

nature of humbug has a peculiar fascination for many people. A patent medicine advertisement surmounted by the picture of a Red Indian with feathers in his head, or that of a man with electric sparks radiating from various parts of his naked body has for some people an irresistible charm. The charlatan who talks mystery is to them the embodiment of wisdom.

There is no mystery in medicine. The mystery is in the mind of the man who arrogates to himself occult powers, who ignores the accumulated experience of an educated profession, who vaunts his remedies as "cure alls" and preys upon the credulity of an afflicted public with no other object in view than how much money he can get out of them.

Time would fail to even enumerate the false notions in the minds of the people as to the scope, the aim and the objects of the science of medicine. Perhaps one of the most common and the most baneful in its effects is the idea that every disease has definite symptoms and is labelled with its antidote and that all the physician has to do is to find out the name of the disease, apply the antidote and cure the malady. Nothing can be further from the truth than this idea, and the more enlightened the people become on this point the lighter will be the burden of the medical man. Let them learn that the great majority of diseases run their course and terminate by a natural process without medicine; that many diseases have many symptoms in common; that it is only after patient waiting and watching that they can be differentiated; and that in many cases a diagnosis can be made only in retrospect. They should know that after all nature is the great healer and that our business is to assist her in her beneficent designs; to study the patient rather than the disease, to learn his peculiarities, to adopt our treatment to the conditions as they arise—to relieve pain, to cheer and encourage our patient and thus help him over a crisis; or failing to do this as fail we often must, to smooth his dying pillow and show by our sympathy that if we cannot always save we can sometimes administer comfort.

II. REMEDIES.—What are some of the remedies for this condition of things that we have been so far considering?

(1). *Do our duty to our patients.*—The first and paramount duty of the physician is to his patient. Everything else should be secondary and subordinate. All our time if need be is his. Nothing short of the very best we can do will suffice. When the unfortunate victims of disease and suffering appeal to us for help they expect us to do our