

Much can be said on both sides of the question, but on the whole it seems as if the interests of the profession and the public would be fully subserved if physicians were encouraged to patent instruments. Their failure to do so often defeats that principle of greatest good to the greatest number, which in the end should be the test in judging the practicability of any such measure.—*Medicine.*

Modern Therapeutics and Pharmacy. — By FREDERICK HADRA, M.D., of San Antonio, Texas.

In speaking of ethical proprietaries, he says: "I should be sorry, indeed, if the prejudices of any member of this society should so far overcome his better judgment as to banish all or most of these drugs from his practice without investigating their merits. So, if we desire, a local antiphlogistic effect, and have to choose between the ancient, unsightly, and troublesome flax-seed poultice and the new proprietary article called Anti-phlogistine, a physician must needs be prejudiced, indeed, who will prefer the former. . . . It may be a matter of theoretical indifference what preparation we prescribe, but it may be quite a different matter with the patient who has to use it for long periods. . . .

"Does it not strike you as somewhat incongruous that we alone of all professions and trades should rise up in arms against a co-ordinate branch which is continually striving to assist us in improving our therapeutic weapons? If we would take advantage of the opportunity offered to make intelligent selection of such preparations of drugs of reliable concerns as appeal to reason and common sense, those of us who do so will certainly have an advantage over those who do not."

As regards the refilling by the druggists of prescriptions of proprietary remedies, he says: "If I am called to treat a sprain of the ankle, and find it necessary to order an antiphlogistic application, it would be just as easy for the patient to send to his druggist daily for more flax-seed meal or iodine, as it would be for him to order more cans of the more cleanly proprietary preparation, Antiphlogistine. A tonic or cough medicine, quinine mixture or capsule would share the same fate, whether proprietary or extemporaneous. . . .

"If the intelligent use of the drugs mentioned is not injurious *per se*, why should we protect the laity against their use any more than against the employment of any other drugs? Would the committee advocate the abandonment of calomel, castor oil, mag. sulph., quinine, flax-seed meal, paregoric, laudanum or carbolic acid because the laity can also go to the