

Some years ago Dr. Squibb, of Brooklyn, set his seal on Marchand's peroxide of hydrogen by endorsing its character and defending its merits as the most powerful and yet harmless bactericide which could be employed in the treatment of various formidable and fatal diseases. Dr. Robert T. Morris, Dr. Paul Gibier, and other well-known authorities have corroborated his statements from clinical observation, and as a consequence a revolution has taken place in our methods of treatment in both medical and surgical practice. The efficacy of this simple remedy, its innocuousness and extended field of application, have shed a flood of light upon modern therapeutics, but at the same time there has followed in its train a host of worthless imitations.

The substitution of the commercial for the medicinal peroxide is calculated to work serious injury, and destroy our confidence in a most potent remedy. In the treatment of diphtheria, for example, the commercial product is positively harmful. When death results, shall we blame the attending physician or the unscrupulous druggist who substitutes a base imitation for the genuine product? And still, pharmacists who claim to be respectable do not hesitate to trifle thus with human life. Is it any wonder, then, that our mortality percentages are on the wrong side?

Cascara sagrada has been counterfeited and sophisticated until it is almost impossible to secure a reliable preparation of this most useful medicament, although Parke, Davis & Co., the pioneers in its introduction, have adopted every means in their power for the protection of the medical profession. Antipyrin, a patented preparation, has met with phenomenal sales, and possesses distinct therapeutic properties, and as a result imitations and substitutes are offered to take its place in medical practice. Whether these imitations are better or worse than the original product, I do not care to discuss; neither is it for the druggist to decide. The decision here, as to any special remedy or preparation, rests entirely with the physician, as he alone is responsible for the condition of his patient; no one else, not even the druggist, should be permitted to interfere with his directions. Substitution is an evil which should be guarded against; it is an evil which must be

eradicated, or the entire medical structure will collapse. It is a duty we owe to ourselves and to our patients to look after his unnatural condition of affairs in which we are so vitally interested, and the time is near at hand when a systematic effort must be made with a view to accomplish the desired end.

This subject is commended to the attention of the American Medical Association, with the suggestion that a committee be appointed who shall recommend suitable measures for the protection of the medical profession from the evils of substitution and sophistication on the part of unscrupulous pharmacists. Shall we have a "list"?—*Jour. of Amer. Med. Asso.*

REMARKS ON TWO CASES OF INSANITY CAUSED BY INHALATION OF SULPHURETTED HYDROGEN.—*Case 1.*—B. H., æt. 30, was admitted into Rainhill Asylum, September 20th, 1888. There was no history of insanity in the family. The patient himself was said never to have had any illness, but he appears to have drunk somewhat. He was a single man and a laborer in some chemical works. On the morning previous to his admission into the asylum he went to his work as usual. About 9 a.m. he was observed to be acting strangely, throwing his arms about wildly and shouting. In addition, he lost power over his legs. As he was engaged in an occupation which exposed him to some chemical fumes (probably sulphuretted hydrogen), it was supposed—apparently with very good reason—that he had inhaled the gas. He remained excited and rough all that day, laughing and shouting by turns, and did not appear to recognize his brother. When admitted into the asylum on the following day he was in a very maniacal condition, shouting and throwing himself about, and it took several men to carry him to the ward. He kept throwing his arms about, but was distinctly unsteady on his legs when made to stand. In bed he wriggled about, throwing his head back on the pillow and waving his right arm round and round. This condition of things lasted for two or three days, when he became more quiet; and he then gradually passed into a taciturn, depressed state, sitting or standing about for hours doing nothing, and never speaking except when addressed. After remaining in this condition for