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STATE MEDICINE.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES IN THE SENATE
ON SANITARY LEGISLATION, JANUARY
25TH, 1881—ADULTERANTS IN FOODS
—A HARD HIT AT THE PULLMAN CARS.

In the March number of the JOURNAL we gave the speech of Hon. Dr. Brouse, except the first following paragraph, which was inadvertently omitted. The occasion was that in which the hon. gentleman moved that there be laid before the Senate copies of all resolutions from medical conventions asking for health legislation.

Before concluding, Mr Brouse said: I think, therefore, we have a right to expect that something will be done by the present Government. I am not, hon. gentlemen, wedded to politics to such an extent that I am not prepared to sink everything else for this question, that soars higher than all others together, that of how to save human life. What, then, should be the special function of the department of health? It should be, first, the organization and management of methods of collecting vital statistics; second, the directing of inquiries into the causes of prevailing diseases and epidemics; third, the investigation of permanent sources of sickness in localities, cities and towns; fourth, co-operation with local boards in the abatement of nuisances, and in the im-

provement of local conditions affecting public health. I may add that, under the last function, this department would be prepared to take cognizance of the important matter of the adulteration of food. The adulteration of food in our country is assuming gigantic proportions. The usual adulterations of food and drink are divided into three classes: dangerous adulterations, deleterious adulterations and fraudulent adulterations. Hon. gentlemen would scarcely credit, unless an analysis was made, the extent to which ourselves and our families are consuming deleterious food day by day. We find lead in canned vegetables and meat; corrosive sublimate in the rind of cheese; poisonous colors (such as arsenite of copper and chromate of lead) in candy and confectionery; caustic lime in lard; analine colors in fruit jellies, preserves, sausages and wine; salts of tin in sugar; *coculus indicus* and tobacco in beer and ale; salts of copper in pickles; sulphuric acid in vinegar; alum in bread and baking powder; oxide of iron in cocoa and chocolate; red lead in cayenne pepper; spirits of turpentine in gin; chromate of lead in mustard; red ferruginous earths in annato; red lead in currie powder; Prussian blue, black lead and salts of copper, in tea, &c. Hon. gentlemen would be astonished to see the fraud that is carried on in