

lay before them. But, in addition to the sheets devoted almost altogether to current news, there is a "periodical," literature in many respects of a much less objectionable character. For the most part the better magazines of this class do not accept the diabolical notices of the vampires of whom we have been speaking, but light sketchy articles of an entertaining, more than an instructive nature, too often form their main attraction; while the less able, though much more numerous and more extensively read, depend on sensational stories of the trashiest kind for acceptance with their millions of patrons. And here I would say that I do not ignore the excellent publications of the Messrs. Harper, Putnam, Appleton, Lippincott, &c., though it is not to them, or their serials, that the people go for information in regard to the subjects under discussion. Were, however, every page they issue replete with just such matter, the general result would not be materially affected, as the more desirable periodicals would still bear a similar proportion to the comparatively valueless ones, as did Gratiano's reasons: being like "a grain of wheat to a bushel of chaff." As to books, one would fail to discover in many households, works resembling Inman's Preservation of Health, Parke's Practical Hygiene, Chevasse's Counsel to Mother's, or Miss Nightingale's admirable pamphlets on Nurse Training. Productions of this kind do not appear to find much favor, but an enormous demand exists for cheap penny books of "Domestic Medicine, which profess to enable every man to "doctor" himself. We all know the slight esteem in which a person is held who acts in the capacity of his own legal adviser; but a greater folly is his who tampers with his own health, and officiously, with his ignorant prescriptions, endangers the lives of all whom he can influence. Many of the works alluded to are published, solely and only, for the glorification of their compilers—parties wholly unknown to fame; others again are issued in the interest of some obscure "Medical Institute" desirous of obtaining notoriety, while men of one idea, who have mounted a hobby and are bent on riding it to death, are the producers of quite a large percentage of the remainder. There is still yet another source from which the people derive their knowledge of things "hygienic and anatomical." The "patent" medicine men, "specialists" of every hue, and proprietors of private "curative" establishments, not content with monopolizing th