

Part 3.--Editorial.

MERCURY—ITS ABUSE, &c.

We are among that daily increasing multitude who believe that mercury, in any of its preparations, should never be taken into the human stomach as a medicinal agent. For this belief we think we have honest and incontrovertible reasons—reasons which necessity (or, perhaps, the benevolent and independant part of our nature) compels us now and then to lay before some member or members of the Blue Pill Brotherhood, with whom our business brings us in contact. We are happy in saying that we occasionally find those of whom it seems “*quirks and quibbles* have no place in their search after truth.” The influence of independent and well-cultivated minds, we trust, we appreciate as salutary and ennobling, and we are sorry to say that we are poorly deserving the gentlemanly courtesy and honest marks of confidence shown us by *some* who differ from us in medical faith and practice.

In our good-natured polemics, we say plainly and above board that we reject the use of the mercurials. We think we can give substantial reasons for so doing. To show that their operation within the human system is not only extremely uncertain, but sometimes dangerously violent and occasionally fatal; that the mass of those physicians who use them do not understand how or why they produce their action upon the human system, we need only refer to the confessions of the most distinguished Allopathic authors and professors. Ask those who use calomel for an explanation of its *modus operandi*, and nine out of ten can only tell you that its effects depend upon its “*peculiar mode of action*”—or its “*peculiar irritating qualities*”—or its “*peculiar alterative power over the vital functions.*” The U. S. Dispensatory tells us, “of the *modus operandi* of mercury we know nothing, except that it *probably* acts through the medium of the circulation, and that it possesses a *peculiar* alterative power over the vital