular, even though such sign be written upon gold or silver and coupled with the "superior genius" business. The "late lamented" P. T. Barnum, of circus fame, aptly said "the people love to be humbugged and are willing to pay well for it." Perhaps this statement fully explains the situation. We are glad to know that the number of inventors who are "green" enough to be entrapped by such transparent "schemes," is small.

Many of these "ente" fellows also offer to promptly sell each patentee's invention and hold out enticing inducements and offer rewards of special mention in papers they claim to publish (which are practically their individual circulars) and a special reduction of fees for taking out their next patent, as they also claim to be "patent attorneys." They begin by saying "only a small commission will be charged after a sale has actually been made," and then immediately proceed to bleed their victims by demanding a sum for alleged "advertising," "preparing cuts or pictures" of the invention, printing "circulars," "letter-heads," "preparing models" and a special write-up, or a flattering "history" of the inventor. Many inventors have thus expended from \$50 to \$100 or more before realizing that they have been imposed upon, and yet have no sale of the patent or a prospect of sale. We know of cases where inventors have paid as much as \$150 to these frauds on the pretence that they will have made a "finely constructed