

CANCER CURERS.

Whenever a disease is pronounced by the profession incurable, or even difficult of cure, it is immediately adopted by the quack, and employed by him as a means wherewith to deceive a too credulous public. Cancer and phthisis appear to be the favorite affections of the horse-leech fraternity; for curers of cancer and curers of consumption abound in this and other countries, where they invariably flourish for a limited period. That they succeed at all in attaining notoriety is to be attributed to the fact, that there is a widely-spread and fearful dread existing in the community regarding these two diseases, and it needs only that a female should have a slight and limited induration of the breast, or a simple cough, to excite in the minds of herself and friends the greatest apprehension as to the final result. The person, moreover, who boldly announces that he possesses an infallible cure,—that he holds, as it were, the issues of life and death in his own hands,—knows his own interests too well, when called upon for an opinion, to do otherwise than favor the most gloomy and hopeless view taken of the case, certain that when, in the one instance, the hardness is removed, and, in the other, the bronchial irritation subsides, his name will be trumpeted abroad as a successful practitioner in malignant or fatal diseases. Failures however soon appear, and becoming more and more numerous, they finally force themselves on the notice of the public; and when this point in the quack's career is reached, it is really astonishing how rapid is his descent. A few months suffice to change his position entirely. Instead of being the highly lauded of inconsiderate admirers—the great be-puffed of the public press—his name is scarcely ever mentioned except in execration, and his flaming advertisements fail to call forth the slightest notice from “we” of the editorial chair. The crowd of eager faces that were wont to be seen at his morning levée, are now no longer there, and a desolate quietude reigns in the dispensing and consulting rooms. The cheerful ring of the glittering coin of the realm which fell on his ear and gladdened his heart, as he transferred the broad pieces from the pockets of his dupes to his own plethoric purse, is heard no more; and at length he wakes to the disagreeable consciousness of being thoroughly known and appreciated, and forthwith departs to play his game over again in other and foreign parts.

The profession have lately been interested in investigations made by certain authorities into the virtues of two modes of treatment of cancer, stated by their originators to be eminently successful. The first investigation was held on a treatment proposed by Landolfi. His mode of treating cancer having obtained a favourable reception in Austria, he