

VENTILATION.—Dr. William Ogle, of Derby, writes thus to the *Times*: ‘Any one with a very few grains of common sense may ventilate his room perfectly, and without draught, at the cost of a few shillings. You have only to knock a brick, or rather half a brick, out of an outside wall of the room that is to be ventilated; begin from the inside in a corner, and make the hole just above the skirting board. Be provided with a tube two feet long, with a second piece at right angles attached at one end and as many inches long as the wall is thick. Put the short piece through the wall and fix the long piece in the corner of the room so as to be vertical. That is all? For a small dining-room or for a bedroom the pipe should be 3in. in diameter; for a large room, two or more pipes and of larger diameter would be required. These pipes, if covered with the same paper as the wall, are scarcely seen; but, indeed, they have no cause to be ashamed of themselves. They are welcome guests, and each one supplies a volume of fresh air without any perceptible draught. If there is a bracket, or a picture frame, or other impediment immediately above the pipe there will be a draught, but not otherwise. Nothing can be more simple, nothing more effective. The only reason that I can think of as likely to interfere with its universal adoption is that it is so simple and inexpensive. I often prescribe it to my patients, and tell them that if I could but give it in the form of a Latin prescription and manage to make them pay ten guineas for it they would value it more, and in some cases, perhaps, adopt it more readily.’

QUACK MEDICINES.—At a recent convention of pharmacists in England it was proposed to take steps for limiting the “wholesale poisoning of the public by patent medicines.” It was proposed that even if it be impossible altogether to suppress the reaction of dishonest quackery upon vulgar superstition, the vendors of nostrums be compelled to divulge the composition of their wares, and prevented from publishing mischievous and mendacious advertisements concerning them. Among the examples cited, including sundry ‘hair restorers,’ which, in direct contradiction to their advertised pretensions, contain poisonous quantities of lead, the most glaring one is a largely certificated ‘Sure Cure for the Opium Habit,’ which is found on analysis to give two grains of morphine to the dose, recommended to be taken thrice a day.”—We would suggest that when Legislative action on public health takes place in Ontario, some restrictions be placed on the sale of these nostrums.

AT A RECENT meeting of the Nuneaton Local Board, the medical officer of health strongly condemned the prevailing practice of administering soothing syrups, cough elixirs, teething powders, and other abominations to suffering children, and pointed out that the newspapers now-a-days were teeming with quack medicine advertisements—a proof of the gullibility of the public and the ignorance which prevailed as to the laws of health.