

PROPRIETARY OR PATENT MEDICINES.—American medical, pharmaceutical and trade journals, usually keen to detect a hidden advertisement in communications recommending new drugs and preparations when the same emanate from home sources, throw caution and ordinary business sense to the winds when it comes to recommending and puffing the very same class of merchandise, bearing a foreign name and recommended by foreign authority. The success of one or two German chemicals, the products of synthesis, opened the doors for a flood of antiseptics, antifebrins, antipyrins, and other "antis" ending in "ol" or "in." They come to us covered all over with patents—patents covering the names, the process of manufacture, the ingredients (save those that are kept absolutely secret), the modes of dispensing, the package, the label—in short, everything that a patent can be made to cover. In a word, they are patent medicines in the very widest and strictest sense of the word; and yet they are received with enthusiastic welcome by press and practitioner, and are given, gratis and gladly, advertisements that money could not purchase for a home product, even though ten times more valuable and not one-tenth so much patented.

One of the proprietors of a drug of this sort recently established in America, on being approached by the solicitor of advertising for an American medical journal, answered very curtly that "they didn't have to advertise their article. They got all the advertising they wanted for nothing, in the shape of laudatory communications in the reading matter of the medical journals." Which was true, every word of it, and that in spite of the fact that it was a patent medicine. *The very journal for which the agent was soliciting, and in the very copy which he carried as a specimen, contained no less than six laudatory notices of the drug in question—one of them a communication covering several pages and heralding its virtues in almost every known form of disease.*

Per contra, the same journal had enjoyed for years a handsome revenue from the advertisement of a reputable proprietary medicine house of this city, but had persistently refused to admit within its reading matter a little notice commendatory of one of its specialties, the formula for which was printed on every bottle.

It is useless to plead that these imported patents are so valuable that the profession must have them and must use them, secret nostrums though they be. This is not true, nor is it true that the manufacturers over there are any more honest and frank as to the nature and origin of their wares than are American manufacturers of similar drugs. In proof of this assertion we call the attention of our readers to Gwalowski's merciless exposure of a new compound which is getting ready in Germany to make a descent on Europe and America

in the style of its predecessors—the antiseptic kreolin, of the wondrous value of which the advance guard of certificates have already commenced to appear in our journals. Will the latter be warned in time, or will they swindle themselves out of thousands of dollars by giving it the usual American welcome and gratis advertising?—*National Druggist*.

The present so-called ethical views held by our medical men really constitute a barrier to our scientific progress. They continue to act against our American chemists, and in the meantime prescribe freely German patented articles, why should they object to prescribing a really meritorious article if discovered and patented by an American chemist?—*Pharmaceutical Era*.

DOCTORS' WIVES AND PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENCES. — A London journal lectures medical men on their "leakiness" as regards the personal affairs of their patients. The editor says (we quote from the *British Medical Journal*) that the great sinner is the country doctor. It is, however, adds the *Journal*, only a matter of size. "Let the victim be but big enough, and urbans can babble as incontinently as any pagan of them all." The *Journal* is ungallant enough to hint the error often begins by the doctor telling his wife. The partner of his bosom too often makes it a test of the loyalty of her husband, that he tells her everything. "It is an old saying that a secret can be kept by three men if two of them are dead, but a woman conceals—what she does not know. A wise man will make it a rule never to speak to his wife of professional matters, never even to tell her the names of those who consult him."

A man may be wise enough to make such a rule, but will he be strong enough to keep it? Experience seems to indicate that he will not. The doctor is human and feels the need of a confidant; the wife is very human and likes nothing so much as domestic details.

We must deplore the "leakiness" of which the profession is accused. It is wrong; but there are imperfections in our social fabric which must exist for a long time—until, for example, woman ceases to be curious and man—to be her slave.—Ed. *Med. Rec.*

AN EASY AND READY METHOD OF CIRCUMCISION. —John W. Ross, Surgeon, United States Navy (Retired), says in the *Medical Record*. Retract the foreskin; insert the glans penis up to the corona into the open mouth of a glass test tube; draw the foreskin well forward over the end of the tube; tie a strong, small silk cord very tightly around the foreskin immediately in front of the flange of the tube; amputate the foreskin one-eighth of an inch in front of the constricting cord by a circular