

at very low rates. The existence of such arrangements as this on the United States has served to increase the public hostility towards the express companies. The Interstate Commerce Commissioners state in their report that while the American express companies are separate legal entities, "by stock ownership and otherwise they are so interlaced and intertwined and interlocked that it is with difficulty we can trace any one of the greater companies as either wholly independent in its management or the agency of a single railroad system." In Canada the usual custom is for the railway company to own the whole of the stock of the express company operating over its lines. Then the profits of the express business go to the stockholders of the railway companies, not to insiders and their friends.

QUACKERY IN GERMANY.

Any body can practice medicine in Germany. A bulletin issued by the Carnegie Foundation, on "Medical Education in Europe," written by Abraham Flexner, shows an extraordinary state of affairs in the Fatherland. Until 1869 special statutory provisions applied to medical practitioners. They paid a special tax, they were obliged under penalties to attend urgent calls and had to render certain services to the poor. The doctors did not know when they were well off. At their request an act was passed abolishing the provisions, but with them went all special prerogative. Anybody was allowed to practice medicine, although only a qualified physician was allowed to sign certificates and culpable ignorance or intelligence was made punishable. Mr. Flexner says:

"The evil takes many shapes.... Quasi-scientific schools of healing, exploited by qualified men, are organized into association, and have organized their victims along with them. Of these, the most flourishing are at this moment the nature-healers, who, denouncing all medication as poisoning, pretend to rely wholly on the normal constituents of the body; water and air make the regimen which will infallibly restore the diseased frame to health. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology is held to be superfluous. 'Where in the world did the deer in the forest learn anatomy?—Yet he gets well if out of sorts.' The association of nature-healers and nature-healed is said to number 200,000 members. Less highly organized and numerous, but still aggressive and prosperous, are the practitioners and devotees of occultism, Christian Science, Bauscheitism, electricity—notably blue and green electricity—all claiming a scientific basis..... The newspapers swarm with announcements of secret remedies. It is said that the annual turnover through proprietary remedies in Prussia alone exceeds 30,000,000 marks.

"Efforts have latterly been made to ascertain the sources from which the army of quacks is recruited. Among them weavers, stocking-makers, shepherds, barbers, confectioners, and domestics abound. Most of them are quite uneducated;.... of the female contingent, only one per cent. have had a fair education. A Prussian statistic of 1900 finds among 1,735 male quacks, 298 small farmers, 587 workmen, 300 tradesmen and artisans, 76 laborers, 35 priests, 99 teachers; among 669 female quacks there were 49 midwives, 14 masseuses, 15 nurses, and 220 without regular calling."

The conditions just described, Mr. Flexner thinks, seriously aggravate the results attributed to overcrowding of the profession. Saxony has already one doctor for every 2,000 persons, yet it registers half as many more quacks; Prussia, at least one-third. A dozen years ago one-third of the entire practise of the country was in the hands of quacks, and since that date the mischief has spread.

These facts are not inferring suspicion on the wisdom of the high standard maintained by the German Government in medical education; but the writer maintains that the two phenomena stand in no causal relation whatever. Quackery, he says, originated in thoughtless legislation, of which ignorance and unscrupulousness were quick to take advantage. Education had nothing to do with it at the time, and has had nothing to do with it since. He goes on:

"Doctors were much scarcer in 1860 than in 1800, and general health was inferior. Yet there were few quacks and no fear of them at the former date, while there were thousands at the latter. The profession had meanwhile increased in numbers far more rapidly than population. When the rise in quackery coincides with progressive overcrowding of the profession, how is it possible to explain it as due to depletion of the profession by a high educational standard? German quackery is the result of vicious and ill-considered laws. Precisely as abolition of laws against theft will create thieves, so abolition of laws against unqualified practise produced, and will anywhere produce, quacks.

"These general considerations become even more convincing in the light of the fact that quacks and doctors are alike most abundant in large and prosperous communities. If the quack invaded chiefly locations abandoned as too unpromising by qualified practitioners, it might plausibly be argued that local need due to a too prolonged or expensive education gives him his opening. But such is not the case. The neighborhood that can not support a physician possesses no attractions for the quack. His fees are amazingly large, and his methods the more expensive because long drawn out. He prefers, therefore, to fish in the rushing waters of big towns. Berlin, with 3,584 physicians, registers 1,349 quacks.....

"So much at least is certain: quacks and doctors tend to be plentiful together. In some instances, doctors are more and quacks less plentiful; in a few others, quacks are more and doctors less plentiful. But nowhere are quacks common where doctors are scanty. The sole exception would appear to be occasionally some remote district incapable of supporting either a qualified physician or a fairly intelligent quack. There the deluded peasantry may be imposed on by a farmhand or a shepherd pretending to heal wounds, mend limbs, and exorcize disease by crude charms or equally crude medication. One sees in the clinics of the adjacent towns the havoc that results. But here again the law, not education, is to blame. Competent physicians can not there earn a livelihood. Under these circumstances, decent laws should prevent imposition that is far more disastrous than temporary neglect; for in the absence of the quack, the unfortunate peasant, after simply enduring for a while, would betake himself to a qualified practitioner in a neighboring town."

A branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce has been opened at Rock Creek, B.C., under the supervision of the manager at Grand Forks, B.C.