

Dr. F. W. Mann in *The Medical Age* on this phase of the subject are most apt :

"If Professor Behring admits any merit in the work of his predecessors and contemporaries, his claim to be the exclusive inventor of diphtheria antitoxin is in contravention of all the ethics of a scientist's career. His claim is an offence against common morality. Had Simpson patented chloroform anaesthesia, or had Lister patented antiseptic surgery, the world would have had two selfish empirics and lost two medical heroes. If Behring, by the righteous judgment of mankind, can be adjudged sole and undisputed inventor of antitoxin, he has a place in the Temple of Fame for achieving the most beneficent discovery of modern times. It remains to be seen whether the temptation to be rich will overcome his ambition to be great, and whether for a tinsel crown he will barter a diadem of everlasting renown."

The commercial aspect of the case is worthy of a notice in passing. If there is not political corruption in the securing of this patent then our neighbors across the border have urgent need to rearrange the registrations of their patent department. A law which permits the most gigantic injustice of a century cannot be repealed any too soon. The present position of Serum Therapy is the result of the developments of the last half dozen years. In attaining this position the brightest intellects of the most advanced epoch in the world's history have been aided by unlimited capital placed at their disposal by men ever ready to encourage those who have devoted their lives to advancement of scientific knowledge.

This decision of the U. S. patent office simply proclaims to the world that the men whom we delight to honor are frauds and imposters, and that Pasteur, Roux, Chamberland, Kitasato, Arouson and Eimerich have been posing before the world as philanthropists when they should occupy a place in a police court beside the man guilty of petty larceny. It means also that this man Behring and his associates are to receive all the financial benefits which will accrue from the labor of such intellectual giants, as the foregoing, joined to the commercial enterprise of such firms as Parke, Davis & Co., H. K. Mulford & Co., who have done so much to bring the manufacture of antitoxin serums to the present perfected condition. All their labors then have been "labors of love"—not for humanity—but for Professor Behring. That such a monstrous iniquity could be perpetrated, without protest even in the home of combines and monopolies, is inconceivable. The interested scientists named have no legal redress against the man who is endeavoring to filch from them the merit and credit which is their just due, but the manufacturers interested are determined to fight to the bitter end for the enjoyment of the benefits

which they are justly entitled to as the result of their enterprise. Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. have retained the foremost firm of patent lawyers in the Union to look after their interests, and one of the biggest legal battles of a generation may be looked for, before the deciding judges of the Supreme Court deliver their finding as to the means and influences by which this patent has been secured.

THE PREVENTION OF CUTTING.

While the majority of patent medicine manufacturers are talking about schemes and plans to prevent cutting, and violently protesting their desire to protect the retailer, cutters are getting their supplies from some source. There are a few notable exceptions to the general indifference to the demands of the retailer. The principal among those who are making an honest and successful effort in that direction are the Quickcure Company, and the Abbey Salt Company. These two concerns are keeping their goods in the legitimate channels, and if occasionally a cutter secures a small supply of either of these articles it is through the treachery of some of those whose interests lie in the opposite direction. Manufacturers give as one reason for their indifference that druggists "substitute" (of course our views differ as to what constitutes substitution); but the fact is that if a druggist makes a fair profit on an article it is not to his interest to substitute, but if the article is sold by cutters and departmental stores then the druggist in self-defence is compelled to get up and push a similar preparation. That this is so, is proved by the fact that although Abbey's Salt is probably the best selling specialty in Canada, we have never heard of a druggist getting out an article resembling it, or which by any stretch of imagination could be called a substitute, and the same with Quickcure. If manufacturers would only see that the interests of the druggists are identical with their own, they would not hesitate so long about doing what is right. The concerns before mentioned understand the question thoroughly and they have not been afraid to take the right road, and it has led them to success. The results are that these companies are prosperous, their goods sell well, the druggist is satisfied with the profits obtained, and everyone concerned is pleased with the results. If this be so why cannot other manufacturers adopt similar means to prevent their goods getting into the hands of cutters.

Moissan has prepared a hydride of calcium by heating calcium in a hydrogen. This body is a powerful reducing agent ; it is decomposed on contact with water, giving off its hydrogen. Heated to dull redness it burns in oxygen, chlorine, bromine and iodine.