

are simply doing a dishonest business and should not be countenanced by retail druggists and physicians. The medical profession will have to take the matter up and withdraw their support from all such men. Retail druggists should also place them under the *ban*; proprietary articles may be good enough in their place, but their sale should be left in the hands of those who are druggists or apothecaries.

Now-a-days doctors are sufficiently numerous to cater to the wants of the public, and it is a much better policy for the public to consult their family physician for their little i.'s, as well as their major ills, rather than defraud him of his rights by buying drugs from an irresponsible person, put up by an irresponsible party, who puffs and advertises in order to push and increase his sales. Doctors are forbidden to advertise and hence the anxiety to invade their rights and privileges. If a man, at a great sacrifice of time and money, prepare himself for the medical profession—settle down and be ready for every emergency—the people should support him instead of treating themselves with patent nostrums, and in the end they would save money by it, and in many cases save their lives by it. Physicians alone know the danger of playing with a two-edged sword. Medicines have a double action, and if not indicated in disease it is reasonable to infer that the unnecessary use of medicine is an injury. The medical profession have submitted to this matter too long—they should combine and use some means for their own protection as a class.

Under a mistaken notion people have an idea that when they buy secret nostrums they are saving the fees which should go into the physician's pocket for consultation and prescription, but not so; they pay the physician's fee on the price of the medicine, and instead of going to support a reputable physician whom they know, at their own door, it goes to support a man without any responsibility thousands of miles away or in a foreign country, whom they do not know. The physician's advice very frequently is given to them for nothing, and in many instances they would be saved the price of the medicines.

But the question is what are we going to do about it. Combine! Combination is the order of the day in the world of trade, and, if the profession

will act in harmony, adopt alkaloidal medication and countenance only such drug houses as are known to confine themselves to a legitimate drug business. Never prescribe, order or recommend any proprietary article, or permit or countenance their use among their patients in any form; and if the physicians would act in harmony and unitedly they (the nostrums) would very soon remain as so much lumber in the country stores.

If people buying such articles were to learn that the country merchant made 50 per cent. on the sale of the article, they would soon see the interest he had in it was purely for the sake of gain. The medical profession is very different; their first interest is to *cure* and benefit the patient, and the pay in a great many cases is a secondary matter—indeed we know to our sorrow that it has frequently been made a tertiary affair and altogether forgotten.

Pharmacy is or ought to be a respectable business, and should be above doing a peddling business. The medical profession will have to arouse themselves and carry the war into Africa if this state of affairs is to continue. Pharmaceutical laws should provide against this method in the same way that our profession regard "quackery" and "disgraceful conduct" in a professional respect.

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### Original Communications.

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#### THREE CASES OF UNCONTROLLABLE VOMITING OF PREGNANCY CURED BY CURETTING THE UTERUS.

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From time to time we read in the medical journals the reports of cases of uncontrollable vomiting of pregnancy which, in spite of the most varied measures of treatment at the hands of the ablest practitioners, have terminated in delirium and death. When preparing a report of the first case hereunder mentioned, which I read before the Medical Chirurgical Society of Montreal about ten years ago, I was able to collect the records of some seventy fatal cases. But these by no means represented all those which had occurred even up to that time. For although I am constantly hearing