

tures that nostrums, proprietary and quack medicines have come into such general use. When physicians have learned the art of prescribing standard remedies in an attractive and palatable form the field of rational and scientific therapeutics will be reclaimed.

The individual physician can do a great deal to remedy existing evils. He should replenish his library with the best literature to be procured on these subjects. It is in the welfare of his patients, as well as in the highest interests of scientific medicine, that he should not be led astray by mercenary or fraudulent literature into prescribing nostrums whose composition is unknown. Every one of us should take the time necessary to become thoroughly acquainted with all the drugs and remedies we need to use. The man who says he has not time to do that which he ought to do as a duty, is either ignorant or indolent, his methods are faulty, or else he is deceiving himself or deliberately lying.

Again, every physician should point out to his patients the evils arising from the indiscriminate use of any drug or remedy. A word about the placebo. Does not the use of these foster a morbid reliance on drugs? Why not frankly tell such patients that dietetic and hygienic measures are all that is necessary? Have we any right to deceive a patient in order to retain him or her?

Our medical associations and societies should use every means at their command to mitigate these evils. Far more attention should be given to materia medica and therapeutics at our meetings. Committees should be appointed to investigate all new remedies.

Our medical journals should positively refuse to advertise any preparation, drug or compound, whose composition and qualities are unknown. The objection raised against this publicity is that it would not be fair to ask a company or individual to divulge knowledge that has taken much time and money to obtain.

Our answer to this objection is, that the character of the individual or company, is his or its best or worst asset, besides cannot unscrupulous imitators by more brazen and fraudulent methods make competition as keen in secret nostrums as in those remedies whose composition is known? In any case, no medical journal, manufacturer, or exploiter, has any right to imperil the lives of others for gain or any purpose whatever. The preservation of life is a sacred trust, committed to the individual, to society, to the nation, and to the race. Any act that imperils it unlawfully is a crime. Fraudulent nostrums may cause death, either by failing to furnish needed help to the patient, or by destroying the vitality he has, therefore the advertising or prescribing of them is a criminal act.