

advertising columns of the newspapers, gratuitously circulate a vast amount of printed matter in pamphlet, handbill, and poster form. Almanacs, Receipt Books, Tales, Anecdotes, and even Primers for children, are the shapes seemingly deemed most effective—every alternate page or paragraph being devoted to matter calculated to advance the pecuniary interest of their publishers and augment the misery of their unhappy dupes. Millions of dollars are annually expended in scattering this pernicious stuff broadcast throughout the land, it penetrates to almost every house, the mails are laden with tons of it, and nearly every rock, and fence, and barn in the country, affords us woful evidence of the frightful persistence of these unscrupulous traffickers in human suffering and credulity. I have indicated the "popular" sources of information—to what extent have the mass of the people "bettered the instruction?" The teachings of their mentors of the newspaper press have certainly not gone unheeded. The startling narratives of marvelous results from the manipulations of itinerant vagabonds so prominently displayed, have induced a general belief that often great things can be accomplished by them, and plodding resident practitioners of course, as a consequence, are held in but little estimation, from their supposed ignorance of the more efficient means employed by these Bohemians. A public sentiment is the result which refuses to entrust the treatment of disease solely to men of scientific attainments, and the practice of medicine is thrown open to all who choose to dub themselves "doctors." An apt illustration of the state of things produced might be seen in this place, at the very moment I write these words. An Indian—a veritable aborigine—rejoicing in the name of "Dr. Maungwaudas," and arrayed in war paint and feathers, is holding at the principal hotel, a "levee for the reception of the health seekers." Nor is it the poor or grossly ignorant who crowd the "receptions" of pretenders like this fellow. Shrewd in money getting, close in bargain-making, and prudent generally in most matters, too many of what would be considered the better grade, appear to be the veriest babes in things medical, and fall an easy prey to knaves of every kind. Then, for almost "every ill that flesh is heir to," have the people been repeatedly assured that there are certain and almost instantaneous remedies, until an impatience of suffering has been engendered, which renders it impossible for