

## Journal of Homeopathy.

### QUACKERY.

HUMAN credulity is the sustenance of arrogant pretenders. The multitude are dazzled by show and bare-faced simulation. Falsehood and pretension ever sound their own trumpets, while truth and merit wait for their hour of triumph, nor force their claims upon the attention of the people.

To judge by the clamor of a portion of the public press, a superficial observer would suppose that humbug was the order of the day—that imposture had the majority as votaries. They may not be so extensive as may be imagined. The ignorant are moved by every wind of doctrine, and float upon the popular current.

It is true, if anything is said touching the practices of a class, the cry of persecution is raised; but, in spite of this, we shall endeavor, in a spirit of charity and fairness, to illustrate some of the features of quackery in medicine.

Most any device will be resorted to rather than hard work. Able-bodied men will go around with a hand-organ and monkey, grinding out hideous discord, and pass around the hat to levy contribution for the melody: or exhibit a three-legged calf, collect for exhibition all the monstrosities in fat and leanness, or manufacture, from the body of a jezible and the skin of a bear, an astonishing curiosity, to puzzle the people and fill the purse. Nor is it strange that wondrous prodigies in the art of healing should spring up, like Jonah's gourd, and propose to work miracles so long as so many people wander through the world with closed eyes and loose purse strings.

Health is one of the greatest blessings of life, but disease is incidental to all mankind. To relieve the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to has been the study of centuries. The animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms have been ransacked for remedies; the light of chemistry, the aid of all branches of science have been importuned to contribute their aid in solving the mysteries of life and disease. The student gathers, from the experience of the past and the improvements of the present age, that knowledge, hallowed by the test of time, that shall guide him successfully in the practice of his profession.

Yet, strange as it may seem in this day of light and knowledge, the ignorant pretender, the vaunting boaster is luxuriously supported by the credulous and self-deceived of the public. Nor is it wonderful that this is so, when the black-washed white man is better paid for rendering Ethiopian melodies than the minister of the Gospel, or the dancing girl in short clothes will draw a greater multitude than the lecturer on science.

If we could believe the advertisements in the public press, what joy the present age should bring to the afflicted! In every direction he meets a promise of cure; the concentrated essence of all healing virtues are concentrated in Indian Vegetable Pills, a Cherry Pectoral, Sarsaparilla Syrup, or other wonderful compounds, each well authenticated by certificates of their marvellous powers.

It is said that it requires but three successful cases in a hundred to establish quackery, if these three be well certified, too, before a magistrate. Such is true, to a great extent, because the public mind is ignorant of what this success arises from, and are never informed of any of the remaining ninety-seven un-